

***THACS***  
**TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY**

**Minutes of the twelfth Annual General Meeting held at  
Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

The meeting was preceded by the presentation of the Tewin Society Award to Mrs Elizabeth Wilson. Approximately 38 members were present.

### **1 Apologies**

Peter Burleigh, Diana Brannen, John Sheridan, Tom and Janet Gladwin, Jean Watts, Ronald Brand and Marie St Pier.

### **2 Minutes of 2012 AGM**

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted. There were no matters arising.

### **3 Chairman's Report**

Ray Keppler presented the Chairman's report for 2012.

A copy of the report is appended.

### **4 Treasurer's Report**

Malcolm Allen presented the Treasurer's report for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012.

#### **Finance**

The accounts for the financial year 1 November 2011 to 31 October 2012 were presented on an accruals basis, so avoiding distortions arising from, for example, deposits being received in one year and the related expenditure arising in a different year. This provides a more accurate view of the financial position at year end.

A relatively healthy financial position enabled a number of donations to benefit the cultural life of Tewin, including a one-off grant of £1,000 towards projection equipment for the Memorial Hall and items related to the Jubilee celebrations. In addition the committee decided that the admission charges normally levied on the door at the spring and autumn shows should be waived this year. Total expenditure for the year was £6,100.15 and income £5,109.25. The normal operating costs of *THACS* were covered by income. At the end of the year the Accumulated Fund stood at £4,608.21, compared with £5,599.11 at the end of the previous year.

#### **Membership**

At the end of October 2012 *THACS* had 222 members. At the time of the AGM 186 member had paid their subscriptions for 2013

It is hoped that more members will pay their subscriptions by standing order and receive the newsletter by email. The Treasurer pointed out the following advantages and considerations.

Newsletters, show schedule etc by email.

- Reduced printing and postage costs, reduced environmental impact
- Less work for the volunteers who do the distribution
- Earlier dispatch
- Easier storage and retrieval.

#### Paying subscriptions by Standing Order.

- Easier for members – certainty of prompt payment of correct amount
- Improved cash-flow for *THACS* and less work for its officers.

With a Standing Order the amount can be changed only by member (unlike a Direct Debit) thus the member retains control. It would be very helpful if Standing Order instructions include a reference enabling *THACS* to recognize the member in question, since some members are known by different names from those on their bank accounts.

### **Resolution**

It was proposed by Michael Clark that the report and accounts be accepted and this was seconded by Terry Brand. This proposal was accepted.

Copies of the accounts for 2012 were provided to the attendees. They are not appended to these minutes, but copies are available on request from the Treasurer, Malcolm Allen (phone 01438 798749 or email: m.allen47@gmail.com).

## **5 Election of Officers and Committee for 2013**

The following officers were elected without opposition.

<b>Chairman</b>	Ray Keppler (for fifth year)	Proposed by <i>THACS</i> Committee Seconded by Mavis Haggar
<b>Treasurer</b>	Malcolm Allen (for second year)	Proposed by Ray Keppler Seconded by Anna Clark.
<b>Secretary</b>	Nick Whiting (for third year)	Proposed by Ray Keppler Seconded by Linda Adams.

There was no candidate for the role of Vice Chairman and so it will remain vacant for this year.

For the remaining members of the committee, Terry Brand, Lynne Burgess and Jim Hall were proposed by Hilary Tipping and seconded by Anna Clark and were duly re-elected by the members.

Graham Spring was re-elected as independent examiner (proposed by Michael Clark, seconded by Linda Adams).

## **6 Events for 2013**

Jim Hall started by asking the membership what kind of events they would like to see. There was a list at the back of the hall which included several possible events for 2013 with plenty of space for members to add their ideas and an indication of their support for listed items. There was also the question of the choice of the days of the week that might be preferred. A number of events have already been booked in including: calligraphy workshops, creative writing workshops, the spring show (April 20), the plant stall at the fete (June 29), the autumn show (September 7) and a quiz evening. The full list submitted to the meeting is appended.

## **7 Any Other Business**

Ray Keppler announced a change in our procedure regarding AGMs. In accordance with established practice, minutes of the 2012 AGM went out with the notices of the 2013 AGM in December. This has meant that members did not get to see the minutes until almost a year after

the meeting. Also, the February newsletter has previously contained a detailed report of the AGM and there was a high level of duplication between this newsletter article and the minutes. The committee now regards this process as unsatisfactory and has decided to change it.

Consequently, the minutes of this 2013 AGM will be distributed with the February newsletter and that newsletter will not contain the usual long report on the meeting. This will ensure that members get to see the minutes promptly and it will remove the duplication. We will make extra paper copies of the minutes available to members at the next AGM, along with the usual financial information.

## **8 Date and Time of next AGM**

This will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at Tewin Memorial Hall. The meeting will commence at 7:30pm.

This concluded the formal meeting which was followed by a brief interval where a glass of wine was enjoyed. Immediately after this there was an illustrated talk given by Mr David Curry, chairman of the Hertfordshire Orchard Initiative. It was titled “Biodiversity in a Bottle – a History”. Mr Curry argued that the county was once rich in the numbers of orchards and also in the extent of the varieties grown, many quite local. Sadly, many of the orchards have now gone and our supermarkets seem to delight in keeping choice restricted to a few hardy varieties which satisfy the current passion for uniform quality. He also illustrated the role of the Initiative in education and in encouraging the growing of apples and pears. There were plenty of slides to illustrate his point which was very well received. He also mentioned that his organisation was in fact founded about ten years ago in this very hall. The meeting thanked him for a very enjoyable and informative talk.

### ***Appendixes:***

Chairman’s report  
Events for 2013

# Chairman's Report for 2012

Ray Keppler

## 1) Introduction

*THACS* has had another busy and successful year. Our small committee has 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. Most of them have been reported in our newsletters, but it's worth while taking a few moments on an over-view of the whole year.

## 2) AGM 16<sup>th</sup> January

At our last AGM in January, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 re-schedule it and retain most of those signed-up.

## 4) Spring Show 21<sup>st</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> May

Jim Hall organised the **Open Gardens** in May, when nearly 200 visitors took the opportunity to admire ten 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 30<sup>th</sup> June

Nick Whiting organised the **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 15<sup>th</sup> September

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

## 8) Art workshop 19<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 with the help of the allotments association.
- 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.

The committee members 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 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 with many diverse tasks. Thank you all!

# What *THACS* events would you like?

## THACS committee suggested events for 2013

Event	Description	Location	Dates	Indicative price	Support
Garden visit	Cambridge University Botanic Garden. 40 acres of beautiful gardens and glasshouses, with over 8,000 plant species.	Cambridge	Summer	Coach + entrance (£4.50 / £3.95). Guided tour for extra £5	
Garden visit	Coton Manor. 10 acre garden with additional bluebell wood and wildflower meadow.	Northamptonshire	Late April for bluebells or June for wildflower meadow and borders.	Coach + entrance £5	
House & garden visit	Wrest Park house & garden. National Heritage site. 90 acres, including 6 acre walled garden	Luton, Bedfordshire	Summer	Coach + entrance (£8.50 / £7.70). Guided tour of 1.5 hours for extra £2	

Event	Description	Location	Dates	Indicative price	Support
House & garden visit	Audley End house & garden. National Heritage site. House + Capability Brown landscaped parkland + kitchen garden.	Near Saffron Walden, Essex.	Summer	Coach + entrance (£13.00 / £11.70).	
Local flower show	Spring Gardening Show. Also have access to 30 acres of gardens.	Capel Manor, Enfield	12-14 April		
Art exhibition	<i>Lowry and the Painting of Modern Life</i> exhibition	Tate Britain, London	From 25/06/13 to 20/10/13	Coach + entrance £15	
Art exhibition	National Gallery	Trafalgar Square	Nov or Dec.	Coach Free entry	



<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Indicative price</b>	<b>Support</b>
Talks & demonstrations	Flower arranging	Tewin Memorial Hall	Spring/Summer		
Talks & demonstrations	Planting and nurturing	Tewin Memorial Hall	Spring		
Talks & demonstrations	Photography & criteria for shows	Tewin Memorial Hall	Spring/Summer		
Talks & demonstrations	Culinary demo & criteria for shows	Tewin Memorial Hall	Summer		