

Chairman's Report for 2012

Ray Keppler

1) Introduction

THACS has had another busy and successful year for. Our small committee have managed to organise a full and varied programme of events, thanks in part to some splendid 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.

We ran eleven events during 2012. Each of them has been reported on in our newsletters, but its worth while taking a few moments on an over-view of the whole year.

2) AGM 16th January

At our last AGM those interested in photography were treated to an inspirational talk organised by Malcolm Allen: - **A Passion for Nature** by Anne Miles.

3) Visit to Anglesey Abbey Gardens 20th February

Our first visit was to a winter garden when we went to **Anglesey Abbey**, Cambridgeshire, in February. The 38 people on the visit enjoyed the beautiful and inspirational winter garden. We had to postpone the proposed visit earlier in the month because of the bad weather and dangerous conditions underfoot. However, I managed to successfully re-schedule it and retain most of those signed-up.

4) Spring Show 21st April

Horticulture, Arts and Crafts all come together in our shows.

I took on the additional role of Show Secretary this year, following on from Anna Clark who had filled the role so admirably for a long time. Fortunately, I was helped by Jim Hall and between us we managed to organise the two shows.

At the Spring Show in April there were 278 entries by 80 exhibitors, with classes for Flower Arranging, Horticulture, Arts and Crafts, Photography and Culinary. Several judges commented on the high standards of the exhibits, especially in some of the Arts & Crafts categories.

5) Open Gardens 27th May

Jim Hall organised the **Open Gardens** in May, when nearly 200 visitors took the opportunity to admire our 10 open gardens. After the cold, wet weather of April and early May, we were lucky that the sun finally put in an appearance during the previous week, with glorious sunshine on the day.

6) *THACS* plant stall @ village fete 30th June

Nick Whiting organised the ***THACS* plant stall** at the Tewin Village Fete in June. This was well-supported with donations of plants and there were many willing volunteers to sort, label, price and sell. The stall raised £274 for the village hall funds.

7) Autumn Show 15th September

The Autumn Show in September attracted 279 exhibits by 72 exhibitors. Although the number of exhibitors and exhibits was lower than at last year's autumn show, the high standards were upheld and there were enough good exhibits to make a real competition in most categories.

8) Art workshop 19th September

Joanne Allen kindly organised our first **art workshop** in September at Burnham Green Hall. The workshop was run by Frances Wilson (one of our show judges) and attended by eight people.

9) Creative writing workshop 25th October

Joanne Allen also organised and hosted our first **Creative Writing workshop** in October. This workshop was also run by Frances Wilson and attended by six people. The writing group melded well and quickly got into producing some high quality and stimulating material.

10) Art & Craft sale 27th October

Hilary Tipping kindly organised another **Arts and Crafts sale** in October at Tewin Memorial Hall. There were 24 stalls selling a wide variety of locally made goods from wood turning to felting and spinning, painting and home baked cakes and preserves, and a huge variety of jewellery and hand knitted items.

11) Visit to Greenwich 27th November

Jim Hall organised a visit to see the art exhibitions at the **Queen's House, Greenwich** in November. 33 people went to enjoy the variety of attractions at Greenwich, including the Queen's House, Royal Greenwich Observatory, National Maritime Museum, Cutty Sark, Greenwich market and shops.

12) Calligraphy workshops throughout the year

Anna Clark organised a series of eleven **calligraphy workshops**. These have now become well-established and were again run by Jo Cooper (another of our show judges).

13) Involvement with other village events

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

- 1) Made a donation of £1,000 to the Tewin Memorial Hall Management Committee towards the cost of new projector and sound equipment.
- 2) Sponsored the table and hall decorations at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee dance in June
- 3) Donated and installed pots and plants in the courtyard of Tewin Stores in June.
- 4) Donated and installed two new raised flower beds at Tewin Cowper School in June
- 5) Laid a wreath at St. Peter's war memorial on Remembrance Sunday in November.

- 6) Sponsored the planting of new trees on the west side of Upper Green in November. This event was organised by John Sheridan, with plants provided by the Woodland Trust and help and advice provided by Margaret Knight and her gardener. *THACS* provided half of the money needed for associated materials, such as stakes, compost, tree guards and supports. The other half was kindly donated by the Friends of Tewin.

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.

As I complete my fourth year as chairman, I would like to express my gratitude to the committee, who have done a great job. In addition to organising events, the committee members take on numerous other roles:-

- 1) I'm chairman and editor of the newsletters.
- 2) As Treasurer, Malcolm Allen takes care of all financial matters and maintains the membership records.
- 3) As Secretary, Nick Whiting deals with administrative issues.
- 4) Terry Brand deals with all the artistic aspects of our work, including posters, membership cards and the role-of-honour book of winners at the shows.
- 5) Lynne Burgess deals with all the young folk, liaising with the school and all the other village children's organisations. She also organises all of the catering.
- 6) Jim Hall is our distribution organiser, ensuring you get your newsletters.

This year, more than ever, we are also thankful for the staunch support and involvement of several *THACS* members who, although they are not on the committee, have voluntarily given their time and effort to the benefit of us all. In addition to those I have already mentioned, I'd like to thank Pat & Alf Fulford. Pat found paying advertisers and, with help from Alf, dealt with the corresponding artwork for the newsletters and show schedules. Alf maintains the *THACS* page on the Tewin Village website, ensuring that everything was working correctly and that the information is correct and up-to-date.

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