

THACS
TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2006

Dear Members,

Welcome to the 'Spring' edition of the **THACS** newsletter. At last we are seeing some spring flowers and have been able to make a start in the garden. At the end of this letter you will find some gardening tips, which might help in the coming months. We hope this will be a regular feature and also the culinary section, where you may like to try out new recipes.

THACS have had 3 events this year, beginning with an excellent talk in February, when our 2 judges, Percy Frizelle and Donald Lee, gave us their expert advice on how to choose, grow and show our flowers and vegetables. There were useful illustrations and demonstrations, with many questions from the audience during and after refreshments. It was certainly an enjoyable and edifying evening for everyone. In March, the visit to The Royal Academy to see 'China – The 3 Emperors Exhibition' was a great success, with so many beautiful and interesting things to see. We also had an unexpected finish to the day as thousands of 'Peace Marchers' walked past the academy for an hour, but fortunately didn't delay our return journey and we managed to get some good photos!!

THACS Spring Show

Despite being held on 1 April, the fifth annual Spring Show went without a hitch, thanks to the support of so many helpful members and contributors, without whom there would not be a show to see. Our apologies for not having circulated the helpers' list in advance. Although we had experienced cold, miserable spring weather in the previous weeks, the Memorial Hall looked bright and cheerful with the spring flowers and lots of culinary delights, artwork and photographs. Some people commented that they preferred the old 'pbi' entry cards and stickers; we had to order some more cards for the Spring show, and when we enquired about ordering, 'pbi' had recently been taken over and would not have had these available in time, so the RHS cards were ordered instead. We may well go back to these when the RHS cards are used up. Many thanks to all our visitors; it was good to see some representatives from Cuffley Horticultural Society, who wanted to see how we ran our auctions. Patrick Holden stepped into Michael Clark's shoes as auctioneer and did a great job!

For those of you who missed the show, the winners are listed below:

THACS Van Hage Cup for highest points for Horticulture: Marie St Pier

THACS Tewin Society Salver for highest points for Arts and Crafts: Elisabeth Buchanan

THACS Nodder Bowl for highest points for Culinary class: Debbie Mills

THACS Photography Class* for highest points for Photography: Alfred Fulford

*points carried forward to Autumn Show

THACS Tewin Cowper School Children's Award for highest points in Children's class: Sophie Pitrakou

Photography 11-17 year olds*: Elizabeth Raine

* points carried forward to Autumn Show

Other prize winners in Children's Class included: Oliver Brady, Rosie Christian-Cox, Beth Marshall, Connie Marshall, Nina Pitrakou and Florrie Moss-Winterbottom.

THACS Kew visit

Please note that the visit to Kew Gardens on 20 May is now fully booked. We will leave Kew at **4.00pm** not 3.30pm as advertised before to allow a bit more time there.

THACS Open Gardens - Sunday 28 May 2006

Selected gardens will be open from 10:00 to 17:00 on Sunday 28 May, so this is a great opportunity to see some Tewin gardens in spring. Some of the gardens are opening for the first time, so you will be able to see some new gardens as well as revisiting previously open gardens and how they have developed. Refreshments and plant sales will be available at some of the gardens.

Programmes are £2 per adult (accompanied children free) and contain the addresses of each of the open gardens, together with a map showing their location.

These programmes act as your entry tickets to all the gardens and will be on sale at Tewin Stores and Tebbutts from 2 May. You may wish to get some ideas, talk to the owners about their gardens, or just come along for a lovely day out!

For further information, please contact Ray Keppler (telephone 01438 717545, email ray@raykeppler.wanadoo.co.uk)

Tuesday 11 July Painting/Photographic Day

The day will start at 10am at St. Peter's church, where toilet facilities and coffee/tea will be available. We have been given kind permission to paint/photo around Tewinbury and you may also arrange to eat there, if you are not bringing a packed lunch.

Please remember your equipment and a folding chair or rug.

There will be expert advice available if required and the day will end at 4pm.

If you have not already told us that you intend to come, please could you fill in the form and give to Anna Clark- Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green, AL6 0LX - ASAP.

Thursday 3 August Visit to Ayot St Peter church & 'Waggoners' meal

Ayot St Peter, built in 1874, is a remarkable and unconventional Victorian Gothic church which features in Simon Jenkins' "England's Thousand Best Churches". The interior was described by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as "an exceptionally complete example of church furnishing about 1880 by an architect in sympathy with the then recent Arts and Crafts tendencies". Pevsner mentions the furnishings in the same breath as those of the superb pre-Raphaelite church at Waterford we visited, and were so much impressed by, in 2005. This visit should provide **THACS** members with the chance to see an equally outstanding, but quite different, church of the same historical era as Waterford.

There is plenty of choice and catering for special dietary needs at the 'Waggoners'.

Their menu changes regularly, so we cannot give the choice at present, but the cost of a 3-course meal is £23 plus 10% service charge. Please fill in the attached form giving your e-mail address if you have one, so that we can send out the menu details easily when we have them nearer the time. Also please state if you have special dietary

requirements, and what they are, and return the form with a £5 deposit for each person, (cheques payable to THACS) **by the end of May.**

Send to – Mike Horsman, 19 Harwood Close, Tewin, Herts. AL6 0LF

Creative Writing

Is anybody interested in joining a group for creative writing?

There will be a chance to try different types of writing eg. Poetry, Short stories, Articles etc. with fun exercises and professional teaching. If anyone would like to have a go, please telephone Gay Cates on 01438 717622 as soon as possible.

Recipes

Chocolate Desert

4ozs Fresh bread crumbs
4ozs Demerara sugar
4tablespoons Drinking chocolate powder
2tablespoons Coffee powder
1/4 pint Single cream
1/4 pint Double cream

Method

Mix all dry ingredients together and put half in a small trifle bowl. Whip the 2 creams softly and spread half on top of first layer of dry ingredients. Repeat, ending with a layer of cream. Place in fridge overnight for cream to soak through. Decorate with grated chocolate or Cadbury's chocolate flake

Salmon with Parmesan Crust

Serves 2
1/2oz toasted pinenuts
1 1/2oz fresh breadcrumbs
1/2oz grated Parmesan cheese
1oz butter
2 level teaspoons chopped fresh basil
Salt and fresh black pepper
2 salmon cutlets approx. 5oz each
Lemon or lime slices and basil leaves

Method

Mix all ingredients except salmon in a blender until just combined, don't overdo. Place salmon skin - up under a moderately hot grill and cook for 5 mins. Turn salmon over. Top with the breadcrumb mixture and cook for a further 5 mins or until cooked through. Garnish . Serve with green beans.

Gardening tips for APRIL

This year's season has been slow to start, so some gardening tasks normally carried out in April should probably be left until hard frosts are over. However, there is plenty to do, sowing and pricking out seeds and seedlings in the greenhouse or cold frame, and here are a few more tips for the month:

1 Mulching is very important this year with the hosepipe ban enforced. This is best done with farmyard manure, readily available around Tewin, or with your own home-made compost from garden clippings, grass mowings and kitchen vegetable waste. Mulching does two jobs; it feeds the ground and therefore the plants as it rains, and keeps plants cool and moist at root level during the hotter months.

- 2** Support emerging perennials and tie climbers to supports before stems become tangled.
- 3** Shear plants such as Rosemary, Santolina and Lavender to keep them bushy.
- 4** Clear ponds of debris collected over winter, and divide pond plants where necessary.

Gardening tips for MAY

- 1** Prune hardy Fuchsias as new growth begins, and when frosts are over prune back any damaged shrub branches. Prune Kerria and Spirea after flowering back to buds or shoots lower down.
- 2** Control greenfly on rose buds and watch out for these pests in the greenhouse, as well as whitefly and red spider mite.
- 3** When planting hanging baskets or summer containers, it is a good idea to combine water retaining crystals and slow-release fertiliser with your potting compost in order to cut down on watering and feeding later.
- 4** If you have not yet mulched your roses it is not too late to do so, or boost shrubs, roses and climbers with a general feed such as Growmore; read instructions carefully, as plants can be killed by over-feeding with fertiliser.

Gardening tips for JUNE

- 1** Remove suckers from roses, pulling them up at ground level wearing a pair of sturdy gloves! Do not clip the suckers with secateurs, as this will encourage them to send out more stems.
- 2** Lawn mowing can be monotonous, but it can be a good way of making mental notes about the jobs that need doing as you go backwards and forwards. Tidying the edges makes all the difference to the appearance of your garden and will prevent couch grass from spreading onto your borders.
- 3** A good project to help our dwindling butterfly and insect population is to plant a nectar-rich border. Buddleia davidii, or the 'butterfly bush', is an obvious choice; there are many varieties of honeysuckle – accessible only to long-tongued butterflies, moths and bees; lavender, nicotiana (tobacco plants), verbena, marjoram and sedum spectabile are all loved by insects.
- 4** Houseplants can be taken outside in June so that you can re-pot or renew the compost, clean their leaves and generally tidy up and care for them. However, many dislike being outside in the hot sun, and if you wish to keep them outdoors during the summer months, it is best to keep them in a shady, protected area.
- 5** How about a 'no-water' window box or hanging basket, using echeverias, sempervivums, and other succulents or even small cacti? Plant with plenty of potting grit mixed with multi-purpose compost, or you can buy Cactus compost. Water them in initially and they should then be alright for the remaining season. You may be delighted by some of their flowers, too.

If you have any gardening tips, favourite recipes, handicraft, art or photography tips you would like to share for July, August and September, please send to Anna Clark at Tewin Orchard, or e-mail to mike.tewin@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Painting / Photographic Day Tuesday 11 July 10.00am – 4.00pm

Name(s).....

Address.....Tel.no.....

Please send to Anna Clark, Tewin Orchard, I Upper Green, Tewin AL6 0LX - asap.

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Ayot St Peter visit Thursday 3 August 5.00pm

I / we wish to join the visit to Ayot St Peter church

Name(s).....Nos.....

Address.....

Tel. No.....e-mail address.....

Please note: if you are a member, you may bring one guest

‘Waggoners’ meal 7.00pm for 7.30pm

I / we wish to have a meal at the ‘Waggoners’

Name(s).....Nos.....

Address.....

Tel. No.....e-mail address.....

Do you have special dietary needs?..... If so, please state what these are.....

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I enclose £..... deposit (£5.00 per person – cheques made out to THACS)

Please send to Mike Horsman 19 Harwood Close Tewin AL6 0LF by the end of May