

Chairman's Report for 2014

Ray Keppler

1) Introduction

THACS has had another busy and successful year, running eleven events. Our small committee has managed to organise a full and varied programme of events, thanks in part to some excellent support from some of our members who are not on the committee. All of the events were well-supported and we did not have to cancel any, so thank you for your support.

2) AGM 13th January

43 people braved the wind and rain to attend our AGM on Monday 13th January.

The talk following the AGM was *The Art of Monochrome Landscape and City Photography* by Dr David Butcher.

3) Creative writing workshops 31st March

Joanne Allen organised and hosted a Creative Writing Workshop at the end of March. It was an inspiring and enjoyable day, ably tutored by Frances Wilson.

4) Spring Show 5th April

After the wettest winter on record, the *THACS* Spring Show on 5th April helped celebrate the arrival of the spring.

You may recall that I was getting increasingly concerned about the falling number of exhibitors at the shows, so I appealed for more support at the last AGM and in the newsletter. It seems that the appeal was heeded as the spring show was the largest since detailed recording started in 2007. There was a total of 161 exhibitors, which is 85% more than the previous year. It is particularly encouraging to see several new adult exhibitors entering the show and I hope that their experience will encourage them to enter subsequent shows too.

5) Art workshop 1st May

Joanne Allen organised another event held on 1st May. It was an Art Workshop held at Bramfield Village Hall, run by Jude O'Sullivan and enjoyed by all who attended.

6) Open Gardens 18th May

Jim Hall organised an Open Gardens event for Sunday 18th May. The sun shone, the gardens were stunning and every visitor enjoyed a great day out. There were ten gardens open and once again our skilful and enthusiastic gardeners had produced marvellous displays. The garden owners were wonderful hosts, and gave so much – not only of their time, but their knowledge when quizzed about their gardens, and even their baking.

7) THACS plant stall at the village fete 28th June

Nick Whiting organised the *THACS* plant stall at the Tewin Village Fete on 28th June, which was a great success. The selection was good and we must thank Bulls Green Nursery for their generous donation and all the villagers who also donated plants and garden items. The proceeds of £390 were given to the Tewin Memorial Hall.

8) Visit to RHS Wisley 30th July

I organised a coach trip to RHS Wisley on 30th July, taking advantage of our RHS affiliation and the free entry it gave the group. We were blessed with a lovely summer's day. Fifty people came on the visit and nine of these went on the optional guided tour, which was enjoyable and informative.

Several people visited the plant centre, resulting in an impressive collection of fine plants which were safely stowed in the coach's hold for the return journey. It all made for an enjoyable day out.

9) Autumn Show 6th September

The Autumn Show on 6th September was well supported and the visitor numbers were high too.

There were a record 124 exhibitors who entered 399 exhibits (compared with 40 exhibitors who entered 290 exhibits at the previous Autumn Show). We were delighted that, thanks to the efforts of Tewins playgroups, nursery and primary school, we received entries from 83 children. It was also encouraging to see 41 adults exhibiting, several for the first time.

10) Flower arranging evening 13th October

I organised a flower arranging evening for 13th October, which was attended by 28 people and went very well. Gill McGregor entertained and informed us all with her demonstrations and certainly lived up to the billing of giving us "inspirational designs with distinction wrapped in a conversation of humour".

The aim of the evening was to encourage and inspire more people to have a go at flower arranging. Consequently, all of the principles and techniques were clearly explained so that any novices could learn new things. Some advanced techniques were also used, so hopefully even the more experienced flower arrangers learnt something new.

11) Art & Crafts Fair 1st November

Hilary Tipping organised the *THACS* Art and Craft Fair on 1st November which was a great success. The weather was very kind to us this year and we had a steady stream of shoppers buying their early Christmas presents.

After requests from the stallholders and the public, the committee has decided to make this an annual event and so another fair will be held later this year.

12) Visit to National Gallery 26th November

Jim Hall organised the *THACS* visit to the National Gallery on 26th November. The group of 34 people was a mixture of art lovers and a few who had Christmas shopping in mind.

Many of our group chose to view the special exhibition, *Rembrandt: The late works* and they were not disappointed.

13) Other activities

In addition to these eleven events, *THACS* made other contributions as follows:-

- 1) In March, we continued our support for gardening at Tewin Cowper School. The flower beds by the swimming pool were being planted and we donated plants and provided help with the planting. We also donated £100 to support gardening activities.
- 2) We made donations totalling £380 to Isabel Hospice, using money raised from the auction at the autumn show, profit on the Open Gardens event and a raffle at the flower arranging evening.
- 3) We laid a wreath at St. Peter's war memorial on Remembrance Sunday in November.

14) Helpers

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.

I hope you will agree that your committee has done a good job in 2014. We are also thankful for the active involvement of several *THACS* members who, although they are not on the committee, have given their time and effort to support *THACS*. In addition to those I have already mentioned, I'd like to thank Pat & Alf Fulford, who have continued to handle the adverts and the *THACS* page on the village web site.

We've also benefited from the considerable support from numerous village organisations:-

- 1) Tewin Stores have been a collection point for the show schedules and the volunteers there have also sold tickets to some of our events.
- 2) The staff, helpers and children at Tewin Cowper School, Tewin Under-Fives Pre-school, Tewin Tots Pre-school and the Tewin Toddler group, have all supported our shows.
- 3) Tewin Cowper School also kindly lent us their stage blocks, which were used to make an ideal stage for the flower arranging demonstration.

Our thanks also go to all of the other numerous willing members and supporters of the society, who reliably help with many diverse tasks. Thank you all!