

THACS

TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2010

Chairman's Introduction

The ninth **THACS** AGM took place at Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 18th January 2010 and was attended by at least 66 members. Ray Keppler presented the Chairman's report for 2009 and Pat Fulford presented the Treasurer's report for financial year 1st November 2008 to 31st October 2009. We then held the elections for the officers and committee and the full results appear on page 4 (together with the names, telephone numbers and addresses of all committee members.) Anna Clark gave a preview of the **THACS** events for 2010 and several people subsequently responded to her request for ideas for other future events.

The AGM was followed by an informative and entertaining talk entitled '*The history of paper making and printing*' by Mike Creasey. The evening ended with the serving of refreshments.

This newsletter contains abridged versions of the reports presented at the AGM. The full reports can be found in the minutes of the AGM, which have been posted on the **THACS** page of the Tewin village website at www.tewinvillage.co.uk.

Have you lost your coat? A coat and scarf were left behind after the AGM. The Marks & Spencer coat is green, with blue trim. The Balmoral scarf is black and made of wool. If you think that this could be yours, then please call me on 01438 717545.

The tenth **THACS AGM will be held at Tewin Memorial Hall
on Monday 17th January 2011 at 8.00pm.**

Ray Keppler (Chairman).

AGM Report

Chairman's report for 2009

It's been another good year for **THACS**. Our membership reached 200 for the first time and we had a full and varied programme of events. We also did a few new things as well, such as the newsletter readers' survey and running workshops dealing with particular crafts such as jewellery making and calligraphy.

We organised and ran ten events during 2009.

In January we held the eighth AGM which was followed by a talk about the production of the book '*The History of Tewin by the People of Tewin*'. It's nice to see that the book has finally been published and I hope that many of you have already got your copies.

In February, we ran the first jewellery workshop in the *Homebeads* shop in Knebworth.

The eighth **THACS** Spring Show took place in March. There were 260 entries and the show attracted many visitors in the afternoon. It was good to see 95 horticultural entries, especially in view of the slow, cold spring.

In April, we visited the RHS garden at Wisley. This was very popular and we filled a 57-seater coach. More than 30 people elected to go on the optional guided tour, which was enjoyable and informative.

In early June, we had a treasure hunt and meal. 24 intrepid walkers set out to solve the clever clues devised by Steve Stott. These clues told, in rhyming couplets, the route to take and questions to be answered along the way, in relation to **THACS** interests. After the Treasure Hunt, everyone sat down to a tasty barbeque at the Rose & Crown pub.

Later in June, there was a painting and photography day, where a group of enthusiastic artists were able to wander around the attractive grounds of Marden Hill House and choose a place to try their skills, by sketching, painting or taking photographs.

In July, we had hoped to have a visit to the Victoria & Albert museum, mainly to see an exhibition on the Baroque Period 1620 – 1800. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled due to lack of support.

The eighth **THACS** Autumn Show took place in September. There were more than 350 entries of all sorts and the visitors in the afternoon were able to enjoy the homemade cakes and teas made by lots of willing members of the society.

In October we held a quiz night which involved ten tables of eager participants attempting to answer the varied questions prepared by our local Quiz Master, Andrew Whawell. It was a brain-teasing, but enjoyable evening.

The Committee also went on a guided tour of Prince Charles' garden at Highgrove, Gloucestershire, in October. It was very interesting, even though the weather was wet and it was not the best time of year for the visit. Whilst we were there, we discovered that they have recently started to accept smaller groups. Anyone can apply and (if accepted) they could make up a small group.

We had a good number of keen photographers for the photographic evening in November. The talk was given by Bob Norris who will be our photographic judge at one of our shows this year. He inspired us all to achieve greater things when taking photographs, and challenged us to change them for more artistic effects.

In November, we held our first calligraphy workshop. It was run by Jo Cooper, who is a judge at our Spring Show.

In addition to these ten events, **THACS** made other contributions to Tewin village life.

- 1) We helped to raise money for Tewin Memorial Hall, by selling plants at the village fete in June.
- 2) We helped to raise money for St Peter's Church, by selling a variety of plants and produce at the Harvest Festival in September.

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Steve Pocock

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- 3) A wreath was laid at St. Peter's war memorial, on behalf of **THACS**, on Remembrance Sunday in November.
- 4) We paid our one-third share of the costs of upgrading the Public Address equipment used in the hall and for outside events.
- 5) We have set aside a contribution to the cost of restoring the telephone box so that it can be preserved for future use in Tewin.

The *THACS Newsletter Reader Survey* form was distributed to all members with the newsletter in September 2009 to solicit your views on our newsletter and website. It went to the 129 households that account for the 191 members we had then. We received response from 44 households, giving a response rate of 34%. This is high for this type of survey and certainly means that we can treat the results as truly representative of the views of our members, so thank you very much for all of those replies.

The response level and the nature of the comments clearly show that the newsletter is well-regarded and basically sound. However, there is scope for

- 1) improving the content and appearance of the newsletters,
- 2) increasing the awareness and usefulness of the web site
- 3) making more appropriate use of our space in the Parish News.

The Committee will discuss the results and decide the best course of action, so you can expect further developments during 2010.

These events and activities were made possible by a large number of people who have given their time and skills so freely. We are indebted to them for their help and support.

THACS is a thriving society and is well supported by our members and friends. The Committee appreciate this support and thank you for it. Long may it continue!

Ray Keppler (Chairman).

Treasurer's report for financial year 1st November 2008 to 31st October 2009

In the present uncertain financial times, the 2009 financial year was stable and our funds remain healthy and secure.

No adjustments for pre-payments or accruals have been made at the end of the financial year. The cash surplus for the year was £311.06, compared with £1,698.71 in 2008.

Once allowances have been made for prepayments and deposits over the 2008 year end, the cash surplus of £311.06 becomes an income surplus of £649.06.

The Membership at the end of 2009 stood at 203 members compared with 188 members in 2008. Of the 203, 167 pay their subscriptions by standing order. We would appreciate if the remaining 36 members would consider signing standing order forms to reduce administration and postage costs.

Our Membership income of £930 covered the cost of the Newsletters, RHS Membership, AGM costs, Printing and Sundry expenses, and losses on our Spring and Autumn Shows. These expenses amounted to £663.20.

Income from Advertising was £359. During 2010 we plan to reduce our advertising to ensure that our Newsletters do not become overburdened with advertisements.

It is not our aim to Accumulate Funds and we try to price our events on a non profit basis. This is difficult to achieve because of not knowing in advance the support that our events will receive.

Postage costs have increased by 11%, so we try to deliver by hand as much of our members' correspondence as possible. The distributors who help with this service are much appreciated for the savings that result from their efforts.

The bank and cash balances at 31st October 2009 were £4,353.37, compared with £4,042.31 at the end of October 2008.

We shall continue to act carefully to ensure our Society's finances remain secure.

Pat Fulford (Honorary Treasurer).

Election of Officers and Committee for 2010

The following officers were elected.

Chairman Ray Keppler

Vice-Chairman Anna Clark

Treasurer Patricia Fulford

Secretary Doreen Lloyd

During 2009, Menna Searle and Ann Moon resigned from the committee. Gay Cates and Kay Adams served on the committee, but will not be standing for re-election. Ian Charman was co-opted onto the committee but is not standing for election. We thank them all for their contribution and hope that they will still be active members of the society. Particular appreciation and thanks go to Gay, who gave **THACS** six years of dedicated service, three of which were as Chairman.

The remaining members of the committee, Terry Brand, Alfred Fulford and Kate Stott, were all re-elected. One new member was voted onto the committee:- Lynne Burgess.

THACS committee members for 2010 are as follows:

Name	Telephone 01438-	Address
Terry Brand	718700	16 Lower Green
Lynne Burgess	798799	14 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood
Anna Clark	798324	Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green
Alf & Pat Fulford	798717	27 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood
Ray Keppler	717545	15 Upper Green Road
Doreen Lloyd	715020	27 Grass Warren
Kate Stott	717680	20 Harwood Close.

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Forthcoming Events

THACS Spring Show in Tewin Memorial Hall on Saturday 20th March 2010

THACS will be holding the ninth annual Spring Show at Tewin Memorial Hall on **Saturday 20th March** this year. We very much hope that non-members as well as members will be tempted to take part in this popular village event, so if any of your friends need a push to get started, please tell them what an enjoyable event the Spring show is, and we would love to see them **and their entries** this year! Of course, we are relying on you all to make this show the best yet and give Tewin something to remember.

Please see attached schedule, rules and entry form with your newsletter. Further copies can be obtained from Tewin Stores or the **THACS** page on www.tewinvillage.co.uk. Please make sure that your completed entry forms and fees are delivered to Anna Clark, Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green, Tewin, AL6 0LX by **Sunday 14th March**.

Entries should be taken to the hall between 8.30am and 10.30am on the day. The show will be open to the public at 2.15pm, after the judging has taken place. Refreshments will be available during the afternoon, and the presentation of prizes will be at 3.30pm. If anyone can help with the setting up of the hall, clearing away afterwards, making cakes for the teas and /or serving them during the show, or acting as a steward for the judges we would be very grateful for your help. Please contact Anna Clark on 01438 798324 or email to mike.tewin@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing you there and good luck with all your entries!

The Spring Show Schedule (delivered with this newsletter) specifies the photography categories for Spring, but we thought that you might like advanced advance warning of the photography categories for the whole year.

Spring 2010

1. Winter scene
2. * Cloud formations
3. * Pets/ Domestic animals – (to include Farm animals)
4. Monuments/ Statues
5. * Close-up of Household object

Autumn 2010

1. * Wildlife
2. * Holiday memories (to include people)
3. Atmospheric Landscape
4. Chimney Pots
5. * Dereliction

The Adult Section consists of all ten categories and the Children's Section consists of the six categories marked with *

Visit to the Royal Academy of Arts to see *The Real Van Gogh: The Artist and His Letters* on Wednesday 31st March 2010

Due to the demand for tickets we are extremely fortunate to have acquired a group booking for this landmark exhibition. This opportunity to see the work of Vincent van Gogh should definitely not be missed. It focuses on the artist's remarkable correspondence. Over 35 original letters, rarely exhibited to the public due to their fragility, together with around 65 paintings and 30 drawings that express the principal themes to be found within the correspondence will be on display in the Main Galleries of Burlington House. The exhibition will offer a unique

opportunity to gain an insight into the complex mind of Vincent van Gogh. The exhibition will be the first major Van Gogh exhibition in London for over forty years.

Entry cost for a member of the Friends of the Royal Academy is free, and they will only be required to pay £11.00 for the coach if a **THACS** member, or £13 for a non-**THACS** member.

For **THACS** members who are not members of the Friends of the Royal Academy, the total cost is £21, including £10 admission to the exhibition, and coach costs. (Non-**THACS** members £23).

The coach will leave Tewin (from the bus stop opposite the Rose & Crown) at 9.00am, so please be there for 8.45am to ensure that the coach can leave on time. It will leave the Royal Academy for the return at 4.00 pm. Our allocated slot times to enter the exhibition are 12.30pm and 1.00pm, therefore spare time is available for other viewing.

The Royal Academy require confirmation of numbers and payment from us a month before the visit, so **we need you to respond quickly if you'd like to go on this visit**. Kindly complete the form on the back page at your very earliest opportunity and send it with your cheque, payable to THACS, to: **Pat Fulford, 27 Bishops Road, Tewin, Herts. AL6 ONP by 27th February 2010.**

Jewellery workshops

Maxine and Charlotte Callaghan will be running further Jewellery workshops at their shop, Homebeads, in Knebworth in 2010. The next scheduled workshops will be on Monday 15th February and Monday 22nd February and these are already full.

Calligraphy workshops

The next calligraphy workshops will be held in Burnham Green Hall on Friday 26th February and Friday 12th March and these are already full. (These dates are subject to confirmation.)

THACS Autumn Show in Tewin Memorial Hall on Saturday 4th September 2010.

The show schedule, rules and entry form will be published nearer the time.

Open Gardens

We hope to run Open Gardens again this year, with a variety of gardens in Tewin, and also gardens of members outside the village. We are aiming to open the gardens on a Saturday and/or Sunday in May, and would like as many gardeners as possible to join in.

If you would be prepared to open your garden for a day, or if you would just like to know more about what it involves, then please contact Ray Keppler on 01438 717545 or email to ray@raykeppler.wanadoo.co.uk.

Recent Events

Calligraphy workshop in Burnham Green Hall on Friday 29th January 2010

The second calligraphy workshop booked to be held at 2:30pm on Friday, 8th January 2010, at Burnham Green Hall unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the weather. It was rebooked for 2.30pm on Friday 29th January 2010 at Burnham Green Village Hall, so will have taken place by the time you read this.

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The Real Van Gogh: The Artist and His Letters
on Wednesday 31st March 2010**

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How many of these are for Friends of the Royal Academy?

Prices	THACS members	Non-THACS members
Friends of the Royal Academy	£11	£13
Not Friends of the Royal Academy	£21	£23

I enclose £.....

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Pat Fulford, 27 Bishops Road, Tewin, Herts. AL6 ONP by 27th February 2010

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