

THACS
TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

**Minutes of the eleventh Annual General Meeting held at
Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 16th January 2012**

The meeting was preceded by the presentation of the Tewin Society Award to Mrs Margaret Knight. Approximately 46 members and 2 non-members were present.

1 Apologies

Anna & Michael Clark, Malcolm & Joanne Allen, Franklyn & Joy Trevarthen, Marie St Pier, Steve Stott, Rosemary Nodder and Ann Lee.

2 Minutes of 2011 AGM

Kate Stott proposed and Alf Fulford 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 2011.

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

We organised and ran fourteen events during 2011. 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.

1) Horticulture

We had several events for gardeners. There was a visit and guided tour of Margaret Easters' garden in June and a visit to RHS Hyde Hall gardens in August.

There was also the *THACS* plant stall at the Tewin Village Fete in June. This raised just over £340, which we made up to £500 before passing it onto the Tewin Memorial Hall Management Committee.

2) Arts

Art lovers had a bumper year.

There was a talk by Barry Dodge on the *Life and Work of Henry Moore* in this hall in May, attended by more than forty *THACS* members.

In June, there was a visit to *The Cult of Beauty* exhibition at the V&A museum and a guided tour of Leighton House. This was originally intended to be a coach trip, but there was insufficient support for that. So, instead of cancelling the whole event, we just cancelled the coach and the ten *THACS* members went by train.

Fifty people took part in our visit to Kenwood House and Estate in July, and had guided tours of both the house and the estate.

In November, forty-four people went by coach to the Royal Academy. Nine of these had elected to have a shopping day in the West End, and the remaining visitors entered the Academy for what proved to be a very interesting *Degas Dancers* exhibition.

3) Crafts

The crafts were also well-represented.

There was a series of ten calligraphy workshops and three jewellery workshops.

Joyce Furssedonn gave a fascinating flower arranging talk and demonstration to about twenty five people in November.

3) Photography

Those interested in photography were treated to an informative and entertaining talk entitled *Victorian and Edwardian Photographs* by Bob White and we'll continue the photography theme with our guest speaker latter this evening.

4) All

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

The Spring Show in April and the Autumn Show in September were both well-supported and successful. In particular, the children and staff of Tewin Cowper School provided marvellous support for the Shows by preparing friezes to decorate the hall, as well as entering lots of the school children's efforts in many of their categories.

The main aim of *THACS* is to promote and encourage interest in horticulture, arts and crafts, so it is particularly satisfying so many children had their work exhibited.

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.

5) Fun

Not everything we do is directly related to horticulture, arts or crafts. Sometimes it's just good to have some fun and that was certainly provided by the *THACS* quiz night in October.

As I complete my third 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 thanks also go to the numerous willing members and supporters of the society, who reliably help us with many diverse tasks. Thank you all!"

4 Treasurer's Report

Pat Fulford presented the following Treasurer's report for the financial year 1st November 2010 to 31st October 2011.

"The 2011 financial year was successful and our funds are healthy and secure.

At the end of the financial year the cash surplus for the year was £679.46 compared with £1,215.28 in 2010 when there was a surplus of £646.00 on the Open Gardens event.

Deposits of £181.00 were received in 2010 for 2011, and deposits of £649.00 were received in 2011 for 2012. Removing the effect of these deposits over the year ends there was an income surplus of £211.46.

The Membership at the end of 2011 stood at 228 members compared with 214 members in 2010. Of the 228, 186 pay their subscriptions by standing order, making a savings on postage and administration costs. Our membership income of £1,125 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 £1,097.44.

The newsletter printing and postage costs for 2011 have increased by £9.58, which is the net result of increased postal costs, and 13 members electing to receive their Newsletters by email. Fifty seven members are now receiving their newsletters by email.

Income from advertising was £273.00, a increase of £16.50 from 2010.

During the year we gave donations of £204.57, including £159.57 to the Tewin Memorial Hall, £25 to the British Legion, and £20 to two separate presentations.

The *THACS* plant stall at Tewin Fete in June brought in income of £340.43, which was paid in September to Tewin Memorial Hall together with the above mentioned donation of £159.57.

For use at the shows, we purchased a triple safety screen for £556.49. This screen has given us considerable additional space for displaying our photography exhibits.

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.

The RHS Hyde Hall visit gave a surplus of £185, and the visit to Kenwood House and Estate a surplus of £117. When pricing our events, we assume that 40 *THACS* members will take part, and the intention is to break even with the costs. For both Hyde Hall and Kenwood House, many non-*THACS* persons joined the event and this resulted in the surplus amounts.

It was similar for Quiz night, when most persons who took part were not *THACS* members, and the result was a £69.24 surplus.

Margaret Easter's garden visit gave a surplus of £12.50, and her garden talk a surplus of £22.65, including the £15 deposits received in 2010.

"The Life and Work of Henry Moore" talk produced a surplus of £31.00.

Nine calligraphy workshops gave a £30.00 surplus, including the £60.00 deposits received in 2010.

Having achieved stable financial results for the year, the bank and cash balances to be carried forward at 31st October 2011 were £ 6,248.11.

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

May I take this opportunity to thank Graham Spring for his help and advice in acting as the independent examiner of the accounts and also say how much I have enjoyed being treasurer for the last four years."

Mavis Haggard proposed that this report be accepted and Anne Beale seconded it. The proposal was accepted.

5 Election of Officers and Committee for 2012

Ray reported that Anna Clark has resigned from the post of vice chair and outlined her many contributions to *THACS* and especially her organising of the shows. He noted her long dedication to the Society and that she was our only life member. In recognition the Society had a small gift for her (Anna Clark was not present). The post of vice chairman was left vacant for the time being. He also noted that Pat Fulford was standing down from the position of treasurer and from managing the membership records. She had, in addition, been in charge of the advertising that helps fund the newsletter. A small gift was presented to Pat in appreciation of her work for *THACS*.

The following officers were elected.

Chairman	Ray Keppler	Proposed by <i>THACS</i> Committee Seconded by Kate Stott.
Treasurer	Malcolm Allen	Proposed by <i>THACS</i> Committee Seconded by Linda Adams.
Secretary	Nick Whiting	Proposed by <i>THACS</i> Committee Seconded by Patrick Holden.

Doreen Lloyd resigned from the committee earlier in the year and Kate Stott has also left the committee after years of strong support for *THACS*. In recognition, Ray presented her with a small gift.

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

One new member was voted onto the committee. Jim Hall was proposed by Linda Adams, seconded by Pat Fulford and duly elected by the members.

Finally, Graham Spring was proposed as independent examiner by Linda Adams and seconded by Pat Fulford. This was approved by the members and Ray thanked Graham for all his help with the finances.

6 Changes to the constitution

The proposed changes to the constitution and rules were specified in the AGM notices sent to all members. Ray hoped that the members had read these notes and asked if there were any objections. He then moved that the meeting should accept the changes.

Alf Fulford proposed the acceptance of the changes and this was seconded by Mike Cates. The motion was carried.

7 Events for 2012

Ray presented a preview of the events for 2012.

1) Shows

The *THACS* Spring Show will be held on **Saturday 21st April** and the Autumn Show will be held on **Saturday 15th September**. The Spring Show Schedules will be issued with the next *THACS* newsletter in February and advance notice of the photographic categories for both the spring and autumn shows was given in the newsletter last September.

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!

2) Garden visit

We have arranged a visit to Anglesey Abbey gardens in Cambridgeshire for **Wednesday 8th February** to see their beautiful and inspirational winter garden. If you are a member of the National Trust or the RHS then your entry to the garden is free and you'll only need to pay for your place on the coach. There are still places available and there are some booking forms on the table at the back of the hall. Don't be put off by the thought of winter weather, just wrap up warm and dry and come along for a memorable visit to probably the best winter garden in England.

3) Calligraphy workshops

The calligraphy workshops will continue this year in Burnham Green hall and the first three have been booked for **Fridays 3rd February, 24th February and 30th March**. If you attended the classes last autumn, then Anna will contact 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.

4) Plant stall at Village Fete

The Tewin Village Fete will be on a **Saturday in 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.

5) Jewellery workshops

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

6) Arts & Crafts fair and sale

We intend to hold another arts & crafts fair and sale in the autumn but can't give you a date for this yet.

7) Other events

Your *THACS* committee for 2012 has only six members. This is dangerously low. Consequently, we have not organised any other events for 2012 and we are unable to commit to getting any more done.

Unless we have new committee members to take some of the load, we will have to reduce our activities which will be detrimental to all the members. If this situation continues, it will threaten the viability of the Society. So please come and help. If you would like to join the committee or are just curious about it, please let me know.

We have plenty of ideas for other events. It would be great if we could have another Open Gardens event, such as the one we had in 2010. Our summer garden visits have been very popular, so it would be lovely if we could organise another one this year. We'd also like to hold more talks and demonstrations here too.

If you would like any of these things to happen and are prepared to organise them, then please let us know!

In addition to needing more committee members and / or people to organise events, we are always looking for new helpers for a wide variety of things, such as

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

If you are willing to help in any of these tasks, please add your name and contact details to the form at the back of the hall.

THACS is a thriving society and is well supported by its members and friends. Let's keep it like that and help in whatever way we can. If you are willing to help, please sign-up as a helper on the forms at the back of the hall during refreshments.

David Gregg asked about the previous rule that all photographs should be no older than 3 years when submitted in the shows. Ray confirmed that there was no time restriction unless specified by the terms of the class.

8 Sponsorship of the Tewin Memorial Hall

Ray noted that at our last AGM, Linda Adams had proposed that *THACS* should invest in a new digital projector as well as a new screen and stand. This was accepted at the AGM and taken up by your committee. We soon realised that this could be quite an expensive undertaking. In particular we realised that to provide a good picture to a full house in the hall we would need a very large screen and that such a screen might have to be a hall fixture. This was discussed with

the Tewin Memorial Hall management committee and they took up the project, knowing of our keen interest.

We are delighted to say that the project has progressed to the stage of fitting a new screen in the hall and it will be used by our guest speaker later this evening. We await developments on the purchase of the projector equipment. This will depend on the result of grant applications and, should these fail to meet the full cost, *THACS* could be asked for a contribution.

The Hall committee had proposed that, should we make a contribution of say £1,000, then no charge would be made for our subsequent use of the equipment. It was not known yet what the Hall committee intended to charge for use of the projector.

Since this would be a large contribution and the Tewin Memorial Hall is not a part of *THACS*, Ray said that the committee felt that it needed approval for such action at an AGM.

Consequently, he proposed that the *THACS* committee be given the authority to take the decision about this donation if and when necessary. This was seconded by Patrick Holden and carried without objection. Ray asked the membership how many were in favour of the basic concept behind the possible donation. It appeared that the majority agreed with it.

9 Any Other Business

Elizabeth Wilson asked why *THACS* had such a large reserve of money in its accounts. Also she queried why, with all this money, we charged for some of the smaller meetings. Pat Fulford responded with the comment that we were very aware of this reserve which was the result of a number of rather profitable activities such as the open gardens. It was not the objective of *THACS* to accumulate such a large reserve and it should be noted that our outgoings are much the same as the income from membership fees. We have made contributions from this fund such as to the Tewin Allotments and to the Tewin Memorial Hall. We have also used this to purchase new screens for the shows. In answer to the question about reduced entrance fees for events, Ray said that it was our policy at the moment to make each event self-financing with the possible exception of the two shows which usually run at a small loss.

10 Date and Time of next AGM

This will be held on Monday 14th January 2013 at Tewin Memorial Hall. Meeting to commence at 8pm.

This concluded the formal meeting and which was followed by an illustrated talk given by Anne Miles. Her subject was *A Passion for Nature* and she showed some of her tastes and techniques in nature photography. Her splendid photographs were shown on the new screen to the delight of all. Her subjects were mainly flowers and insects and she demonstrated with these the effects of different settings and lenses on the final picture. It was enjoyed by photographers in the audience and those who simply enjoyed the pictures and their subjects for their own sake.

Refreshments of wine and nibbles were served at the end of the meeting.