

THACS

TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2016

Chairman's Introduction

I hope that you enjoyed our recent Autumn Show. The show report and the results are given below.

The *THACS* committee is still seeking a new secretary. Our newsletter and verbal appeals have failed to generate any response so far and the matter is becoming urgent. Consequently we've embarked upon a poster and leaflet campaign which I hope has already caught your attention. If you have enjoyed the benefits of your membership of *THACS* and you want them to continue, then please consider how you can help the committee now. Could you become our new secretary? If so, then please come forward! If not, then would you be able to join the committee in some other role? If you could join the committee and take on some of the responsibilities, then it would provide us with more scope to re-allocate the roles and hopefully cover all of the bases without anyone taking on more than they are comfortable with. As a committee member, you will be actively involved in all of the committee discussions and decisions, so you will have significant influence on *THACS* activities. We'd love to hear from you if you think that you can help. If you would like to know more, please 'phone me (01438 717545) or the current Secretary Jim Hall (01438 718505).

Finally, may I remind you that your *THACS* membership runs until 31st October 2016 and will soon be due for renewal (unless you joined after 30th June this year, in which case your membership will run through to 31 October 2017).

Membership remains only £5 per person per year, which represents excellent value. If you pay for your membership via a standing order, then your membership fee will be paid automatically. Otherwise, please send your cheque (payable to *THACS*) to Malcolm Allen, 47 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 0NP by 31st October 2016.

Ray Keppler (Chairman)

THACS Events

For ease of reference, here are the dates and titles of our events, together with the closing dates for the associated bookings.

Date	Event	Closing date for bookings
21 st October	Creative writing workshop	14 th October
29 th October	Arts & Craft fair	No booking required
11 th November	Art workshop	31 st October
16 th January 2017	Annual General Meeting	No booking required

THACS Autumn Show on Saturday 17th September

Congratulations to all the exhibitors at the Autumn Show this year.

This was the 15th annual Autumn Show and it attracted 139 exhibitors who entered 319 exhibits. Together, they made an impressive display that filled the main hall, Parish Room and the corridor. I hope that you came along to the show and got to see it all.

The display of horticultural exhibits was not as large as usual, but I expect that was partially due to the extreme weather during the few weeks prior to the show. The record high temperatures meant that some flowers did not last until the show, whilst heavy rain on the day before the show hindered the preparation of the flowers, vegetables and fruit exhibits. However, the smaller size of the horticultural display may have been a blessing in disguise, because it gave us the extra space we needed to display some of the children's art exhibits.

One of the experimental changes to the Show Schedule was the inclusion of our new 'open category' in the adult photography class, where exhibitors could enter photographs on any subject. This experiment seems to have been a success, since the open category had more exhibits than any of the others.

The adult trophy winners were Joy Lawson for Flower Arranging, Diana Brannen for Flowers, Ray Keppler for Vegetables & Fruit, Shirley Ashby for Arts & Crafts, Jules Bridgman for Photography and Hilary Tipping for Culinary. Annabel Goodison won the George Humble Crawford Award for Children's Photography, whilst Imogen Winters & Ashley Winters were joint winners of the Tewin Cowper School Parents' Association Award for the highest number of points in the children's classes for horticulture, arts & crafts and culinary. A full list of all the prize-winners is shown below.

Many thanks to everyone who helped at the show:-

- The staff, helpers and children at Tewin Cowper School, Tewin Under-Fives Pre-school, Tewin Tots Pre-school and the Tewin Toddler group, who have been very enthusiastic and supportive
- The judges, who give their time and expertise freely
- The Judges' Stewards, who helped the judges and recorded the results
- Linda Crawford and her team for lunch for the judges, refreshments in the afternoon and washing up
- Myra Walker from Tewin Cowper School, who presented prizes to the children
- Anne Hall and Linda Crawford who presented some of the prizes
- Mike Clark and John Ling for taking the photographs
- The committee, who worked so hard to make the show a success
- All the helpers behind the scenes, setting up and clearing the hall, manning the door and making cakes for the afternoon refreshments.
- All the exhibitors, without whom there would be no show!

Ray Keppler (Show Secretary)

<i>Special Awards for Highest Points - Adults</i>	<i>Winners</i>
St Peter's Church Trophy - Flower Arranging	Joy Lawson
Carlton Rose Bowl - Flowers	Diana Brannen
Ivor & Vaughan Williams Trophy - Vegetables & Fruit	Ray Keppler
Shire Park Bowling Club President's Shield - Horticulture (Flower Arranging, Flowers, Vegetables & Fruit)	Ray Keppler
Royal Horticultural Society Banksian Medal – Horticulture (Flowers, Vegetables & Fruit)	Anna Clark
Friends of Tewin Trophy - Arts & Crafts	Shirley Ashby
Merv Wilson Trophy - Photography	Jules Bridgman
Memorial Hall Trophy - Culinary	Hilary Tipping

<i>Special Awards for Highest Points - Children</i>	<i>Winners</i>
Tewin Cowper School Parents' Association Award – Horticulture, Arts & Crafts and Culinary	Imogen Winters & Ashley Winters
George Humble Crawford Award - Children's Photography	Annabel Goodison

<i>Other Prizes – Adults</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>
Flower Arranging	Joy Lawson	Sue Whitbourn	Anna Clark & Mary Gregg
Flowers	Diana Brannen	Anna Clark	Ray Keppler
Vegetables & Fruit	Ray Keppler	Anna Clark	Kevin Brazier
Arts & Crafts	Shirley Ashby	Terry Brand	Lydia Harwood
Photography	Jules Bridgman	Terry Brand	Michael Clark
Culinary	Hilary Tipping	Anna Clark	Melanie Goodison

<i>Other Prizes – Children</i>	<i>Winners</i>
Horticulture	
Nursery & Reception	Linus Winters
Years 1 & 2	Riley Gibbons
Years 3 & 4	Ashley Winters
Years 5-7	Scarlett Somerville
Years 8-13	No entries
Arts & Crafts	
Pre-school & Nursery	Lauren Murray
Reception & Year 1	Imogen Winters
Years 2-4	Annabel Goodison
Years 5-7	Scarlett Somerville
Years 8-13	No entries

Culinary	
Nursery & Reception	Linus Winters
Years 1 & 2	Imogen Winters
Years 3 & 4	Ashley Winters
Years 5-7	No entries
Years 8-13	No entries
Photography	
Years 1 & 2	Annabel Goodison
Years 3 & 4	No entries
Years 5-7	Caspar Horsley
Years 8-13	No entries

Forthcoming Events

Creative writing workshop on Friday 21st October

This autumn's event has been arranged on a Friday, which may enable more people to come. It will be run by a very able tutor, Frances Wilson, who has already helped local people express their writing abilities. The day runs from 10am to 4pm and participants are asked to bring something to share for lunch.

Frances will start with a number of stimulating exercises. There is an opportunity to write prose or poetry of your choice or from something which may have arisen from the exercises. It is a day of great fun, some of which comes from the surprise and pleasure of going down new avenues.

If you would like more information or wish to come, contact Joanne Allen on 01438-798749 or at jrallen14@hotmail.co.uk. The cost is £18 for members and £21 for non-members, to be paid by 14th October. Cheques, payable to *THACS*, should be sent to Joanne at 47 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood, AL6 0NP where the event will be held.

This workshop is now full! Please contact Joanne if you would like to book onto the reserve list.

Arts & Craft Fair on Saturday 29th October

Our annual Arts and Crafts Fair will take place this year on Saturday 29th October from 10:00am to 4:00pm in the Memorial Hall.

There will be the usual eclectic mix of stalls selling locally hand-made Arts and Crafts including soft furnishings, wood turning, preserves, painting and jewellery and, of course, the ever popular charity cake stall. There will also be pottery-making demonstrations to watch.

Refreshments will be served and admission is free, so why not come along and buy your Christmas presents early this year.

For more information contact Hilary Tipping:
hilary.tipping@talk21.com

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### Art workshop on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November

By popular demand, this art workshop has been organized to be held in the beautiful and well-lit church hall at St. Mary's, Welwyn. The subject will be *Collage and Mixed Media* and is aimed at all abilities. Our tutor, Sera Knight, hails from Surrey, and has been recommended by a previous student. Her workshop promises to offer something a little different.

This workshop will run from 10am to 4pm and participants will be asked to bring something to share for lunch which, at previous workshops, has meant a delicious feast.

If you would like more information or wish to come, please contact Joanne Allen on 01438-798749 or at jrallen14@hotmail.co.uk. The cost will be £30 for members and £32 for non-members, to be paid by 31<sup>st</sup> October. Cheques, payable to *THACS*, should be sent to Joanne at 47 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood, AL6 0NP.

## Annual General Meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017

The sixteenth *THACS* AGM will take place at Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7:30pm. The AGM will be followed by a talk on modern art from a guest speaker. More information about the AGM and the talk will be issued with the next newsletter in December.

## Recent Events

### Visit to Savill Garden on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July

**Tewin Pilates**



Pilates classes held in Tewin Pavilion,  
Upper Green, Tewin, AL6 0LX

Day Classes:  
Mon, 8.30am & 1.15pm, Tues, Weds, Thurs,  
& Fri, 9.15am, 10.30am & 11.45am

Evening Classes:  
Tues, 6.10pm, 7.15pm & 8.20pm  
Wed, 7.0pm, Thur, 7.0pm & 8.15pm

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The visit to Savill Garden was a lovely day out and everything went smoothly. The group of thirty-four people left Tewin at 9:30 with eager anticipation about the visit but perhaps some apprehension about the dubious weather, since some rain had been forecast. However, the dark clouds mainly kept passing us by during our time at the garden, whilst the few light showers we experienced did not spoil our enjoyment.

From the car and coach parks, the entrance to the garden is through the impressive Savill Building, which has interesting architecture and construction. Its wide and low undulating roof is in perfect keeping with the landscape and its open-plan interior gives a light and airy environment. It houses the Savill Garden Restaurant and the Gallery Café, so most of the group took some refreshment before exploring the garden.

Twenty-two people had opted to go on the guided tour in the morning and we were fortunate to have Anthony as our guide. He is

a volunteer from the Friends of Savill Garden and his long association with Savill Garden has given him a detailed knowledge and understanding of the garden and its development. He is also an experienced tour guide and this helped to make the tour appropriate, informative and enjoyable. We learned far more from the tour than we could possibly have done on our own! In

particular, we were given an intriguing insight into the nature of the location and some of the associated problems the site poses, such as the excess water. The structure of the new rose garden had to be revised when the initial idea of a circular bowl-shaped garden proved impractical due to flooding from the high water table. It's now all on the same level and has a most unusual design (as featured in the edition of the Gardeners World TV programme on 20<sup>th</sup> July). Recent flooding has also caused many of the Hydrangeas to die from water-logged roots, so managing a garden on this site certainly comes with its own set of challenges. The tour started at 11:30am and finished before 1:00pm so there was still time for lunch and to explore some of the garden before leaving at 3:30pm for the return journey.

Since Savill Garden consists of 35 acres of interconnected gardens, our visit was too brief for us to fully explore all of them. However, the parts of the garden we did get to see were very impressive, with many of the flower beds having large drifts of healthy and beautiful plants (all clearly labelled). These included some unexpected surprises, such as the numerous large clumps of flowering Dierama (aka Angel's fishing rod, wandflower). These evergreen cormous perennials are tricky to get established and even harder to get flowering well, so the gardeners have done well. The standard of maintenance of the gardens is high and I was amazed to discover that the flower beds are maintained by fewer than 10 full-time gardeners. Also, they do it all without extra help:- many large public gardens have organised volunteer gardeners to help with the upkeep, but Savill Garden does not.

The Savill Building also houses the gift shop which offers a good range of gifts alongside a range of plants and garden accessories. If you brought plants there, I hope that you have now found a suitable location for them in your garden and that they will thrive and continue to remind you of your day out with *THACS* at Savill Garden.

The staff at Savill Garden did a great job in looking after us. The pre-visit organisation was good and, when we arrived, the welcome was warm and the staff at reception were efficient with the payments and tickets. Chambers Coaches provided their usual reliable good service and our driver Rob was thanked for the smooth, safe and comfortable journeys.

If you came on the visit, then thank you for coming. The time-keeping was excellent, so thanks to everyone in the group for helping to make the visit go so smoothly.

If you have not been to Savill Garden yourself, then I recommend it to you. There is something there for everyone, so go along as we did and have a great day out. (Find out more about Savill Garden from their web site at <http://www.windsorgreatpark.co.uk/en/experiences/the-savill-garden>.)

## **Other News**

### **Art exhibition 1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November**

The *THACS* committee usually arranges a visit to a gallery or an exhibition towards the end of the year. Unfortunately we are unable to arrange a visit this year but Jim Hall has provided the following information on an opportunity to see an extraordinary private art collection before it is auctioned to the public.

#### ***Seeking Major Tom***

This November, Sotheby's will stage a three-part sale encompassing some 400 items from the private collection of legendary musician David Bowie. At the heart of the sale is a remarkable group of more than 200 works by many of the most important British artists of the 20th Century, including Frank Auerbach, Damien Hirst, Henry Moore and Graham Sutherland.

Bowie's famously inquisitive mind also led him to collect Outsider Art, Surrealism and Contemporary African art, as well as pieces by eccentric Italian designer Ettore Sottsass and the

Memphis group. Bowie's diverse tastes nurtured his extensive archive of important works from celebrated, and less widely-known, artists in a collection of unparalleled eclecticism.

Never seen as a collection before but from 1<sup>st</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> November, the collection will be exhibited at Sotheby's New Bond Street galleries in London, giving fans, collectors, art lovers and experts a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to immerse themselves in the extraordinary range of objects that informed Bowie's private world. Ahead of the landmark ten-day event in London, preview exhibitions will be held in New York, Los Angeles and Hong Kong.

David Bowie, musician, actor and icon, as well as a publisher, curator and magazine editor with Modern British art at the heart of those passions. Born in South London, it's perhaps no surprise that he was drawn to chroniclers of the capital's streets such as Harold Gilman and Frank Auerbach while he also collected St Ives-based painter Peter Lanyon in particular depth. However, his collection is by no means limited to British art alone and also encompasses Contemporary African art, self-taught artists from Vienna's Gugging institution, as well as designs by Ettore Sottsass and the revolutionary Memphis group. Bowie was not just a collector of art, but an informed authority on the subject. This was most clearly demonstrated in his role as an active member on the Editorial Board of Modern Painters magazine, and the founding of his arts publishing house, 21. He contributed regular in-depth interviews with artists such as Tracey Emin, Balthus and Damien Hirst.

For more information you can visit the Sotheby's website.

## **Wildlife Trust talk on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

The Mid Herts Local Group of the Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust has organised the following talk which you may wish to attend. I am grateful to their Chairman, David Laming, for providing me with the information and extending an invitation to attend the talk to all interested *THACS* members.

### ***Traditional Uses of Wild Flowers of Hertfordshire***

Julie Wakefield is a medical historian specialising in historic herbalism and folk healing. This talk will look at medicinal uses of our native wild flowers in the past, and their associated folklore. It will include uses dating back to the herbals of the 17th century, as well as traditional home remedies which we can try today.

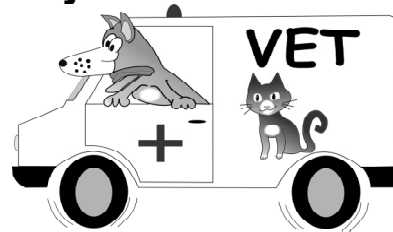
Meet 8pm Howlands Baptist Church,  
The Commons, Welwyn Garden City,  
AL7 4RS.

No booking required.

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**Mon-Fri. 8am – 6pm**

**Sat. 9am – 4pm**

## Sewing, patchwork and knitting workshops

One of the aims of *THACS* is to encourage village arts & crafts, so I am pleased to bring you the following information from Julia Dudrenec, who runs local craft workshops.

### *So Just Sew*

*So Just Sew* is based at Tewin Hill Farm offering sewing, patchwork and knitting workshops for all ages.

Having always worked in the rag trade and fashion, making my own clothes and taking a City and Guilds in Patchwork and Quilting, I went on to become a sewing machine demonstrator and tutor at John Lewis and still work in the Haberdashery dept. Realising the lack of teaching at schools and knowing the fun of making your own creations to wear, use or just admire, I set up *So Just Sew*. I now run 4 school clubs, holiday workshops and adult classes. I took the plunge and set up a unit at Tewin Hill Farm offering more space and a comfortable, friendly atmosphere to learn the skills of sewing and knitting.

We have had a great summer of children's sewing workshops making bags, toys, pyjamas and quilts and ensuring the love of sewing continues for the next generation.

Our knitting and crochet workshops are also very popular to learn the full range from casting on to professional finishing and we now also offer exciting new classes in pattern cutting.

e mail address [sojustsew31@gmail.com](mailto:sojustsew31@gmail.com)

facebook Julia Dudrenec. So Just Sew

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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