



Annual Report

Thistles Market Garden Ltd

2021 -2022

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 (resigned Nov 2021)
Secretary/Treasurer: Sarah Nash (New Chair Nov 2021)
Nikki Phillips (New treasurer/Secretary Nov 2021)
Cheryl Gratton
Tony Clarke
Bianca Lane
Rachel Bowser (resigned Nov 2021)

Service Manager: Liz Judge



Chairman's Report

In comparison to the previous few years this has been a much better year and Thistles has been able to stay open throughout the year, albeit with strict hygiene rules still in place.

Attendance, which ultimately has impacted on income, has not fully risen back to pre-Covid times, which once again means that the expenses have exceeded income, but Thistles has also received some very generous donations which has very much helped.

The service users were once again able to enjoy their days weeding, digging, sowing, growing and harvesting along with activities and trips out, Christmas dinner was also able to take place in person again which everyone enjoyed.

Thank you to Liz and all staff, service users, members, the committee and supporters, for enabling Thistles to continue doing what it does best.

As we end another year Thistles is embarking on its next phase with Liz looking at retiring in the near future.

Sarah Nash

Managers Report

Staff, Volunteers and People We Support:

Throughout 2021 – 2022 Thistles employed a Manager, two support workers, a minibus driver and several relief staff. Our volunteer Mrs. Rachel Bowser continued to support Thistles and worked alongside staff and the people we support assisting us to complete horticultural tasks.

Thistles had five members on the Committee, who are all volunteers.

Partnership Working:

Thistles were pleased to resume our weekly partnership working with Boston College providing students from the Foundation section the opportunity of work experience.

Activities

September of 2021, continued with strict Covid 19 testing, mask wearing in the buildings and on transport, but staff and group members alike were very understanding of its importance to prevent any infection being brought into Thistles. Group members were supported in many horticultural activities such as harvesting the remainder our crop and potting on the abundance of strawberry shoots, along with the regular tasks of mowing, weeding and tidying the site.

In October, the group had a well-deserved trip out to the Nene Valley for a picnic and a walk around on a lovely Autumn Day. Sadly, Thistles lost two much loved group members, David's funeral was attended by a small group to represent Thistles and we also learned that Andrew had also passed a few days later. There was crop of pumpkins, tomatoes were lifted to make way for the start of making Christmas tree projects from pallets, and broccoli seed and baby cabbages were set into the raised beds.

November saw the continuation of the Christmas tree projects with great enthusiasm sanding and staining them ready for sale. Wreath making preparations began with choosing ribbons, tying bows, wiring cones, baubles and collecting foliage. The group attended an emotional farewell to dearest Andrew, who later had his ashes scattered across his happy place, Thistles. Activities such as planting bulbs ready for the Spring display, potting geraniums, leeks and making green tomato chutney to name but a few, also a couple of trips out to Baytree to look at the Christmas displays and then the group tried their hands at indoor bowling.

December continued with wreath making and preparations for the Christmas festivities with the tree decorated and the making of wooden stars. The group enjoyed their Christmas Lunch at the Spirit of Endeavour and received their Christmas gifts. Sales of pallet trees and wreaths were good and provided a good kitty to purchase items for the coming year. The group attended a horse show to support a fellow Thistles member, and enjoyed Christmas films and treats during Christmas week before their well-deserved Christmas break.

January was a month of preparation for the coming year, with the cleaning of trays and pots, tidying of the poly tunnels, weeding pots and deadheading the geraniums, and sorting the seeds and bulbs in anticipation of planting in the coming weeks. The inside facilities were also cleaned and tidied and the toilet sinks were



tiled by a group member and supported by staff. The trees were pruned, and plant bushes planted. Thistles was fortunate to have received a grant enabling the purchase of two new Mountfield mowers ready for the mowing season. Seed trays were filled and onion, broad beans, sweet pea, lobelia seed were sown. The group also enjoyed a visit from the police media team accompanied by our friendly local PCSO.

February seed sowing intensified, agapanthus, poppies, daisies, dahlias, pansies, cosmos, aquilegia, marigolds, petunia and more lobelia for the floral displays and baskets, and cucumbers, lettuces and tomatoes seeds were also sown. Unfortunately, high winds destroyed our large poly tunnel and damaged the smaller one, leaving us to struggle with indoor space to keep our seedling warm. Without our outside workspace, the group enjoyed some indoor activities such as cooking pancakes and making cheese cake, and painting terracotta pots and some health walks. A commemorative bench was purchased in memory of our much-missed group member Andrew. We were also able to get our rotavator repaired and back in action to preparer the land.

March was very busy pricking out the seedlings and potting them on. With the onset of the growing season the new mowers were put into action and removing the weeds from the borders. The new strawberry plants were planted, and the brassicas set. More seeds were sown including runner beans, radishes, squash and courgettes, swan river daisies, lavatera, and trailing lobelia. Thistles was fortunate in having the kind donation of the labour cost of having the large poly-tunnel recovered by Mr Reedman, which gave the group back their outside workspace. The group were rewarded for all their hard work with a trip to Mac Donald's for lunch and also a treated to chips from the local chippy, in addition to some group activities of cakes, quiche and shortbread making.

April was full of potting on and pricking out activities of all the previously sown seeds, in addition to courgettes, butternut squash, pumpkins, and sweet Williams. Baskets were filled ready for sale with plants kindly donated, and the plot was dug over ready in anticipation of planting. The borders were weeded and tidied up, and a wild flower area seeded in the orchard, the poly-tunnel was dug over to prepare for the tomatoes and cucumbers to be planted. The spring season was dry and there was a constant need for watering for the seedlings, and the soil to



enable the land to be prepared, and of course plenty of mowing was required.

May continued with mowing, watering and the filling of baskets for sale. The young tomato plants and cucumber plants were planted in the poly-tunnel and The Jakeman's planters were filled with bedding plants. Wigwam frames were constructed ready for the runner beans to be set on the plot and potatoes hilled up regularly as they started to flourish. In anticipation of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, Thistles was decorated in Union Jack bunting, and on the last week of the month, the group enjoyed BBQ lunches to celebrate the Jubilee.

June was again a hot month, requiring an abundance of watering, the tomatoes were staked as they grew taller and began to flower, frames were constructed for the cucumber plants, and pepper plants were planted. Weeding and watering was relentless during the heat as well as removing the nettles and brambles, the remaining trees were pruned back and the group began to see the reward in the form of an abundance of Strawberries, which were enjoyed in the sunshine with ice-cream.

In July the group had some summer trips, they chose a day trip Hunstanton where they enjoyed a walk and fish & chip lunch, and a visit to Sailability in Peterborough which saw group members take to the water with instructors and a picnic lunch after. There was much activity at Thistles too, with the tomatoes, new potatoes, lettuces and cucumbers being harvested and shared out by the group members.

During August the group enjoyed another day trip to Hunstanton, and to Skegness for those members that missed trips previously, and a trip to Pinchin's Farm shop for coffee. Thistles also put on a volunteering day in connection with the Co-op, unfortunately we only attracted three volunteers due to the heat, but it all helped with the weeding and digging. The group made the visitors very welcome, and helped to prepare sandwiches, cakes and refreshments donated for the day. More harvesting of salad vegetables, with the addition of runner beans, butternut squash and courgettes, rhubarb which we stewed and beetroot which the group enjoyed cooking and pickling.

This was a very busy and productive year.



Community Support:

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

A big thank you to the many organisations and individuals who have help Thistles during this period, including the following:

Mrs. Jessie Scattergood – for the continued support she gives to Thistles (including the land for a peppercorn rent), and the £200 donation to buy the group Christmas presents, another £20 cash donation.

Tony Clarke for volunteering to assist Thistles members, and treating the group to chips.

Candy Burton for the donation of a garden trolley to help carry the heavy pots, CDs, DVDs, a small folding picnic table and ingredients for cooking, staples, clock, batteries and a manual hand mixer.

Sharon and Robert Bruce for the donation of staff First Aid Training, food and drinks items.

Keith Reedman for donation the labour cost of having the large poly tunnel recovered and the entire cost of recovering the second poly tunnel recovered.

Debbie Lane – The donation of a lawn mower and for her time volunteering.

Jane and Tony from Jakeman's for the donation of boxes of cough sweets which we sell to raise funds and the donation of £250 for the Group members to have Christmas Lunch, also the donation of wood stain for our Christmas projects.

Steve Ring (our driver) for volunteering his spare time to undertake all sorts of additional tasks including tip runs, repairing chairs and patching up tears in the poly tunnel, also for the donation of pepper plants and corn plants. Another thanks to Steve's wife Sharon who donated a delicious home-made cake made from Thistles own grape vines.

Mrs Hamp who donated some home-made cheese scones for the group to enjoy.

Tutes Baps who provided a lovely buffet lunch at Christmas time.

Our Station Road neighbour Rob Holmes who donated Apples and later Pears from his garden.

Rachel Bowser for volunteering on a regular basis to aid group members, and the donation of milk, and for selling some of our donated Jakemans cough sweet to raise funds for Thistles.

Mike Bowser for assisting Thistles to source and deliver the memory bench to us to remember the sad loss of one of our members. Also for the delivery of compost in his trailer.

Liz's brother for mending the strimmer and lawn mower.

Group Member Shane Sanders, for the donation of gardening books, garden fleece and spare boots,

E. Sterma and Sons for donating holly for our Christmas wreaths.

Paul Fenton for the donation of doughnuts, sausage rolls and biscuits.

Liz for cuttings from her own garden, and ingredients for cooking.

Boston West Academy for the donation of bulbs.

Hazel from Boston College for the donation of biscuits.

Sue Rudd, who donated plants, bulbs, cuttings and horticultural information sheets.

Elaine Bradley who has volunteered and also donated home-made Christmas decorations, and pots.

Debbie Appleby for the donation of holly and other foliage for our wreath making.

Group member Denise, for the donation of chocolate biscuits, and cucumber plants.

Mr and Mrs Martin who made a donation.

Vanessa Oscroft, who donated daffodil bulbs, butternut squash seedlings, and for the use of her power tools and wood stain.

Debbie Lane for the donation of wall tiles.

Asda Foundation Run for All grant of £1525 which paid for the materials to recover the large poly tunnel and to purchase two Mountfield self-propelled petrol lawn mowers.

John Marshall for the donation of biscuits, and for the continued support with updating our website.

Sutterton Bingo who kindly raised £230 to donate to Thistles.

Cheryl Gratton for the donation of the wooden games pendulum, and some pots.

Kelvin Smith and his family who donated some fruit bushes in memory of his late wife, Marion Smith.

Annette Prentice for the donation of biscuits, hot chocolate, tea and coffee, and squash on several occasions and £15 cash donations.

John laws for the donation of table tennis equipment, and art materials.

Marius for the repairs to our rotavator.

Tony and Maisie from the Zion Church who raised and donated £100

Donations from the local Police for their support and visits, and the donation of canes, pots, watering cans, jugs, seed trays and propagator lids, and cords for hanging our baskets.

Carl Critchley for donating chocolates.

Dawn Wilkinson for the donation of pots and new netting.

Kev from KDF Autos, for his time coming out to get the minibus started after the battery failed.

Group member Natalie, for the donation chocolate cake.

Doreen and Jack Manning for the £500 donation in memory of the group Member Thistles supported for many years.

David Allen from the former Black and White coffee company, who donated £29.50.

Bryan Reeves from Co-Op Community and Shared Values, for the organising our volunteering day, providing the food for sandwiched and also the donation of seeds and magazines, and to all those who attended this event, Suzie, Hazel. Debbie Lane, Bryan and Steve.

Group member Sarah, for donating a BBQ condiments set, and cookies.

Conclusion:

I would like to say thank you to Thistles support staff Vanessa and Candy for taking on extra duties throughout this year, due to manager reduction in hours. Thank you to our minibus driver Steve for doing a great job, safely transporting our group members and maintaining our minibus. Thank you to all members of the Committee for their continued support. Once again I would like to say a special thank you to Jessie Scattergood and family for their continued support.

Liz Judge

Treasurer's Report

The 2021 – 2022 year was much better than the previous few years, with Thistles staying open for a full year, providing a service to those users that wanted to attend.

Due to Covid unfortunately not all service users have returned and therefore the income has not returned to pre-covid levels.

Income although down, was still much increased compared to the last few years but was still down compared to 2020. Expenses were up for this year, but this would be expected as Thistles has provided a full years' service for users.

The addition of money from fund raising activities, roadside sales, donations and gift aid has helped towards the shortfall that Thistles has suffered.

The main thing to take from this year is that all bills have been paid, all equipment along with the minibus has been maintained, all staff have been paid and Thistles has managed to keep a healthy balance in the bank to provide a cushion for anything unexpected that may occur in the future.

Nikki Phillips

Statement of Accounts

THISLES MARKET GARDEN LIMITED 31461R					
Receipts and payments accounts					
	For the period from	Period start 01/10/2021	to	Period end 30/09/2022	
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 & gift aid	3,627	-	-	3,627	6,992
Fund raising activities - net	1,094	-	-	1,094	121
Fees for provision of services	65,720	-	-	65,720	18,475
Local authority grants	-	-	-	-	11,931
Job retention scheme grants	-	-	-	-	23,388
FIT rebate	-	-	-	-	361
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	70,440	-	-	70,440	61,268
A2 Asset and Investment sales, (see table).					
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	70,440	-	-	70,440	61,268
A3 Payments					
Salaries, cover staff & pensions	61,427	-	-	61,427	52,995
Vehicle & transport expenses	3,990	-	-	3,990	1,581
Repairs & maintenance	1,499	-	-	1,499	484
Light & Heat	239	-	-	239	752
Water rates	359	-	-	359	156
Premises Insurance	2,587	-	-	2,587	1,978
Telephone & internet	1,098	-	-	1,098	876
Stationery ,postage and carriage & advertising	639	-	-	639	229
Bookkeeping charges	2,272	-	-	2,272	1,480
Accountancy charges	360	-	-	360	360
Cleaning	496	-	-	496	124
Sundries	1,104	-	-	1,104	490
Training costs	163	-	-	163	163
Sub total	76,231	-	-	76,231	61,648
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Property	-	-	-	-	-
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	76,231	-	-	76,231	61,648
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 5,791	-	-	- 5,791	-380
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end					
Cash funds this year end	- 5,791	-	-	- 5,791	- 380

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	21,180	-	
	Cash in hand	124	-	
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	21,304	-	-

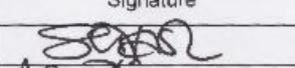
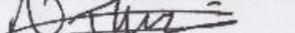
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Debtors	9,768	-	

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Property	119729	-	-
	Motor vehicle	14940	-	-
	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	£ 3,423	-	-
	Accumulated fund	163,075	-	-

Examined and approved on behalf of the Society
Chairman

Signature



Print Name
Sarah Nash
Nikki Phillips

Date of approval
9/3/2023
9/3/2023