

THACS
TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

**Minutes of the seventeenth Annual General Meeting held at Tewin Memorial Hall
on Monday 15th January 2018**

The meeting was attended by 23 members and 3 non-members.

1 Apologies

Peter Burgess, Anna and Michael Clark, Anne Hall, Ann Lee, Patrick Holden, Hilary Tipping, Audrey Walters, Geoff Whitbourn.

2 Minutes of the 2017 AGM

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were accepted without amendment. There were no matters arising.

Proposed: Lynne Burgess

Seconded: Terry Brand

3 Chairman's Report for 2017

Ray Keppler presented the Chairman's Report for 2017. A copy of the report is appended.

4 Treasurer's Report for 2017

Malcolm Allen presented the Treasurer's Report for financial year 1st November 2016 to 31st October 2017. A copy of the report and accounts is appended.

He expressed his thanks to Graham Spring for his work as Independent Examiner of the accounts.

The accounts were accepted.

Proposed: Linda Gilley

Seconded: David Gregg

5 Election of Officers, Committee & Auditor for 2018

The following officers were elected without opposition.

Chair Ray Keppler
 (for tenth year)

Proposed: Committee

Seconded: Keith St. Pier

Vice Chair Jim Hall
 (for second year)

Proposed: Ray Keppler

Seconded: Lynne Burgess

Treasurer Malcolm Allen
(for seventh year)

Proposed: Ray Keppler

Seconded: Terry Brand

Secretary Tina Lord
(for second year)

Proposed: Ray Keppler

Seconded: Alice Greenwood

The remaining members of the committee, Terry Brand, Lynne Burgess and Alice Greenwood were re-elected.

Proposed: Joanne Allen

Seconded: Sue Whitbourn

The motion that Graham Spring should remain as Independent Examiner of the accounts was accepted by the members.

Proposed: Ray Keppler

Seconded: Terry Brand

6 Challenges and Opportunities

Ray Keppler made a brief presentation, sharing his thoughts about the current state of the Society, explaining the challenges facing it in 2018 and exploring the opportunities that these challenges provide. A copy of the full text is appended.

Lynne Burgess asked attendees to also show their appreciation for Ray's hard work and dedication to *THACS*, which was done.

7 Events for 2018

Jim Hall outlined the events proposed or planned for 2018.

- Creative writing workshops in March and October
- The Spring Show on 14th April
- Open Gardens on 20th May
- The Autumn Show on 1st September
- Art & Craft Fair on 1st December
- Plant stall at the village fete (if this takes place)
- Art workshop (no date as yet)
- Garden visit (no date as yet)
- Gallery/museum and shopping visit (no date as yet)

Jim encouraged attendees to consider opening their gardens. He mentioned that the Open Gardens, the Art and Craft Fair and the Spring and Autumn Shows have raised money for charities, whilst the plant stall at the village fete raises money for the Tewin Memorial Hall.

He also asked for suggestions for other events and said that the committee would offer support to anyone who wished to organise a suitable event.

8 Any Other Business

None.

9 Date and Time of the next AGM

Notice was given that the next AGM would take place on Monday 14th January 2019 beginning at 7:30pm.

The formal meeting was then closed.

Appendices:

Chairman's report

Treasurer's report and accounts

Challenges and Opportunities

Chairman's Report for 2017

Ray Keppler

1) Introduction

It's been another good year for *THACS*, with a full and varied programme of eight events.

2) AGM

The first event of 2017 was the sixteenth *THACS* AGM, which took place at Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 16th January and was attended by 35 people. It was followed by a talk entitled *Manet, Impressionism and the origins of modern art* by Barry Dodge.

3) Shows

The Spring and Autumn shows provided good opportunities for people to display examples of their skills across a diverse range of subjects. Each show had exhibits from different aspects of Flower Arranging, Horticulture, Arts and Crafts, Photography and Culinary. The overall impression was enhanced by delightful displays of children's art.

The Spring Show on 1st April had 113 exhibitors who entered 281 exhibits, whilst the Autumn Show on 2nd September had 101 exhibitors who entered 380 exhibits.

4) *THACS* plant stall

Nick Whiting organised the *THACS* plant stall at the Tewin Village Fete on 24th June, with one of the best displays of plants and flowers ever. Our thanks go to Bulls Green Nursery for their generous donation and all the villagers who also donated plants. About £465 was raised - much more than in the previous two fetes - and it all went to the Tewin Memorial Hall.

5) Visits

I organised a coach trip for 12th July to Anglesey Abbey Gardens in Cambridgeshire which attracted 20 bookings. Unfortunately, I had to cancel the trip at the last moment because the coach did not arrive. This was a bitter disappointment and I was sorry to disappoint those people who had booked and were looking forward to a good day out.

6) Workshops

There were three very successful workshops in 2017, all organised by Joanne Allen.

The Creative Writing workshops were on 31st March and 10th November. Both were fully booked and those that took part enjoyed a day of writing under the tutelage of the very capable Frances Wilson.

Jude O'Sullivan ran an Art workshop at Bramfield Village Hall on 19th October with the subject *Abstraction & Collage*. Eight people attended and had a great day. Some of their work is on display here tonight, so do please have a look during the break.

It is a testament to the success of these workshops that people have asked for more this year, which is very encouraging.

7) Arts & Crafts Fair

The annual Art & Craft Fair was organised by Hilary Tipping and held in Tewin Memorial Hall.

In previous years, the fairs had been held in October but this time it was at the later date of the 2nd December. This move encouraged more people to come and shop for Christmas presents and there was a constant stream of visitors all day.

The Potter's Wheel proved popular again this year and the charity cake stall made over £330 for the Isabel Hospice and lots of other stalls raised money for their favourite charities.

8) Helpers

The committee works well together and I am very grateful for their ongoing dedication and support. They have done a great job.

We are also thankful for the staunch support and involvement of other members who have freely given their time and effort to the benefit of us all.

In particular: -

- 1) Joanne Allen for organising the two Creative Writing workshops and the Art workshop,
- 2) Hilary Tipping for organising the Art & Craft Fair.
- 3) Pat & Alf Fulford, who have contributed throughout the year, handling the advertising and the *THACS* page on the village web site.
- 4) Linda Crawford and her team for organising the catering at the two shows
- 5) The show judges, who generously put their experience and expertise to such good use at our shows.

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

- 1) The staff, helpers and children at Tewin Cowper School, Tewin Under-Fives Pre-school and the Tewin Parent and Toddler group, have all contributed to our shows.
- 2) Tewin Stores have been a collection point for the show schedules.

Finally, our thanks go to the other willing members and friends of *THACS*, who help the society in so many different ways. Thank you all!

Tewin Horticultural Arts & Crafts Society (THACS)

TREASURER'S REPORT

FINANCIAL YEAR 1 November 2016 to 31 October 2017

Introduction – Accounting Basis

The accounts are again presented on an “accruals” basis.

Income and Expenditure

The appendix at page three shows the income, expenditure, surplus/deficit, and Accumulated Fund at the end of the year to 31 October 2017 and the equivalent information for the previous four years.

There was an overall deficit of £730.26 at year end. This reflects a reduced income without events such as Open Gardens or a Craft Fair during the financial year and two large items of expenditure – a bulk purchase of show cards and new display screens.

THACS activities were again at a modest level. No outings or social events took place during the year. There were art workshops in December 2016 and October 2017 that, while very successful, gave rise to a deficit. The creative writing workshop in March showed a modest surplus of income over expenditure. The Spring and Autumn shows were held at a net cost to the society as is usual, although the deficit was again smaller than in the past. The details together with equivalent figures for the four previous years are given in the following table.

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Outings & Social Events	n/a	(49.00)	(£173.50)	£169.72	(£15.87)
Talks & Workshops	(94.53)	61.00	£158.00	(£155.50)	(£6.00)
Shows – Spring & Autumn	(367.42)	(440.09)	(£512.05)	(£453.72)	(£490.12)
Craft Fair(s) <i>see note</i>	n/a	25.54	£200.16	n/a	£130.89

Note Two craft fairs occurred during the financial year 2015

The essential costs of running THACS, namely the AGM, RHS membership and insurance, the Spring and Autumn Shows, newsletter production and distribution, and postage and stationery amounted to £1,306.00, compared with £847.68 in 2016. This arose mainly through higher expenditure on the AGM, including a speaker fee, and an increase in the cost of newsletter printing.

Income from subscriptions was reduced at £975 while advertising income increased to £362.00.

Membership

During the year we lost a number of members who moved away or resigned for other reasons, but we welcomed two new members. At the end of October 2017 THACS had 205 members. While there is inevitably some turnover the total number of members remains fairly stable.

The majority of members (83%) pay their subscriptions by standing order. The number receiving the newsletter and other papers by email continues to grow and has now reached 60%. This is much appreciated because it reduces the society's costs and the demands on volunteer time.

Summary and Conclusions

Overall expenditure for the year was £3,131.16 and income £2,400.90 leaving a deficit of £730.26.

The Accumulated Fund stood at £5,144.87 at the end of the year compared with £5,875.13 at the end of the previous year and £4,798.93 the year before that.

Income from membership subscriptions was slightly reduced, in part because a number of new members were recruited late in the year ending 31 October 2016 and were not required to pay a further subscription in the year under consideration. However, advertising income increased so that the two income streams together remained sufficient to meet the basic running costs of the society

The current funds may be considered sufficient to provide a secure financial position for the time being.

Acknowledgments

Graham Spring continued in the role of Independent Examiner. I am grateful for his assistance during the preparation of the accounts at year end and for undertaking the examination of the accounts in a timely manner

Malcolm Allen
Honorary Treasurer

January 2018

APPENDIX

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Income £					
Membership	975.00	1,030.00	1,035.00	1,040.00	1,050.00
Advertising	362.00	337.00	322.00	321.50	336.50
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.50
Outings & Social Events	0.00	732.00	301.50	1,236.00	1,143.50
Spring & Autumn Shows	375.90	403.37	387.41	365.41	357.23
Arts & Crafts Fair(s)	x	309.50	661.71	x	x
Talks & Workshops	688.00	291.00	759.00	558.00	449.00
Open Gardens	x	834.80	x	903.01	x
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	(a) 129.50	0.00
Total Income	2,400.90	3,937.67	3,466.62	4,553.42	3,358.73
Expenditure £					
AGM	230.22	115.49	151.39	245.32	211.12
RHS Membership & Insurance	105.00	105.00	105.00	103.00	103.00
Outings & Social Events	0.00	781.00	475.00	1,066.28	1,159.37
Spring & Autumn Shows	743.32	843.46	899.46	819.13	847.35
Arts & Crafts Fair(s)	x	283.96	461.55	x	x
Talks & Workshops	782.53	230.00	601.00	713.50	455.00
Open Gardens	x	61.27	x	55.70	x
Tewin Society Award	x	x	98.00	135.10	76.00
Newsletter Printing	167.12	124.97	134.66	152.93	122.51
Newsletter Distribution	57.56	55.53	44.76	36.00	53.76
Unallocated Printing	0	28.80	0.00	213.00	0.00
Donations & Gifts	275.00	220.00	49.99	515.00	100.00
Other	770.41	11.99	836.12	132.26	15.79
Total Expenditure	3,131.16	2,861.47	3,856.93	4,187.22	3,143.90
Surplus (Deficit)	(730.26)	1,076.20	(390.31)	366.20	214.83
Accumulated Fund at Year End	5,144.87	5,875.13	4,798.93	5,189.24	4,823.04

Key to "Other" income

(a) Autumn show auction & raffle at flower arranging demonstration

Challenges & Opportunities for 2018

Ray Keppler

1) Introduction

I would like to briefly share my thoughts with you, about the current state of the Society, to explain the challenges facing it in 2018 and to explore the opportunities that these challenges provide.

2) Current situation

THACS is a well-established and active society.

During the past few years, all THACS activities have supported the aims of the society, as specified in the constitution (“...to promote the good cultivation of gardens and allotments, to foster interest in garden design and plants and to encourage village arts and crafts.”). We have achieved some success in this, as demonstrated by our program of well-supported activities such as workshops, talks, demonstrations, sales, outings, open gardens and the village shows.

Our finances are healthy and our membership numbers are fairly steady at about 200. This is a strong and enviable position, so we can face the future challenges from a position of strength.

3) Challenges

When I became Chairman in 2009, I lead the committee through a project to ensure that we all had clearly-defined roles and responsibilities. These were defined in our *Roles and Responsibilities* document, which has proved to be very useful.

Some of the responsibilities are shared by the four elected officers, including

“Ensure the continuous existence of THACS as a viable and active society by

- Succession planning for elected officers, so that suitable replacements are willing and available to take over when any elected officer retires.*
- Generating sufficient interest in THACS to maintain a committee with sufficient ability and enthusiasm to successfully undertake all of the required tasks.”*

Despite our concerted efforts, we have failed with the first and struggled with the second!

Our lack of success has made THACS vulnerable. If we lose any committee members now, we will struggle to maintain our level of activity. In particular, if I were to go now, then THACS will not be able to survive in its current form.

Your re-election of all the committee members has ensured that we can continue as we are throughout 2018. Beyond that, we face an uncertain future!

Our main challenge this year is to tackle this vulnerability and so get ourselves in a position that will ensure the continuous existence of THACS as a viable and active society into 2019 and beyond.

THACS is your society. My challenge to you is to take a more active role in your society and to do whatever you can to recruit suitable new members to the committee to take on some of the key tasks.

Let me be more specific. I've been Chairman and Newsletter Editor since 2009 and Show Secretary since 2012. Whilst it has all been enjoyable and worthwhile, I need to lighten my workload by handing over at least one of those roles.

The September newsletter included an appeal for a new Newsletter Editor, but there was no response. So, if nobody is willing to become Newsletter Editor, then how about somebody joining the committee to become the new Chairman or Show Secretary?

I will continue with all three roles in 2018 but will stop at least one of them at the next AGM. I don't mind if that be Chairman, Show Secretary or Newsletter Editor, but I will relinquish at least one of these roles.

4) Opportunities

Some exciting new opportunities arise from this challenge.

If you offer to take on one of these roles, you will be welcomed into a friendly and supportive committee, who will help you get settled and then guide and aid you. It's a great way to meet lots of interesting people and develop new skills in a safe environment. You will also be actively involved in all of the committee discussions and decisions, so you will have significant influence on *THACS* activities. You will bring a fresh perspective and a new approach, which could lead to new ideas for changing and improving the way we do things.

5) Way ahead

I urge you to think about this challenge and do something to help overcome it. Don't just expect someone else to step forward, or for your committee to find another solution.

THACS belongs to all of us and we all need to work together to meet this challenge and seize the opportunities.

If you would like to know more about any of the roles, or you are just curious, then please talk to any committee member (without obligation!). If none of the roles appeals to you, then do you know anyone else that might be willing and able to help? If so, please let us know.