

THACS

TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER JULY 2008

Dear Members,

Those of you who experienced the outing to the Tutankhamun Exhibition in May will know how interesting it was, especially for those people, like me, who had never been to the O2 Dome before.

THACS do try to choose events that cover horticulture, arts and crafts over the year and are always open to suggestions.

Our latest event of 'Open Gardens' was very popular and we were blessed with fine weather; a just reward for all the hard labour from the owners. Many thanks to everyone and a special thank you to Ray Keppler for organising this lovely event.

Now we are looking forward to a fine summer and already preparing for the Autumn Show. Please look at the schedule and think about the categories you could enter. We need your participation to make a really successful show.

You will see that the last event of this year is a very special gardening talk to be given by the well known gardener, Matthew Biggs. The talk has been chosen to give all gardeners the chance to learn more, get ideas and be able to ask questions from an expert. As tickets are expected to be in demand for this, **THACS** members will have preference over non-members when booking their seats, so please send your booking form in early. Happy Gardening!!

Gay Cates (Chairman).

Recent Events

Visit to see *The Tutankhamun & Golden Age of Pharaohs Exhibition* at the O2 Dome, London on Wednesday 14th May 2008.

This was a popular event, with 45 people travelling by coach to see the exhibition at the O2 Dome. Everything went smoothly and everyone enjoyed the day.

The exhibition includes approximately 130 objects from the tomb of Tutankhamun and other Valley of the Kings Ancestors. Most of these objects have never been seen in the UK before. Featured treasures in the exhibit, which are all between 3,300 and 3,500 years old, include Tutankhamun's royal diadem - the gold crown discovered encircling the head of the king's mummified body that he possibly wore while living - and one of the gold and precious stone inlaid coffinettes that contained his mummified internal organs.

The exhibition is expertly staged, in a series of interlinked halls. It takes full advantage of the considerable available space making easy viewing of the exhibits, despite the high number of visitors. Lighting is used to great effect. A particularly useful feature is the way in which the information panels are arranged at each exhibit. The panels are placed close to the exhibit, so that the information could be read in context when standing close by. However, a larger version of the panel is also positioned above the exhibit – frequently on several sides – so that they can be read from further away, over the heads of other visitors.

We had plenty of time available for our visit, giving us an opportunity to have lunch in one of the many restaurants before viewing the exhibition. Once in the exhibition, it was quite easy to lose your sense of time, but the 2½ hours we allocated for this was sufficient.

If you have not yet visited this extremely popular exhibition, then there is still time since it will run to 30th August 2008.

Open Gardens throughout Tewin on Sunday 15th June 2008

More than 250 people took advantage of the **THACS** Open Gardens day and visited some of the Open Gardens in and around Tewin. Thanks to Tewin Stores and Tebbutts for selling tickets so efficiently.

Fifteen gardens opened this year, six of them for the first time. They represented a great diversity in location, size and style. There was something of interest for everyone and it all made an enjoyable day out. Many of the visitors talked about the gardens with their owners and many (visitors and owners!) found the day to be very informative, as well as enjoyable. There were welcome refreshments at Tewin Orchard, Dawley Cottage and Digswell Water House and there were plants for sale at some of the gardens and booklets about the history of Queen Hoo Hall were on sale there.

The high number of open gardens, combined with their dispersed locations, caused most visitors to be selective about which gardens they visited. Most favoured the gardens that were opening for the first time and it was no surprise that Queen Hoo Hall had the highest number of visitors (nearly 200). Consequently, visitor numbers were lower than last time at some of the other gardens but they were still high enough to make them worthwhile opening.

The event was a success financially therefore **THACS** would like to make a donation to a suitable charity (to be decided later by the committee).

Congratulations and thanks to all those who opened their gardens and who worked so hard to ensure that their gardens were in great condition for the day. Thanks too to all the other people who helped out in various ways on the day and of course to all who bought tickets and made the day such a success.

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THACS stall at the Village Fete on Saturday 28th June 2008

The **THACS** Committee would like to thank all those who contributed to making the plant stall at the Village Fete such a resounding success. Many generously gave their time to serve behind the counter; more donated a splendid array of plants including some unusual specimens clearly grown with much tender care. Others provided gazebos or helped with erecting and dismantling. Not least, thanks go to the provider of refreshments to those manning the stall.

Business was very brisk for the first two hours or so as a result of the attractively colourful display on view, and it is gratifying that the Tewin Memorial Hall - our local amenity – is the beneficiary.

A few items were left over and these will be given to Tewin Stores for further sales.

Forthcoming Events

Visit to Copped Hall Gardens, Essex on Saturday 9th August 2008

This proposed visit has proved popular and the deadline for bookings has now passed.

If you have already booked and paid, then we will contact you in July to give you map with directions and information about lunch options.

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THACS Autumn Show in Tewin Memorial Hall on Saturday 6th September 2008

Preparations for the Autumn Show are well under way. Please see the schedule, rules and entry form, distributed with this newsletter. Non-members can obtain copies of the schedule from the **THACS** page on the Tewin web site (www.tewinvillage.co.uk) or from the **THACS** Show Secretary Anna Clark, Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green, Tewin, AL6 0LX (01438 798324).

Guided Walk in St Albans on Sunday 12th October 2008

As a change from a church visit, **THACS** is proposing a visit to St Albans to take an organised and guided walk on Sunday, 12th October starting at 2pm. The walk we have chosen is from Fishpool Street to St Michaels Village. This is an old route that follows George Street, Romeland and Fishpool Street to picturesque St Michael's Village, with its elegant houses, Saxon church and the superb Verulamium Roman Museum.

The walk will start outside the Old Town Hall in Market Street and will take about 1 hour 30 mins. As St Albans is nearby, we will not be organising a coach but car sharing is an option you may wish to consider. Parking is available in the town centre or at the Verulamium.

You will be able to purchase Afternoon Tea (which will not be pre-booked) after the walk in any of a number of local inns or cafes. In close proximity are The Six Bells, The Rose and Crown and the Waffle House. The Inn on the Park, which is close to the Museum, is recommended for cream teas.

The price for this guided tour will be £5 for members and £6 for non-members. If you wish to come, then please complete the relevant form (on the last page of this newsletter) and send it with your cheque or cash, to Pat Fulford by **31st August 2008**.

Art & Craft Exhibition in Burnham Green Hall Saturday & Sunday 15th & 16th November 2008

Because it was so popular, we are presenting an exhibition of our local art and craft people again in November at Burnham Green Hall, so please put the above dates in your diary and look out for further information in the next **THACS** newsletter.

Gardening talk in the Memorial Hall on Monday 8th December 2008

We are delighted to announce that **Matthew Biggs** will be talking about the “**Back Gardens of Britain**” in the Memorial Hall on the evening of Monday 8th December 2008, starting at 8pm.

Matthew lives in Hertfordshire and so is a local gardening celebrity. He has been a professional gardener for over 25 years and has achieved considerable success as a gardener, horticultural judge, lecturer, TV presenter, radio presenter and author.

A plant enthusiast, Matthew has travelled extensively, leading gardening tours and cruises in Europe, the Mediterranean, south east Asia, South America, Australasia and Africa where he is a lecturer and host.

Currently Matthew is a regular panellist on BBC Radio 4's *Gardeners Question Time* and writes regularly for several gardening magazines. In addition, he has written several gardening books which he will bring to the talk, giving us an opportunity to purchase signed copies.

The lecture is based on visits to over 150 different locations. It will introduce you to some of the fascinating characters who have created their dreams, from suburban back gardens to allotments and inner city roof gardens.

The lecture aims to enlighten you to the treasures to be found in the back gardens of Britain and discover what lessons that can be learned from the passions of their owners for plant collecting, vegetable growing and design. Let their enthusiasm encourage and inspire you to continue developing your own garden and increase your enjoyment of the greatest hobby in the world!

The prices for tickets for this event are £5 per person for members and £6 per person for non-members. If you wish to come, then please complete the relevant form (on the last page of this newsletter) and send it with your cheque or cash, to Pat Fulford by **10th September 2008**. We will then provide you with tickets.

This is likely to be a popular event and the number of tickets will be limited by the seating capacity of the hall. Therefore, we are giving **THACS** members the first chance to purchase tickets, before this event is offered to non-members. To avoid disappointment, **please book early**.

DATCHWORTH STORES

2 Datchworth Green Tel: 01438 813467

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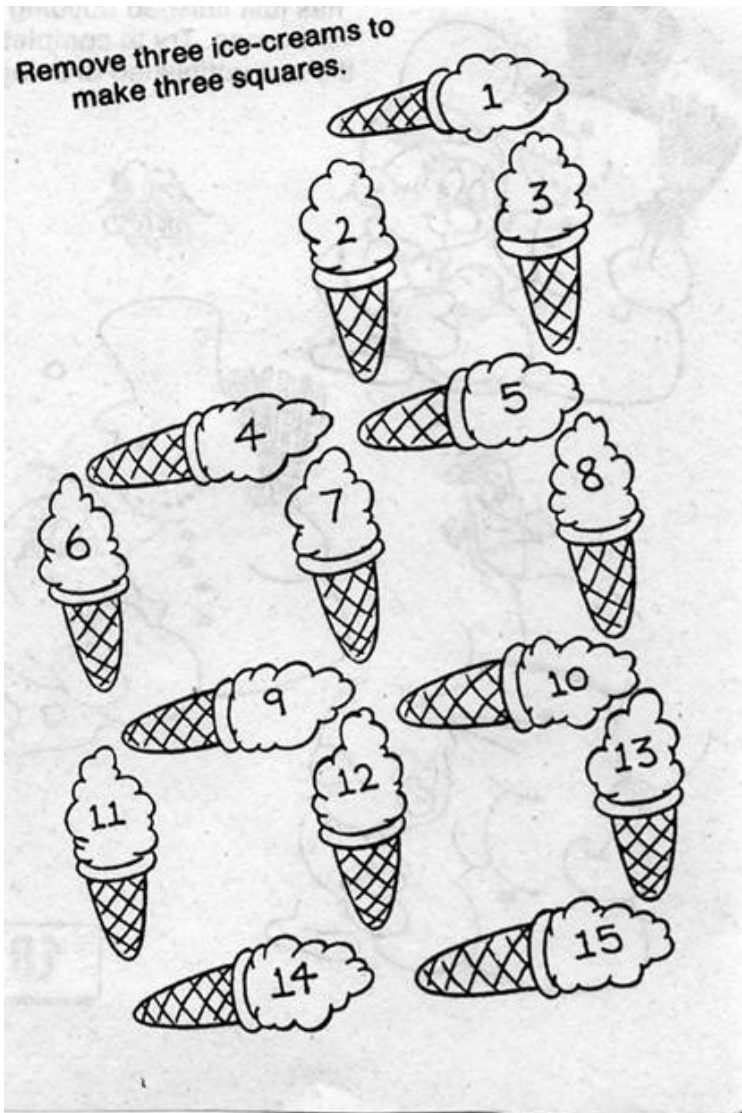
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Children's Corner

Puzzle



Once you have solved this puzzle,
you can find the answer on the next page.

Ice Cream Recipe

Ingredients

1 cup of fruit juice (apple is great)
1 cup of whipping cream
1 banana chopped up
1 tablespoon of honey

Method

Whisk all together until frothy. Pour
into small moulds and freeze.
Yummy!!

Answer
Remove the ice creams
numbered 8, 11 and 14

Recipe

Sausage and Lentil Stew

This recipe is from Tewin stores who stock most of the necessary ingredients.

Time: 1hr

Serves 4

Ingredients

2 Packs Braughing sausages
2x400g cans chopped tomatoes
100g green lentils
185ml red wine
1 onion, chopped
3 cloves garlic, crushed
3 tbsp oil
1 bay leaf
1 dried chilli crushed
Pinch grated nutmeg
Salt & pepper Rosemary (optional)

Method

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan and cook the sausages for 5-10mins or until browned. Remove from the pan and reduce the heat. Add the onion and garlic and cook gently until the onion is soft.
2. Add the tomatoes and chopped rosemary (if using) and cook gently until reduced to a thick sauce. Add the nutmeg, bay leaf, chill, wine and 420ml of water. Bring to the boil and then add the lentils and sausages. Give the stew a good stir and simmer gently for 40mins, or until the lentils are soft, stirring occasionally to prevent the lentils sticking.
3. Serve with a fresh side salad of mixed leaves and cherry tomatoes, garnished with a lemon and olive oil dressing.

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Guided walk in St Albans on Sunday 12th October 2008.

Name(s).....
Address.....
Tel. No.....e-mail address.....

Are you a member of **THACS**?.....

Number of members..... Number of non- members.....

I enclose £..... (£5 for members and £6 for non-members – cheques made out to **THACS**).
Please send to Pat Fulford, 27 Bishops Road, Tewin AL6 0NP by **31st August 2008**.

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**Matthew Biggs talk about the “Back Gardens of Britain”
in the Memorial Hall on the evening of Monday 8th December 2008.**

Name(s).....
Address.....
Tel. No.....e-mail address.....

Are you a member of **THACS**?.....

(Note that only **THACS** members can purchase tickets before 10th September 2008)

Number of members..... Number of non- members.....

I enclose £..... (£5 for members and £6 for non-members – cheques made out to **THACS**).
Please send to Pat Fulford, 27 Bishops Road, Tewin AL6 0NP by **10th September 2008**.