

THACS
TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

**Agenda for the eleventh Annual General Meeting to be held at
Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 16th January 2012**

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Minutes of the 2011 AGM**
- 3 Chairman's Report**
- 4 Treasurer's Report**
- 5 Election of Officers & Committee for 2012**
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AGM Minutes 2011

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Tewin Memorial Hall on 17th January 2011, with approximately 53 members present plus committee members.

Members were welcomed by the Chairman, Ray Keppler.

1 Apologies: Anne Beale, Elisabeth Buchanan, Tom Gladwin, Mavis Haggard, Ann Lee, Joy & Franklin Trevarthen, Elizabeth & Ken Wilson

2 Minutes of 2010 AGM: Mike Cates proposed and Audrey Walters seconded that the minutes be accepted. All members present agreed. There were no matters arising.

3 Chairman's Report: Ray Keppler presented the following Chairman's report for 2010.

It's been another successful year for *THACS*. We had a full and varied programme of events and all but one of them were well-supported, so thank you, members.

We organised and ran twelve events during 2010.

1) In January we held the ninth AGM which was followed by an informative and entertaining talk entitled '*The history of paper making and printing*' by Mike Creasey.

2) In February, Maxine and Charlotte Callaghan ran the first of another series of Jewellery workshops at their shop, Homebeads in Knebworth. Four workshops were held during 2010, with an average class size of six.

3) Also in February, Jo Cooper ran the first of another series of calligraphy workshops in Burnham Green Hall. Ten workshops were held during 2010, with an average class size of seven.

4) The ninth *THACS* Spring Show took place in March. There were 226 entries from 51 exhibitors which was a marvellous effort. Despite having tolerated one of the worst winters and late springs for many years, the gardeners of the society managed to display daffodils and other spring flowers, as well as shrubs and indoor plants. The Arts and Crafts, Photography and Culinary classes were also very well supported

5) At the end of March, 37 people took a coach trip to the Royal Academy see *The Real Van Gogh: The Artist and His Letters* exhibition.

The letters that Van Gogh had written to his brother, Theo, were well displayed in the centre of the galleries, with plenty of room around them. There were also many works that had not been exhibited in the United Kingdom before, including some beautiful drawings using reed and quill pens. The outing was enjoyed by all and we were pleased to experience such an excellent exhibition.

6) In May, more than 260 people took advantage of the *THACS* Open Gardens event and visited some of the Open Gardens in and around Tewin. Fourteen gardens opened this year and the event was held over two days. Some opened on Saturday and some on Sunday, ensuring that there were not too many gardens to visit in one day. There were enough Open Gardens to make up two full days out and enough variety to give all of the visitors plenty to see.

7) We had a glorious summer day for our visit to Beth Chatto Gardens in June and it seemed particularly appropriate for us to visit them in 2010, since this is the year of their 50th anniversary. There were 41 people in the group and 27 of them had chosen to go on the optional one-hour guided tour. 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.

The extensive and well-stocked nursery was also very popular and most of the group returned to the coach laden with their purchases.

8) The *THACS* plant stall at the Tewin Village Fete in June was a resounding success, raising more than £400 for the Tewin Memorial Hall.

9) The ninth *THACS* Autumn Show took place in September. It was the largest show yet with 111 exhibitors taking part and an amazing 528 entries. The hall was full to brimming with produce and displays of many kinds making an exciting show for all who came in the afternoon.

10) We held an Arts and Crafts sale in the Memorial hall on Saturday 23rd October. Hilary Tipping very kindly offered to organise it on our behalf, and her efforts were rewarded with a full hall of stalls selling a wide range of items. There was also face-painting and a demonstration of jewellery-making. The sale was advertised in the local press, and the hall was busy all day, with refreshments provided by a willing team of helpers.

The sale was a great success and our thanks go to Hilary for all her efforts.

11) After the Arts & Crafts sale, we held a party to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of *THACS* in October 2000.

More than 50 of us gathered for the party, bringing a feast with us to share and enjoy. Todd and Jean Canton did a splendid job behind the bar, and Gary Benjafield played and sang a variety of popular music while we danced the evening away.

We displayed photographs, posters and captions of many of the events, talks, open gardens and other successes we have experienced during the past 10 years, and we have brought that display here this evening for you to see.

12) Forty-two people came out on a cold November evening to enjoy an informative and informal talk by Margaret Easter entitled *The Garden in Autumn and Winter*. The main message of the talk was that our gardens do not have to be dull, boring and devoid of flowers during autumn and winter. Margaret encouraged us all to use plants that flower in that period and to plant them with earlier-flower plants and bulbs to ensure a succession of flowers. She described an impressive and extensive list of plants that flower between September and February.

Also in November, we had hoped to have a visit to the Royal Academy of Arts to see *Treasures from Budapest*. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled due to lack of

support, even though we offered the option of coach seats only, to provide door-to-door transport for six hours of Christmas shopping.

It is always sad and frustrating when our events have to be cancelled due to lack of support because it means that we have not chosen an event that appeals to our members. So please help by giving us feed-back to any of the committee members if you would have liked to have gone on this visit but did not book on it.

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

- 1) We made a donation of £250 to the Tewin Allotment Association towards the cost of extending the water supply.
- 2) A wreath was laid at St. Peter's war memorial, on behalf of *THACS*, on Remembrance Sunday in November.

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 second year as chairman, I would like to express my gratitude to the *THACS* committee. We have an excellent team, who work well together and individually.

Our Spring and Autumn shows entail much hard work from the committee and other staunch helpers, who are always willing to support us in catering, setting up and clearing the hall. Thank you to these people and to the judges, who give us their valuable time and expertise.

Our thanks also go to the numerous willing members and supporters of the society, who reliably help us with diverse tasks such as:-

- 1) distribution of the newsletter
- 2) displaying posters for our events
- 3) manning our plant stall at the Village Fete
- 4) providing plants for us to sell
- 5) making cakes for use at our events
- 6) serving refreshments at our meetings.

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!

4 Treasurer's Report: Pat Fulford presented the following Treasurer's report for financial year 1st November 2009 to 31st October 2010.

The 2010 financial year was successful and our funds are healthy and secure.

The cash surplus for the year was £1,215.28, compared with £311.06 in 2009. At the end of the previous financial year no adjustments for prepayments or accruals were made. Included in 2010 cash surplus is £181.00 covering deposits for 2011 events.

Removing the effect of these deposits over the 2010 year end, the cash surplus of £1,215.28 becomes an income surplus of £1,034.28.

The Membership at the end of 2010 stood at 214 members compared with 203 members in 2009. Of the 214, 174 pay their subscriptions by standing order, making a savings on postage and administration costs.

It would be appreciated if the remaining 40 members would consider signing standing order forms to increase this saving.

Our Membership income of £1,050 covered the AGM costs, RHS Membership, the Newsletters, Printing and Sundry expenses, Gifts, plus the losses on our Spring and Autumn Shows. These expenses amounted to £845.30.

The Newsletter printing and postage costs for 2010 have reduced by £49.94, helped by 44 members electing to receive their Newsletters by email.

Income from Advertising was £256.50, a reduction of £102.50 from 2009. As planned we reduced the advertising space in the Newsletters.

Prior to the closure of The Tewin Society an amount of £150 was donated to THACS for the purchase of an annual trophy. The trophy has been purchased and is available for presentation.

Thanks to hard work of our Chairman, Ray Keppler, the Open Gardens event resulted in a surplus of £646.24.

During the year we gave donations of £96.19 to the Tewin Memorial Hall for part cost of the public address system, a donation of £70 towards the renovation costs of the Tewin Telephone Box, and a donation of £250 to Tewin Allotments.

It is not our aim to accumulate funds, and from time to time we may consider donations to other local activities. Before our next Spring Show we intend to purchase two or three additional display boards which may be of considerable expense.

The schedule of the Analysis of the Accumulated Funds, reflects the income and expenditure details for the individual activities carried out during the year, and is also a guide to the make up of our results.

Thanks to Hilary Tipping, *THACS* presented an outstanding Craft Show, which brought in a surplus of £200.99. The visit to the Royal Academy for “The Real Van Gogh” gave a surplus of £37, and the outing to Beth Chatto Gardens a surplus of £86.50, which resulted from filling a 57 seater coach.

The Photo talk was a loss of £9.00, and nine Calligraphy workshops gave a further loss of £9.67. Tickets for Talks and Workshops are sold in advance at a small fee, so we can ensure that lack of numbers will not be an embarrassment to the Speaker or Tutor.

On 23rd October 2010, *THACS* 10th Anniversary Party took place, despite knowing in advance that the numbers attending were disappointing. After ten successful years of the Society, we decided to continue with the celebration and keep the expenses as low as possible, and the evening resulted in a loss of £112.79.

Having achieved excellent financial results for the year, the bank and cash balances to be carried forward at 31st October 2010 were £5,568.65, compared with £4,353.37 at the end of October 2009.

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

Finally, may I thank Graham Spring for his help and advice in acting as the Independent Examiner of these accounts.

5 Election of Officers and Committee for 2011:

The following officers were elected.

Chairman	Ray Keppler	Proposed by <i>THACS</i> Committee Seconded by Audrey Walters.
Vice-Chairman	Anna Clark	Proposed by <i>THACS</i> Committee Seconded by Michael Cates.
Treasurer	Patricia Fulford	Proposed by <i>THACS</i> Committee Seconded by Michael Clark.
Secretary	Nick Whiting	Proposed by <i>THACS</i> Committee Seconded by Audrey Walters.

Doreen Lloyd stood down as Secretary after serving for three years, but will still remain on the *THACS* Committee. Alf Fulford stood down from the committee after serving for six years but will still remain acting as *THACS* web-master. Ray thanked them both for their support and presented them both with a gift on behalf of *THACS*.

The remaining members of the committee, Terry Brand, Lynne Burgess, Doreen Lloyd and Kate Stott were proposed by Michael Clark, seconded by Michael Cates and duly re-elected by the members.

One new member was voted onto the committee:-

- Malcolm Allen, proposed by Lynne Burgess and seconded by Ray Keppler.

6. Events for 2011: Ray Keppler introduced the programme of events planned so far for 2011:

Here are some advanced dates for your 2011 diary. The *THACS* Spring Show will be held on Saturday 16th April and the Autumn Show will be held on Saturday 3rd September. The Spring Show Schedules will be issued with the next *THACS* newsletter in February but, meanwhile, there is a copy at the back of the hall if you want to look at it later. There is also advanced notification of the photographic categories for both the Spring and Autumn shows and they have also been posted onto our web site.

We hope that as many of you as possible will enter the shows this year; we try to offer a varied selection of categories, both for adults and children, so please have a go and ask a friend too!

The Tewin Village Fete is on Saturday 25th June and we intend to have a plant stall there as usual. We'd appreciate your donation of plants and seedlings so please keep this in mind when you're sowing and propagating in spring.

We plan to have three talks this year. They'll all be on a Monday evening here in the Memorial Hall. The first is tonight, straight after this AGM. The next will be a talk on the life and work of Henry Moore by Barry Dodge on 9th May. The last one will be a flower arranging talk and demonstration in November.

We intend to organise two garden visits this year. The first will be to Margaret Easter's garden in Harpenden for an afternoon in early June and the second will be to RHS Hyde Hall, Essex, probably in late July.

We're on the waiting list for another visit to Highgrove, Gloucestershire, but that visit is unlikely to happen this year due to the long waiting list.

We hope to have other visits this year. One to Kenwood House, Hampstead. The other will be to St Mary's Church and the British Schools Museum in Hitchin, followed by a meal at a suitable venue.

The calligraphy workshops will continue this year in Burnham Green Hall and the first three have been booked for 2.30 pm for two hours on Fridays 21st January, 18th February and 18th March. If you attended the classes last autumn, then Anna will have contacted you about these workshops. If you would like to attend but have not been along before, please add your name and contact details on the form at the back of the hall.

We hope to organise some more jewellery workshops at Homebeads, Knebworth. Again, if you're interested in attending these, please add your name and contact details on the form at the back of the hall.

We have ideas for other events, but we'd still like to hear from you if you have any suggestions. Again, there is a sheet headed 'Event/Visit suggestions' on the table. Please give any details you may have, with your contact number so that we can follow them up. Many thanks.

I'd like to tell you about a new initiative. After the Tewin Society wound up in 2009, they donated some of their funds to *THACS* in order to preserve the Tewin Society name via an annual award to be presented by *THACS* for achievements that embraces the aims and intentions of the Tewin Society. We accepted the donation and associated responsibility.

We have spent the money on this perpetual plaque. The large disc at the top is engraved:-

"THACS The Tewin Society Award for Heritage, Environment and Conservation."

There are 24 smaller discs that can be engraved each year with the name of the winner and the year of the award.

We intend to present the award every year at the *THACS* AGM and the first should be in 2012. Meanwhile, we need to determine the award criteria, adjudication method, nomination procedure and publicity. The *THACS* committee thinks that it would be best if this was achieved by a new Tewin Society Award committee to be set up, for the specific purpose of dealing with these issues and managing the award each year. This committee would be chaired by the *THACS* chairman and consist of a small number of appropriate people from the village. Consequently, I will start inviting people to join the committee and hope to have our first meeting within a month.

You'll be hearing more about this in due course but, meanwhile, you can help by thinking about who you would nominate to receive this award and why, so that you'll be prepared to make the nominations once the procedure is announced.

7. AOB: Linda Adams said that she would be holding her Open Garden Day again this year for the last time on the 26th June 2011 and hoped as many people as possible would attend. She also said she has been asked to give a talk and visual presentation for the Herts U3A in three weeks time and suggested that maybe *THACS* could consider the purchase of a digital computer aided projector, screen and stand. This suggestion was seconded by Michael Clark.

Anna Clark reported that John Lee who had been a *THACS* member for a number of years had passed away during the morning of 17th January 2011.

8. Date and Time of next AGM: This will be held on Monday 16th January 2012 at Tewin Memorial Hall. Meeting to commence at 8pm.

The business part of the meeting concluded at 8.35pm and was followed by a talk on Victorian and Edwardian Photographs given by Bob White, who is a founding member of the Photographic Collectors Club of Great Britain..

This was an extremely informative and interesting talk and was very much enjoyed by all present at the meeting. It was followed by a questions and answer session, and *THACS* members also had the opportunity to view some of the interesting items Bob had brought with him.

Refreshments of tea, coffee and wine were served at the end of the meeting.