

THACS

TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER JULY 2010

Chairman's Introduction

As the summer continues, it's time to look ahead at our forthcoming events and prepare for them. The Autumn Show will be held in early September and the Show Schedule (distributed with this newsletter) is more extensive than ever, so please look at it and think about the categories you could enter. There is something for everyone, so I am sure that you can select some suitable categories to enter.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of *THACS* in October 2000, we are going to hold two events on Saturday 23rd October this year. During the day, there will be an Arts & Crafts Fair and Sale in the Memorial Hall, and this will be followed in the evening by our 10th anniversary party.

In the reader's survey we conducted last September, you asked us to occasionally include appropriate longer articles written by guest writers, such as advice to exhibitors at the *THACS* shows. I am delighted to respond to that request in this edition, in the form of an article entitled *Vegetable growing and showing* by Percy Frizelle, our Vegetables & Fruit Judge. Percy has a wealth of relevant experience of this subject and we are grateful to him for kindly providing this valuable advice.

We'd like to include recipes, gardening tips and photography tips from you, so please send them to me. We will publish a selection of them, so that all of our members will be able to benefit from your experience and advice. We would also like to include reader's letters so do please send me your comments and opinions about any *THACS*-related issue. You can email them to me at ray@raykepler.wanadoo.co.uk.

Ray Kepler (Chairman).

Forthcoming Events

***THACS* Autumn Show on Saturday 4th September 2010**

The Autumn Show at the beginning of September is a great time for you to display the results of your efforts to grow flowers, vegetables and fruit in your garden or allotment. This year we have provided you with even more scope for this, by increasing the number of categories in these classes. There are classes for adults covering flower arranging, flowers, vegetables & fruit, arts & crafts, photography and culinary. There are also classes for children (in age groups) covering horticulture, arts & crafts, culinary and photography. So come along, have a go and support your village show!

Don't forget, the more categories you enter, the more likely you are to win a prize. Show schedules, rules and entry forms accompany this newsletter. Extra copies can be down-loaded from the *THACS* page on the village website (www.tewinvillage.co.uk) or you can get paper copies from Tewin Stores or from Anna Clark, *THACS* Show Secretary, Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green, Tewin AL6 0LX, telephone 01438 798324.

All entry forms and entrance fees should be submitted by Sunday 29th August.

THACS Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday 23rd October 2010

The Arts & Crafts fair and sale will take place in Tewin Memorial Hall from 10:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday 23rd October. In previous years, this fair has taken place over two days at Burnham Green Village Hall. Due to the success of previous events, we have re-located to Tewin Memorial Hall, which is a larger venue. However, we will need many more stallholders to fill the space. There will be a minimal charge to cover the cost of the hall, but all profits will go to the stallholders.

Would you like a stall, or a share of a stall? If so, please contact Hilary Tipping (16 Lower Green, Tewin, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, AL6 0LB, phone: 01438 718700, email: hilary.tipping@talk21.com) and let her know your name, contact details and the type of work you wish to display and sell. If you have any friends or colleagues who might be interested in having a stall, please bring this to their attention.



THACS 10th Anniversary Party on Saturday 23rd October 2010

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of *THACS* in October 2000, we are going to have a 'pot-party' in Tewin Memorial Hall from 7.30pm.

Some members will recollect our very first get-together at the Memorial Hall on 27th October 2000. This was our launch party and we provided a buffet ourselves by bringing along a 'pot' or dish of food, savoury or sweet, and everyone shared the meal. The launch party was partly funded by Friends of Tewin, who very kindly paid for the hire of the hall.

We thought that it would be fun to celebrate our 10th Anniversary in the same way by organising a 'pot party' again, and this time we would provide a pay bar and live music for your enjoyment during the evening.

We are planning to put on a display featuring past *THACS* events, such as shows, visits, open gardens and workshops, with possibly some press cuttings and *THACS* posters. The Roll of Honour book will be on display for you to view. If you have any personal *THACS* memorabilia from the past 10 years and you would be willing to lend it to us for our anniversary display, please contact Anna Clark on 01438 798324. If this includes photographs, then please ensure that they have a caption so that they can be put into context.

The maximum the Memorial Hall can seat is 110 people, so initially we are limiting the purchase of tickets to two per household by members only. Tickets will be issued on a "first come - first served" basis, at £5.00 each, and will be available from Pat Fulford from Monday, 26th July.

Please fill in the form on the back page of this newsletter and send it, with your payment (cheques payable to *THACS*), to **Pat Fulford, 27 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood, AL6 0NP** as soon as possible.

Remember to bring along your dancing shoes to help make the evening go with a swing!

Calligraphy workshops

Due to the very positive response from the members that attended the previous Calligraphy workshops, we have asked Jo Cooper, our excellent tutor, if she would be happy to resume classes in the autumn.

It has been decided to organise a course of ten sessions (each consisting of two hours instruction) commencing Friday, 17th September, at 2.30pm at Burnham Green Hall, until approximately the end of April 2011. Dates will be fixed when the course commences.

We are unable to run this course at a financial loss so we need to have at least ten persons taking part and attending regularly. It would therefore be appreciated if the payment for the whole course is made up front, for retaining the services of the tutor, and for hiring Burnham Green Hall. The cost for the full course is £50 which works out at just £5 per session, plus any materials needed.

Jo Cooper is keen to take on any newcomers, so if you missed the chance to attend the workshops earlier in the year, you will be very welcome. It really is great fun.

If you would like to attend the workshop, please contact Anna Clark on 01438 798324, or email mike.tewin@gmail.com, and she will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Recent Events

Open Gardens between 11:00 and 18:00 on Saturday & Sunday 15-16 May 2010



More than 260 people took advantage of the *THACS* Open Gardens event and visited some of the Open Gardens in and around Tewin. Thanks to Tewin Stores and Tebbutts for selling tickets so efficiently.

Fourteen gardens opened this year and the event was held over two days. Gardens in the south part of Tewin, Digswell and Tewin Water were open on Saturday 15th May, with refreshments available from Digswell Water House. Gardens in the north part of Tewin were open on Sunday 16th May, with refreshments available from Dawley Cottage. This approach ensured that there were not too many gardens to visit in one day.

The gardens represented a great diversity in location, size and style. There were enough Open Gardens to make up two full days out and enough variety to give all of the visitors plenty to see.

Programmes were excellent value for money, since they were only £2 per adult (with accompanied children free) and enabled visitors to see all of the gardens over the two days. Despite this, the event was a financial success and provided *THACS* with profits that will probably be used to make donations to appropriate local causes.

Congratulations and special thanks to all those who opened their gardens and who worked so hard to ensure that their gardens were in tip-top condition. Many thanks also to all the helpers who worked diligently and to the visitors who made the day such a success.

TEWIN STORES

**18a Hertford Road, Tewin
Telephone: 01438 717929**

Support your Community Shop, for locally sourced produce. Browse our shelves for your groceries and home made cakes. Enjoy a freshly brewed cup of coffee in our Internet Café whilst perusing items in the Gallery, or sit in the sunshine in our Courtyard Garden. Why not become a Volunteer and participate in this exciting Village venture?

Come and see us, you will receive a warm welcome; opening hours are:-

**Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm
Saturday 8.30 am to 12.30 pm
Sunday 9 am to 12 am**

**The Post Office is open:-
Monday to Friday 9 am to 12 am
Saturday 9 am to 11.30 am**

Visit to Beth Chatto Gardens on Wednesday 23rd June 2010

We had a glorious summer day for our visit to Beth Chatto Gardens. There were 41 people in the group and 27 of them had chosen to go on the optional one-hour guided tour. The tour was interesting and informative and the knowledgeable guide was able to answer all of our questions.

The gardens were inspirational and a joy to explore. The gravel garden, water garden and woodland garden each had their own distinctive styles, but also linked together well. It seemed particularly appropriate for us to visit them now, since this is the year of their 50th anniversary.

The large tea room was cool, airy and popular. The extensive and well-stocked nursery was also very popular and most of the group returned to the coach laden with their purchases. Chambers Coaches provided their usual good service, with a comfortable air-conditioned coach and a cheerful driver who ensured that we had smooth, trouble-free journeys, returning us safely back to Tewin with our exciting new plants.

***THACS* plant stall at the village fete on Saturday 26th June 2010**

The *THACS* committee thank all those who contributed to making the plant stall at Tewin Village Fete such a resounding success. A grand total of £436.36 was raised for the Tewin Memorial Hall.

Members and friends donated a splendid array of plants, clearly nurtured with much care and including many unusual specimens. A special thank you goes to Bulls Green Nursery for their most generous support in providing a truly colourful selection of perennials and roses. Not least, a very big thank you to those who manned the stall throughout a very busy and pretty hot afternoon. Their hard work was much appreciated.

DATCHWORTH STORES

2 Datchworth Green Tel: 01438 813467

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Gardening Tips

Vegetable growing and showing

There has been a re-awakening of interest in vegetable growing, no doubt due to the ever-rising cost of vegetables.

Vegetable growing will appeal to those who want an outdoor life, to keep fit and their minds occupied and active. But, most of all, you will be able to enjoy vegetables that will be 100% fresh and to hand when needed. Do not let anyone tell you that vegetable growing is difficult or laborious, it is not! If Alan Titchmarsh can do it, so can you!

For those of you who are more adventurous and want to go beyond growing for culinary use, I have selected a few vegetables which can be grown for your *THACS* Autumn Show. Good luck, one and all!

Vegetable variety	When to sow or plant for the show
BEETROOT Boltardy	Sow during the second week of June
CABBAGE Go for medium-sized ballheads.	Sow seeds during first or second week of May.
CARROTS – Long New Red Intermediate James Scarlet Intermediate	Must be sown during the second or third week of April.
CARROTS – Short Chantenay Red-cored Early Market	Must be sown during the second or third week of April.
CAULIFLOWER Dok, Snowball	Sow seeds during first or second week of May. (Only try to grow cauliflowers for the show if your soil is very good)
CELERY Go for any self-blanching variety	Sow seeds in March or April, preferably in a propagator, keeping the temperature even day and night.
LEEK Robinsons Mammoth (Seedlings of these are also available)	
ONIONS from seed Robinsons Mammoth Robinsons Mammoth Improved Kelsae (Seedlings of these are also available)	Seeds should be sown during the last week of December, indoors or in a greenhouse, preferably in a propagator.
ONIONS from sets Rijnsburger	Should be planted out during March / early April.
POTATOES – Round Cara, Nadine, Maris Piper, Rocket	
POTATOES – Kidney Catriona (an excellent show variety), Nicola, Charlotte	
RUNNER BEANS Enorma, Liberty, Lady Di	Sow mid-June

TOMATOES Sonatine, Alicante, Harbinger, Stoner	Sow seeds indoors during last week of March or first week of April.
TOMATOES – Cherry Gardeners Delight (just about the best variety)	Sow seeds indoors during last week of March or first week of April.

Further information can be obtained from the very good vegetable seed catalogue from
E.W. King & Co Ltd
Monks Farm
Coggeshall Road
Kelvedon
Colchester
Essex CO5 9PG
Phone: 01376 570000.

Percy Frizelle (Vegetables & Fruit Judge)

[Editors note: You can request the catalogue, view the seeds on offer and place your order via their website www.kingsseeds.com]

Recipe

Fisherman's Chowder

Here's a recipe for fisherman's chowder that we recently enjoyed. It is ideal for entertaining friends for lunch on the patio in the summer sunshine. Serve with nice crusty bread and a glass of well-chilled white wine.

Ingredients

Serves 6-8
50g butter
1 large onion, thinly sliced
125g bacon, de-rinded and chopped
4 sticks celery chopped
1 small red or green pepper, de-seeded and diced
280 ml fish or chicken stock
675g smoked and white fish
280 ml milk
1 heaped tablespoon cornflour
Salt and freshly ground pepper

Method

Melt the butter in a large saucepan. Fry the onion, bacon, celery, pepper and potato for 5 minutes. Add the stock and simmer until the potatoes are just tender. Skin the fish and cut into cubes, add to the pan. Blend the milk and the cornflour, stir into the pan. Bring to the boil stirring occasionally and simmer for five minutes. Season to taste.

ATTIMORE VETERINARY PRACTICE

WOOLMER GREEN TEL: 01438 815515

22a London Road, Knebworth SG3 6JP

Local convenient clinic with consultations by appointment, friendly and qualified staff, good parking and all the benefits of our 24 hour Hospital at Welwyn Garden City, should the need arise. (Telephone: 01707 331963).

We also sell a wide range of food and accessories.

The Woolmer Green branch is open Monday to Saturday and provides complete health care plans for all ages. We look forward to seeing you and your pet soon.

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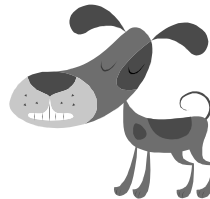
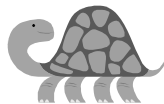
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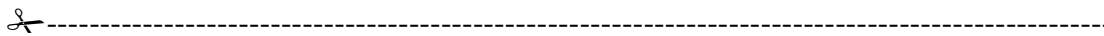
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Ray Keppler Email: ray@raykeppler.wanadoo.co.uk Telephone: 01438 717545



***THACS* 10th Anniversary Party
on Saturday 23rd October 2010
at Tewin Memorial Hall from 7.30pm**

Name/s

Address.....

.....

Phone Number.....

I would like to purchase tickets (2 per household maximum) @ £5.00 each.

I appreciate that tickets are on a “first come - first served” basis, and am willing / not willing to go on a waiting list, if necessary. (Please delete either ‘willing’ or ‘not willing’).

I will provide a savoury / sweet dish. (Please delete either ‘savoury’ or ‘sweet’).

Please make cheques payable to *THACS* and send to:- Pat Fulford, 27 Bishops Road, Tewin, Herts AL6 ONP.

Tickets will be issued from Monday, 26th July.