



Annual Report 2019-2020

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
David Young
Cheryl Gratton
Tony Clarke
Bianca Lane
Gary Skipworth (resigned 2020)

Service Manager:

Liz Judge

Chairman's Report

Autumn 2019 was the start of the year under review. It started well with a good harvest and led into our Advent wreath making activity and then the Christmas lunch at Boston College!

Early in 2020 I posted an item in the Frampton church Focus magazine – entitled “What is your 2020 vision?” It turned out to be nothing like any of us could have envisaged! The word Coronavirus took over from the repetitiveness use of the term Brexit!

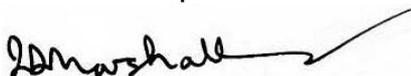
The impact of Covid 19 in early March, occurred just after members of the group had sown Spring seeds – to emerge when we were all on so called ‘lockdown’! Staff went on furlough but Manager Liz Judge still carried out essential tasks – not least checking on site security and our building. Liz also kept in regular contact with the group by telephone and several members were able to meet up on Zoom, which was also used by the Management Committee.

It was six months later before we re-opened for a period on 1st September 2020; with just a few members of the group able to return to Thistles, after individual risk assessments, following Government guidelines for social distancing and strict hygiene.

The weeds (*not just thistles*) had grown very tall and there was much work to do. Community support arrived just before re-opening, in the form of volunteers from Lincolnshire Police who pulled up weeds, dug and rotavated. Thank you!

Thank you to members of the group and their families /carers for their patience and understanding.

My thanks to committee members, our manager Liz Judge, all staff and volunteers and those who have helped and supported us through a year when we have experienced a very challenging and most frustrating time!



Manager's Report

Activities:

What can I say about this year 2019-2020. Our year runs from the end of September through to October. The first half of our year started very well... but we had no clue about how difficult this year would be. Our land owner George Scattergood sadly passed away in November.

We got off to a good start in the Autumn, our usual horticultural tasks were completed. All harvesting of fruit and vegetables and digging over of our growing areas were completed. We took our final cuttings of fuchsias, ceanothus and strawberries. Seeds were collected ready to dry out for next year.

In September we were invited to the World War 2 museum by Don Jenkins who kindly donated the trip. The group all enjoyed looking at many wartime items and an audio/visual Blitz display. This year we had several outings off-site, which included trips to the cinema, fish and chip lunches, a Christmas show, garden centres and shopping.



We made good use of our kitchen this year and prepared fresh soups, apple crumbles and chutneys from our own produce. As Autumn approached, we enjoyed several health walks to Jenny's Wood and Frampton Marsh where we collected rose hips and teasle in readiness for our wreaths. Our Christmas wreaths were once again a success and the proceeds went towards our Christmas lunch, enjoyed by all at the Limes restaurant at Boston College.

Thank you to Annie Best from the Lincolnshire Fire Service for giving her time to come and talk to the people we support about fire safety.

This year, thanks to the hard work of members of our committee (John Marshall and Sarah Nash) we now have HMRC charitable status.

Thistles also were registered on the NHS/LCC Provider list.

On-site we achieved another raised bed and a new propagator; thanks to Tony Clarke for building these for us.

The group worked out in the community and filled flower tubs in the village of Sutterton and joined several other organisations for tree planting at Langworth. The seed setting started for our Spring sales but unfortunately on March 18th Thistles suspended its service due to Covid 19. We remained closed until 1st September when after extensive individual risk assessments, we re-opened for a reduced number of people but



had to suspend our service again on 5th November. We have continued our committee meetings and also had regular group meetings - via zoom.

Staff, Volunteers and People We Support:

Throughout 2019 – 2020 Thistles employed a Manager, two support workers, a minibus driver and several relief staff. Our volunteer Mr. John Fitchett continued from Autumn through to our first lockdown in March digging over the plots and edging our grass paths, we would like to say thank you for his hard work. We supported 20 people per week throughout this year.

Thistles has seven members on the Management Committee, who are all volunteers and have worked hard to support Thistles. I would like to say thank you to former committee member Mr. Gary Skipworth - for the contribution he made to Thistles. We have recently welcomed Rachel Bowser on to the Committee.

Partnership Working:

This year has been short, due to the suspension of our service in March 2020, however our partnership working has continued.

Boston College – We continued to provide work experience to students from the Foundation section at Boston College through to March 2020.

W.E.A. (Working Education Association)

We said goodbye to Don Jenkins during the year. He will be missed by all at Thistles. Don delivered Communication for Life skills for several years and we are most grateful for the fun and informative sessions Don brought to Thistles. Our Hands on Clay course continued and was taught by Felicity Davies. Thank you to Felicity for beautiful items produced by the group. We still have items waiting to be fired, when government restrictions allow.

John Fielding Special School - In September we continued to partnership work with the John Fielding Special School. The children supported by two tutors worked alongside our group at Thistles and joined in with horticultural tasks throughout the Autumn and enjoyed our Christmas wreath making sessions. Thank you for inviting Thistles to join the school for their Christmas dinner.

Sutterton Parish Council – This year we partnership worked with Sutterton Parish Council and filled several flower tubs in the village.

Lincolnshire Police - We continue to be supported by Lincolnshire Police and appreciate our partnership with them. During the Summer lockdown four officers attended our site and donated their time clearing plots, rotavating, grass cutting and clearing weeds.



Thank you for helping our site to be managed throughout this difficult time.

Community Support:

Thistles are especially grateful for the support we have received throughout this difficult year from our community. We would like to thank local businesses and individuals that have given their time and financial support.

Thank you to many organisations and individuals including the following:

Mrs. Jessie Scattergood – for her continued support (including the land for a peppercorn rent) and donation of a mobile phone.
Jon and Samantha Mears –for their regular financial donation to assist Thistles throughout this difficult year.
Mr. John Marshall – for maintaining and updating our website.
Mr. Tony Clarke – for joinery instruction and site maintenance.
Mr. John Fitchett – for giving his time winter digging and servicing our mowers
Mr. David Young – donation of a Karcher steam cleaner and a laptop.
Mrs. Cheryl Gratton – D.V.D's
Mr. Don Jenkins – Donation of a group trip to the WW2 Museum trip.
Annie Best – for free group Fire Training – Fire Service
Mr. Malcolm Welbourn – for cutting back our high conifers to enable new phone line and site clearance (tip runs)
Stephen Ring – use of own car (tip runs)
Aaron Appleby – chipping tree branches and removing from site, grass cutting
Mr. Gotobedand Mr Howsam - site clearance
Black and White Coffee Company – Donation of coffee and furniture.
Iris, Sheila, Tom and Janet Voluntary Car Scheme – patio slabs, magazines, sugar and biscuits and printer
Mrs. Sue Mears W.E.A. donation of pots
Mr. Goringe – tools and gardening equipment
Aly Massam – for kindly donating a stereo hi-fi
Mrs. Rita Barber – donation of a Christmas buffet
Chappell Centre – invite to Christmas show
Fountains – donation of compost
Carol Fines – donation of cookery items
Shane Sanders – Canvas of our new building, wishing well and drawer unit
Mrs. Crawford – gloves
Marion Baines – Cuttings
Mr. Holmes – donation of apples and pears
Margaret Coogen – donation of cones for wreaths

Funding Support

Jessie Scattergood –All proceeds from the late Mr. George Scattergood’s funeral.

Jon and Samantha Mears – regular shortfall donation to assist Thistles through this extremely difficult year.

All proceeds from the funeral of Mr. Maurice Hardy

Lincolnshire Freemasons – Jez Hyland, £500 Donation

John Johnson, Sutterton Village Hall - £60 Donation

Mrs. Gratton - £30 donation for clay items to be fired

Ryan’s grandmother £100

Framfest – £257.50

Assistance from L.C.C. Hardship Fund

Conclusion:

I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their continued support via phone and zoom meetings through this extremely difficult time. Our Chair Mr. John Marshall for organising our zoom meetings. I would like to say a special thank you to Jessie Scattergood, Jon and Samantha Mears for their financial support throughout this difficult year.

Liz Judge

Treasurer's Report

The 2019 – 2020 year has been a bit of a strange year to say the least due to COVID 19 which has impacted Thistles from March 2020 through to August 2020 when the service managed to reopen for a short period until a further lock down was imposed.

The impact of COVID 19 has had a significant affect on the fees received from service users which were down by almost half on the previous year.

Fortunately, we have been able to access the Government Job Retention Scheme grant which has brought in £14,451 and has massively helped in keeping the staff employed during these difficult times.

We have also managed to access a local authority grant for £13,944 which was awarded to Thistles to help with our reduced income.

Luckily, our expenses have also been reduced due to lock down which brings them into line with the reduction in income.

Repairs and maintenance of Thistles have continued, where possible, to keep the buildings and areas ready to reopen as soon as we are allowed. All other expenses have kept in line with an annual increase as would be expected.

All in all the 2019 – 2020 year has not quite turned out how anyone would have predicted but we have managed to sustain a service ready to be up and running again once lock down is eased.

Sarah Nash

Statement of Accounts

THISTLES MARKET GARDEN LIMITED 31461R					
Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	Period start 01/10/2019	to	Period end 30/09/2020	
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	7,921	-	-	7,921	35,687
Fund raising activities	435	-	-	435	1,574
Fees for provision of services	56,630	-	-	56,630	98,921
Local authority grants	13,944	-	-	13,944	-
Job retention scheme grants	14,451	-	-	14,451	-
Other	-	-	-	-	13
<i>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</i>	93,381	-	-	93,381	136,195
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total receipts</i>	93,381	-	-	93,381	136,195
A3 Payments					
Salaries & national insurance	48,201	-	-	48,201	74,745
Vehicle & transport expenses	2,163	-	-	2,163	3,940
Repairs & maintenance	2,836	-	-	2,836	391
Light & Heat	1,143	-	-	1,143	739
Water rates	150	-	-	150	96
Premises Insurance	1,967	-	-	1,967	1,409
Telephone & internet	1,387	-	-	1,387	770
Stationery ,postage and carriage & advertising	595	-	-	595	362
Bookkeeping charges	2,354	-	-	2,354	1,870
Accountancy charges	420	-	-	420	372
Legal fees	-	-	-	-	10,804
Cleaning	251	-	-	251	146
Sundries	1,153	-	-	1,153	1,992
Training costs	132	-	-	132	36
<i>Sub total</i>	62,753	-	-	62,753	97,672
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Property	-	-	-	-	59,560
Equipment	-	-	-	-	279
<i>Sub total</i>	-	-	-	60,169	59,839
<i>Total payments</i>	62,753	-	-	122,922	157,511
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	30,629	-	-	30,629	- 21,316
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end					
<i>Cash funds this year end</i>	30,629	-	-	30,629	- 21,316

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	29,171	-	-
	Cash in hand	11	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	29,182	-	-

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Debtors	8,153	-	-

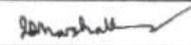
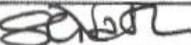
Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Property	119,729	-	-
	Motor vehicle	14,940	-	-
	Equipment	757	-	-

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

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities				
	Creditors	£ 3,203	-	-
	Accumulated fund	169,558	-	-

Examined and approved on behalf of the Society
Chairman

Treasurer

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	John Derrick Marshall	26/2/2021
	Sarah Nash	26/2/2021