



Annual Report 2018-2019

Thistles Market Garden Ltd

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A Charitable organisation

Registered under the
Co-operative and Benefit
Societies Act 2014
Reg. Company number: IP031461
FCA Reference: 31461R
HMRC Charities Ref. No. ZD03863



Management Committee:

Chairman: John Marshall
Secretary/Treasurer: Sarah Nash
Gary Skipworth
David Young
Cheryl Gratton
Tony Clarke
Bianca Lane (co-opted Dec 2019)

Service Manager:

Liz Judge

Chairman's Report

The official opening of the new building took place on 23rd July 2019; an event that was so memorable! We were so pleased that George and Jessie Scattergood were able to join us for the celebrations and cut the ribbon. We will always be most grateful for their generous support and of course - George's memory lives on at Thistles.

I was elected as Committee Chairman at the General Meeting on the same day. It is a real privilege to work with Thistles, in whatever capacity. There is always a warmth and welcome whenever I visit and I have come to feel part of the 'Thistles family'.

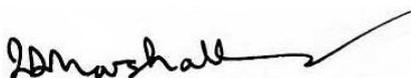
After approval of the minor rule change, HMRC granted us Exempted Charity status, which enables us to claim eligible Gift Aid on donations which can also now be made online via our website, where you can follow Thistles activities through the seasons.

Funds have started to come in to be used for several projects:

- Provision of increased paved areas for walking and wheelchair users.
- Re-surface parking area
- Site drainage – to reduce flooding around polytunnels
- Poly tunnel cover repairs
- Extension of building

I would like to thank committee colleagues for their support during the year and our members, service users, carers and all in the community who support Thistles.

Special thanks for the dedication of Thistles Manager Liz Judge and all staff who continue to provide a high level of service to those we support.



Manager's Report

Activities:

Another successful year for Thistles! The year 2018 –19 saw the completion of our new cabin. Our year begins in the Autumn. The group enjoyed meeting all of the contractors on site working hard to complete our building. We visited Howden's and chose our kitchen together. The new floor was laid, electricians, plumbers, joiners and builders worked hard to complete our project. The air source heating system was fitted and 36 solar panels were placed on our roof to enable Thistles to be part of the renewable heat initiative. Thank you to Pure Leapfrog and British Airways. We finally moved into our new building in October, just before the cold weather.

The horticultural tasks still needed attention, with group members busy bulb planting, potting up rooted cuttings, lifting the beans, taking seeds and digging over the land. Our Christmas wreaths were a great success. Thistles raised more money than previous years, thanks to the hard work of staff and the people we support.

Longhurst Housing staff joined Thistles for a day of wreath making and enjoyed getting involved in this group activity, purchasing a wreath they had made at the end of the day. This year the sale of wreaths paid for our Christmas lunch at the Princess Royal Arena where a lovely lunch was enjoyed by all. Certificates of achievement were presented by Don Jenkins (W.E.A.) and Christmas gifts were given to all from Thistles.



In January we introduced our new website. Thank you to John Marshall for producing and managing this for Thistles. It looks great. In February we added www.thistlesmarketgarden.net to our minibus signage.

We have made good use of our new kitchen facilities this year and the group have enjoyed making soups from our own grown vegetables. We have also made curries, cakes, pancakes, biscuits and an assortment of tasty dishes, all produced by the group with supervision from staff member Aly Massam. Not to mention fat balls for the birds.

Using our minibus we enjoyed many trips out, which included visits to garden centres, coffee mornings, health walks, barbecues, community invitations, the big Boston Clean up, Boston College garden party and our summer beach trips. We also joined Scott House on a trip to Lincoln College to the Learning Disability Partnership Event. Thank you to Don Jenkins for arranging a free visit to the WW2 museum in September.



The growing season began in January and germination was a success, as we grew a selection of bedding plants for our yearly sale of hanging baskets and vegetables for the land. In May we were out in the community and planted up 4 large roadside planters entering the village for Sutterton Parish

Council. Later in the summer we partnership worked with Jakeman's Sweets and filled two large planters on the entrance to Endeavour Way.

Unfortunately our polytunnel was flooded in June and we lost our cucumbers and tomatoes, the hanging baskets had to be salvaged from the polytunnel as the water was so deep! Fortunately with the kind donation of tomato and cucumber plants from Mrs. Cheryl Gratton and Cheers Nursery, we replanted.

The group worked hard with staff member Malc to clear a rough area of land and lay a new patio area, a good job done, it looks great thank you. Malc also cut our overgrown conifers back to make it clear for B.T. to connect the phone line to our new building, all working progress.



In July we sadly said goodbye to our W.E.A. tutor Don Jenkins, we wish him a happy retirement and would like to thank him for many years of fun and learning, he will be missed.

July was hot and we had the official opening of our new building. This was a success. The building was opened by land owners George and Jessie Scattergood. Sadly George passed away in November. Without his generosity Thistles would not exist and we thank Jessie for her continued support.



I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard preparing the day and making it a success. Staff members Aly Massam and Debbie McLaren, ensuring the people we support and visitors were looked after, committee member Gary Skipworth for doing the barbecue on such a hot day! Cheryl Gratton and Laura Marr for organising the raffle, Nick Gratton for providing the music,

Tony Clarke for cleaning and painting the inside of our building in readiness for the event, John Marshall for producing all signage for the day and his photography. Thanks to Bomber for manning the gate and South Lincs Foods for donating cakes and cool drinks and providing a supervised car park for the day.

Staff, volunteers and People We Support:

Throughout the year 2018 -2019 Thistles employed a Manager and a team of valuable relief staff. We also have two volunteers, Mrs. Maxine Mclean who has given her time supporting the group and assisting with admin and Mr. John Fitchett who has spent many days working with us out on the land and has done a great job helping us to get on top of the digging and tidy the site.

Thistles had 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. We remember Christine Young who passed away in December 2018 and are grateful for the time she gave on our Committee.

Partnership Working:

We have had another successful year and continue to partnership work with other organisations, which enhances 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 works well and provides valuable experience for the students, friendship networking and is also a marketing tool for Thistles. In November staff were invited to attend a Parents Evening and speak to parents about the service we provide.

W.E.A. (Working Education Association)

Throughout 2018-2019 Thistles has been fortunate and has provided two sessions per week which have been taught by two tutors from the W.E.A. Communication for Life Skills taught by Don Jenkins and Hands on Clay taught by Felicity Davies. The group have produced some wonderful items which they have painted and Felicity has taken to be fired. Thank you to both tutors for their hard work.

John Fielding Special School

In September 2019 we were pleased to restart our partnership working with the John Fielding School. A group of children and two tutors visit our site and join in with our horticultural activities, the children integrate with the people we support and learn new skills in horticulture. Thank you for inviting Thistles to the school Christmas dinner, it was enjoyed by all.

Community Support:

Thistles are very grateful for the support we have received from our local community, local businesses and individuals during 2018 -2019, this support has enabled us to continue to the service we provide. We would like to thank all of those who have supported us financially and given their time.

Thank you to many organisations and individuals including the following:

Mrs. Karen Fenton (parent) for the wonderful cakes she regularly baked for the group at Thistles. We remember Karen who sadly lost her life recently.

Fountains – we are extremely grateful for the compost regularly donated.

Jakemans – for their donation of sweets for us to sell and raffle prizes.

Boston Sausage – for donating sausages, burgers and onions for our open day.

Hutsons – for signage work done on Thistles minibus.

Mr. David Young – donation of a Steam Cleaner.

Mr. Gratton – for finishing work on the windows and doors.

South Lincs Foods – use of manned car park, cakes and drinks for open day.

Angie and Dave for erecting a glasshouse.

Hanging baskets and bedding plants – anonymous.

David Allen - The Black and White Coffee Company for donation of coffee.

Mr. Tony Squires – donation of IPAD.

John Thorne – donation of a microwave.

Janet Spalding Voluntary Car Scheme – seeds.

Phil Ampson – security cage for heat pump.

Tony Clarke – for building Thistles another raised bed.

Tony Bills and Tiny – widening our ramp access.
Denise Lorriman – donation of Christmas wreath decorations & buffet for birthday lunch.
Peggy and Dick – filing cabinets.
Mr. Heading - COSHH cabinet repair.
Nick Gratton – window and door finishing.
Mr. and Mrs. Prudence – Lawn mower.
Patrick Limming – gardening supplies.
Rosemary – office clock. Cheers Nursery – bedding plants.
K.D.F. Autos – free minibus checks.
W.E.A. – P.C., camera and speakers.
Maureen Sutterton – Staging.
Mr. Holmes – Sutterton, apples and pears to sell.
Malc Welbourne - refuge disposal.
Lindsey McBarron – seeds and rooted cuttings.
June Matthews – compost bins.
Don Jenkins – WW2 Museum trip.
Iris – for co-ordinating our Spalding transport service and supplying magazines.

Funding Support:

This year we would like to thank the Zion Church for their kind donation of £100.

Mrs. Rita Barber for purchasing one hundred moss wreath rings for our wreath project.

The Lincolnshire Freemasons for their kind donation of £500.

Conclusion:

I would like to thank all members of the Committee who give their time voluntarily to support Thistles and attend meetings regularly. Chair Mr. John Marshall and Sarah Nash for the work they have done to achieve HMRC recognition as a good cause. Mr. Tony Clarke, Gary Skipworth and David Young for their continued support. I would like to say a special thank you to Jessie Scattergood for continuing to support Thistles, her generosity in leasing the land at a peppercorn rent enables us to continue this valuable service.

Liz Judge

Treasurers Report

The year 2018 – 2019 has been a much more settled year following the completion of the new building. In October 2018 we were very lucky to receive funding from BA of £35186 which played a major part in the completion of the new building.

The fees received for providing the service at Thistles was slightly down on the previous year but not large enough to raise any concerns. Regarding expenditure the expenses were pretty much in line with the previous year, the only exceptional expense was the £10804 of legal fees Thistles encountered in connection to the termination of an employee, without this the overall cash funds at the end of the year would have been in line with the previous year. Some noticeable savings compared to the prior year were on repairs and maintenance, this fell from £4048 to £391 and light and heat which fell from £1296 to £739 which shows the benefits already in having the new building.

All in all the 2018 – 2019 year was a good year, the building was completed, the additional staffing costs have now finished and additional fees associated with this issue have been paid leaving a nice strong financial base to start the 2019 – 2020 year on.

Sarah Nash

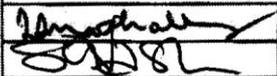
Statement of Accounts

Section A Receipts and payments

THISTLES MARKET GARDEN LIMITED 31461R					
Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	1st October 01/10/2018	to	31st September 30/09/2019	
Section A Receipts and payments					
	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 £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	35,687	-	-	35,687	4,019
Fund raising activities	1,574	-	-	1,574	1,737
Fees for provision of services	98,921	-	-	98,921	104,190
Other	13	-	-	13	6,598
<i>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</i>	136,195	-	-	136,195	116,544
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	136,195	-	-	136,195	116,544
A3 Payments					
Salaries & national insurance	74,745	-	-	74,745	70,370
Vehicle & transport expenses	3,940	-	-	3,940	4,466
Repairs & maintenance	391	-	-	391	4,048
Light & Heat	739	-	-	739	1,296
Water rates	96	-	-	96	400
Premises Insurance	1,409	-	-	1,409	1,623
Telephone & internet	770	-	-	770	868
Stationery ,postage and carriage & advertising	362	-	-	362	162
Bookkeeping charges	1,870	-	-	1,870	2,222
Accountancy charges	372	-	-	372	360
Legal fees	10,804	-	-	10,804	-
Cleaning	146	-	-	146	-
Sundries	1,992	-	-	1,992	2,798
Training costs	36	-	-	36	36
<i>Sub total</i>	97,672	-	-	97,672	88,649
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Property	59,560	-	-	59,560	60,169
Equipment	279	-	-	279	-
<i>Sub total</i>	59,839	-	-	60,169	60,169
Total payments	157,511	-	-	157,841	148,818
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 21,316	-	-	- 21,316	- 32,274
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end					
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	- 21,316	-	-	- 21,316	- 32,274

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

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	4,898	-	-
	Cash in hand	104	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	4,802	-	-
B2 Other monetary assets	Debtors	1,190	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Property	119729	-	
	Motor vehicle	14940	-	
	Equipment	279		
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use				
B5 Liabilities				
	Creditors	£ 2,489	-	
	Accumulated fund	118,671	-	
Examined and approved on behalf of the Society Chairman	Signature		Print Name	Date of approval
			John Derrick Marshall	17/3/20
Treasurer			Sarah Nesh	2/3/20

Accountants: ABC Accounting Gainsborough