

# Chairman's Report for 2021

## Ray Keppler

The continuing rigours of the Covid-19 pandemic made 2021 a challenging year for THACS, but the committee and its supporters rose to the challenge, running a programme of nine events. Some of these events were the first of their kind for the society and this demonstrates our ability to change our ways of working and try new things.

The THACS programme of events for 2021 started with the AGM in March, which was a virtual meeting using Zoom. This was followed by a combination of on-line competitions and displays, based on some of the categories previously published in the Spring Show Schedule 2020: -

- Photography competition in April
- Creative Writing competition in May on the subject of *"The Colour of Hope"*.
- Art competition in May open to adults and children of all ages

Outdoor events returned in May when a plant exchange was held on the Village Green. It was a very successful event, from both a horticultural and a social point of view.

This was followed by the first combined event with Friends of Tewin, run over a weekend in June, for people to display hanging baskets and pots in their front gardens and for the village to take part in a Village Trail competition. This event was designed as a one-off to help people get out and about in a safe manner as lockdown restrictions were relaxed. There were 25 floral displays on show with a lovely variety of plants for people to see.

In the autumn, there was a cautious return of indoor live events. After a gap of two long years, the traditional village show was held in September, and the displays of exhibits were colourful, attractive and enjoyed by all.

The art workshop in November was an enjoyable and creative day. It was an introduction to the wonders of paper collage, tutored by Jude O'Sullivan and held in the beautiful Bramfield Village Hall.

The Arts & Crafts Sale returned to Tewin Memorial Hall in December, offering the usual high-quality hand-crafted gifts for sale. There were fewer stalls than previously, to allow for more space and social distancing but we were pleased to welcome back many of our regular stallholders and a few new artists.

As 2021 ended, I was pleased and relieved to reflect that your THACS committee had survived the worst of the pandemic and was ready to continue its work, encouraging and facilitating interest and participation in all aspects of village horticulture, arts and crafts. I am looking forward to tempting to you to attend more events this year.

The committee members all worked well together and I am very grateful for their ongoing dedication and support, especially under such challenging circumstances.

I am grateful for the support we have received from: -

- The staff, helpers and children at Tewin Cowper School and Tewin Under-Fives Pre-school, who supported our autumn show.
- Tewin Stores for being a collection point for the show schedules.

I am also thankful for the staunch support of those people who have freely given their time and effort to the benefit of us all. In particular: -

- 1) Joanne Allen for organising the Art workshop,
- 2) Hilary Tipping for organising the Art & Craft Fair.
- 3) Felix Green for her vital help, advice and technical support on all website issues.
- 4) Jackie Murphy for enabling us to publicise our events in the monthly Tewin Magazine
- 5) John Sheridan and Ray Cattermole for their invaluable help and guidance with the school allotment
- 6) The show judges, who generously put their experience and expertise to such good use at our autumn show.

Last (but certainly not least!) I thank you, our members, for remaining loyal during these difficult times.