



# Annual Report 2020 -2021

## Thistles Market Garden Ltd

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**ThistlesMarketGarden.net**

**facebook.com/ThistlesSutterton**



### **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 (resigned 31/08/2021)  
Cheryl Gratton  
Tony Clarke  
Bianca Lane  
Rachel Bowser

**Service Manager:** Liz Judge

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## **Chairman's Report**

In our last Annual Report I stated that it had been a very challenging and most frustrating year, in this reporting year, Thistles like many other organisations endured a similar experience!

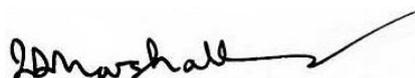
The stop-start of activities and restrictions due to Covid19, meant that we were not able to offer a service to all our regular users.

Staff were furloughed but manager Liz Judge was able to deal with essential business relating to Thistles, our premises and the site. She also maintained contact with colleagues and the group through telephone and Zoom chat sessions – including a Christmas party online! The Committee continued to meet online via zoom.

Income from attendance fees quickly dried up but we were successful in receiving grants to help the business continue in readiness for re-opening. We also received some very generous regular donations. This meant that we were in the best position we could be, to resume activities when allowed to do so. When Thistles partially re-opened in May 2021 – there was much to be done on site. Those who were able to return, quickly got stuck in! Weeding, digging and planting. Strict hygiene rules were followed.

Lower attendance meant that our monthly expenditure exceeded our income – thankfully we have been cushioned by the grant funding but Liz has been working hard to attract new members to the group, to ensure that we can continue to maintain our service.

Thank you to Liz and all staff, service users, members, the committee and supporters, for enabling Thistles to survive thus far!  
As we end another financial year, the pandemic is still impacting on our ability to get back to a new 'normal'; but God willing - it will happen!



## **Manager's Report**

### **Activities:**

Following the first lockdown, after completing extensive individual risk assessments and preparing our building for strict hygiene rules, we re-opened the site in September 2020 to a small number of people, considering extended social bubbles and risk.

The group and staff undertook the task of weeding the overgrown site and polytunnels. Many horticultural tasks were completed, which included planting leeks and flower bulbs, collecting seeds and taking Fuschia cuttings. Our planters were filled with Winter pansies and once again Thistles site looked presentable.

Unfortunately, two months after re-opening we suspended our service again and staff were once again furloughed on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 for the second lockdown. The Covid vaccination programme was offered to frontline staff in January 2021. Behind the scenes the Committee, staff and the people we support continued to meet on zoom and thanks to several funding grants and financial support from Jon and Samantha Mears, with no revenue coming in, Thistles was able to re-open again on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021, all attending had received their vaccine and social distancing remained in place.

Once again the work on-site was busy, Thistles had missed the seed setting season but there were plenty of weeds to clear! Cheers nursery donated bedding plants, tomato and cucumber plants, we received donated compost from Rachel and Mike Bowser, Fountains and Lincolnshire Police, these were gratefully received and the group enjoyed making up hanging baskets, planting up the polytunnels, planting out the pumpkins and sweetcorn and digging over the land. It was good to have some normality back after such a long break.

In June we received our first PCR and Lateral flow testing kits, all staff continued to test 3 times per week. Thistles recommended that all people we support do the same but this was their choice. Daily temperatures were also taken and recorded.

Throughout the Summer we enjoyed several health walks, and day trips out to Hunstanton, Sailability, Frampton R.S.P.B. and the Nene Valley.

We would like to say thank you to Tony Bills for recovering our shop roof at no charge and Turnbulls for supplying the materials.

Sadly this year two of our wonderful people (Andrew and David) have passed away and we all miss them very much.

Thistles has been running on 50% of our pre-pandemic numbers but we are slowly increasing and I am confident this will continue to improve. We continue to market Thistles via, radio broadcast, flyers and our website.



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

Throughout 2020 – 2021 Thistles employed a Manager, two support workers, a minibus driver and several relief staff. Our volunteer Mrs. Rachel Bowser joined us this year and worked alongside staff and the people we support weeding and planting. We would like to say thank you to her and Mike Bowser for the work they did during lockdown cutting the overgrown grass paths and also thank you to Rachel for the time she spent on our Committee as minute taker this year. We supported 13 people per week throughout this year.

Thistles had 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 Mr. John Marshall for his commitment and the hard work he has put into Thistles since February 2019, as a Committee Member and as Chair. Mr. John Marshall resigned from the Committee at the end of this year.

### **Partnership Working:**

Due to the Covid pandemic we were unable to partnership work on-site this year, however we have communicated with Boston College and plan to resume our weekly partnership with students from the Foundation section and provide them work experience next year.

### **Community Support:**

Thistles are especially grateful for the continued support we have received from our community throughout what has been yet another difficult year. We would like to thank local businesses and individuals that have given their time and supported us financially.

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

Mrs. Jessie Scattergood – for her continued support (including the land for a peppercorn rent), organising a raffle in memory of the late George Scattergood’s birthday, which raised £300. A donation of Roses chocolates and biscuits enjoyed by the group. Palm seeds.

Concreations – for hosting the raffle.

Jon and Samantha Mears for their financial donation to assist Thistles during this second difficult year.

Mr. John Marshall – for continuing to maintain and update our website and manage regular zoom meetings for our committee and to assist social inclusion and group communication throughout our suspension of service.

Organising donations for bedding plants that would have gone to waste during lockdown. Donation of £100 towards purchasing Christmas presents for our group members. Donation of box files for our office, runner bean plants.

Mr. Tony Clarke – for working on-site, providing voluntary 1-1 support and engaging with our group members. Sourcing a donation of bedding and brassica plants provided by Go Garden Machinery Ltd.

Mrs. Rachel Bowser and Mr. Michael Bowser – for their donation and delivery of compost. Working on-site during lockdown, maintaining the site (grass cutting). Rachel Bowser – for working alongside staff and the people we support on-site (voluntary) undertaking horticultural tasks.

Michael Bowser – for his generous purchase of coffees and teas for group trip to the R.S.P.B. Frampton.

Safety First Training, Sharon and Rob Druce – for providing staff with face to face training at no charge.

Rob Druce - donation of free bowling sessions for Thistles.

Henry Cheer – plant donation.

A.Appleyard – Septic tank emptied at 50% cost reduction.

Lincolnshire Police – Neil, Esther and Jon thank you for supporting Thistles through checking in on us.

P.C. Dave Clark, Nicki Lily for donating compost, canes, pots and horticultural products.

Tony Bills – Tony gave his time and re-covered our summerhouse roof with new felt and renewed the wooden apex at no charge.

Turnbulls - donated the roof felt.

Fountains – for their continued supply of donated compost.

Shane Sanders/Bianca Lane – for their donation of plant fleece. Homemade apple crumbles.

Kevin Doughty – donation of slabs, for our future pathways.

Mrs. Angela Hamp – Coffee – homemade cakes and tarts. Vacuum Cleaner.

Mr. Holmes – donation of apples, pears and plums.

Mr. Stephen Ring – donation of a parasol and base. Many tip runs in own vehicle and repairing our polytunnel. Voluntary support, working alongside staff and group members producing woodwork.

Long Sutton Timber Yard – donation of canes.

Mrs Hall – donation of pots and wood.

Mary Collins – donation of a wooden table and four chairs.

Teresa Bristow – donation of raspberry canes and freshly picked raspberries.

Diane White – donation of large new plant pots and a supply of ice lollies.

Ann and David Hodgson - donation of plant pots and trays.

The Black and White Coffee Company – Bistro table, cabinets and projector.

Candy Burton – work table, trolley, kitchen utensils and cut flower bags.

Vanessa Oscroft – use of personal laminator, pressure hose and tools.  
Donation of office files and a stereo system.

Silver Skip – for their donation of refuse removal.

Force Shift – (Ronnie Bennet) for his donation of a large skip.

Additional Restrictions Grant Funding – Boston Borough Council.

## **Conclusion:**

I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their continued support via phone, zoom meetings and now face to face meetings. I would like to say thank you to our support staff, minibus driver and reliefs for continuing to provide an excellent service to the people we support.

I would like to say a special thank you to Jessie Scattergood and family for their continued financial support throughout this year.

*Liz Judge*

## **Treasurer's Report**

The 2020 – 2021 year continued to be impacted by COVID 19. Thistles suffered another closure of the service from the end of November 2020 through to May 2021 when at last Thistles was able to reopen again. Due to a few different reasons, some service user concerns and some government regulations imposed, Thistles was only able to open on a reduced number of service users to start with.

All of the above of course has had a big impact on Thistles income which was down on the previous year by £38000. Luckily Thistles was able to access the Job Retention Scheme which brought in £23388 and the Small Business Grant for £11931, along with the solar panel rebate of £361 and the donations received for £6763 plus Gift Aid of £229, enabled Thistles to continue to survive.

Expenses were slightly down on the previous year but pretty much on parr, there was nothing exceptional that stood out or was a one of expense.

Once again 2020 – 2021 was a very strange year, albeit for different reasons – a six month service closure; thankfully due to the help from the Government and some amazingly generous people that donated to Thistles, we were able to keep the service going and were once again ready to open as soon as we possibly could.

*Sarah Nash*

## Statement of Accounts

THISTLES MARKET GARDEN LIMITED 31461R					
Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	Period start 01/10/2020	to	Period end 30/09/2021	
<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 & gift aid	6,992	-	-	6,992	7,921
Fund raising activities - net	121	-	-	121	435
Fees for provision of services	18,475	-	-	18,475	56,630
Local authority grants	11,931	-	-	11,931	13,944
Job retention scheme grants	23,388	-	-	23,388	14,451
FIT rebate	361	-	-	361	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>61,267</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>61,267</b>	<b>93,381</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>61,267</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>61,267</b>	<b>93,381</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Salaries, cover staff & pensions	52,995	-	-	52,995	48,201
Vehicle & transport expenses	1,581	-	-	1,581	2,163
Repairs & maintenance	464	-	-	464	2,836
Light & Heat	752	-	-	752	1,143
Water rates	156	-	-	156	150
Premises Insurance	1,978	-	-	1,978	1,967
Telephone & internet	876	-	-	876	1,387
Stationery ,postage and carriage & advertising	229	-	-	229	595
Bookkeeping charges	1,480	-	-	1,480	2,354
Accountancy charges	360	-	-	360	420
Cleaning	124	-	-	124	251
Sundries	488	-	-	488	1,153
Training costs	163	-	-	163	132
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>61,646</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>61,646</b>	<b>62,753</b>

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

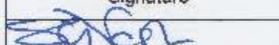
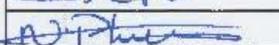
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank	28,454	-	
	Cash in hand	75	-	
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>28,529</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Debtors	8,544	-	

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Property	119729	-	-
	Motor vehicle	14940	-	-
	Equipment	757	-	-

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

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities				
	Creditors	£ 3,321	-	-
	Accumulated fund	169,178	-	

Examined and approved on behalf of the Society	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
Chairman		Sarah Nash	24/2/22
Treasurer		Nikki Philips	24/02/22