

THACS
TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER MARCH 2008

Dear members,

The seventh **THACS** AGM was held on 21 January at the Memorial Hall, attended by more than 56 people. Gay Cates welcomed everybody and during the business part of the meeting, she outlined all the activities that the Society had organised during 2007, and thanked committee and members for their continuing support and help. Peter Burleigh reported on the accounts, membership and expenditure, and Ray Keppler described the exciting fixtures for the coming year that **THACS** had already planned. The Chairman's and Treasurer's reports are given below, followed by the news about the election of committee members.

The speaker for the evening, Barry Dodge, who has lectured on Art History at North Hertfordshire College since the early 1990s, gave a fascinating talk on the History of Modern Art, from Pointillism, Fauvism and Cubism through to Surrealism, Dada, Pop Art and the Celebrity Art of today, and how all these and many more movements he described have linked and influenced each other.

The successful evening ended with refreshments and a chance to have a chat.

The eighth **THACS AGM will be held at Tewin Memorial Hall
on Monday 19 January 2009 at 8.00pm.**

Chairman's Report for 2007

THACS have had another eventful year with the committee taking on their new roles and also helping each other when needed. These roles included the organisation and management of the shows, events, newsletters, publicity, website and catering. It hasn't always been easy, but I hope we've been able to share many of the responsibilities that fell upon Anna previously and at the same time give each member of the committee a sense of purpose.

Our **THACS** year began with over forty people enjoying a trip to The Royal Academy for the 'Citizens and Kings Exhibition'.

At the end of February we held a 'Creative Writing' workshop to stimulate the would-be authors, which was led by our show judge, Frances Wilson.

In April, **THACS** Spring show was upon us, with all the preparation and hard work which that involved. It was a lovely day, with more people than ever exhibiting and well supported by a friendly crowd to appreciate the talented entries.

In May, Chris Haden, the leader from our local walking group, kindly agreed to guide us on the 'Tewin Nature Trail' and later that month, several of our **THACS** members went along to a 'Countryside Day' to sell their arts, crafts and horticultural goods in aid of the Commons Nature Reserve in WGC.

We were blessed by another sunny day in June for the trip to Myddelton Gardens, with an interesting tour by Bryan Hewitt, one of the gardeners, who gave us a good mixture of historical and horticultural information.

Then we held a flower arranging workshop, with demonstrations by Margaret Brett from the Stevenage Floral Art Society, enabling members to create their own attractive designs.

Again in June, **THACS** manned a plant stall for the Tewin village fete, raising money for Tewin Memorial Hall.

In July we joined with the Tewin Society for a special visit to Firle Place in Lewes, Sussex. We were given a private tour of the house, where the Cowper family treasures had been transferred from Panshanger House in Tewin in the 1950s, when it was demolished.

THACS then helped with the Family Day at Upper Green, run by the Friends of Tewin and had a very successful plant stall, featuring a horticultural quiz for the children, which also tested the adults.

There was a painting and photographic day in and around St. Peter's church and Tewin Bury, thanks to Ivor Williams, and Terry Brand was there to offer his help when needed.

We were back at St. Peter's in August to hear an excellent talk by Peter Walters on the history of the church, which dates back to pre-Christian times. The evening ended with a delicious meal at the Rose and Crown in Tewin.

We held another extremely well supported Autumn show in September, with a record number of entries, despite poor weather in the summer.

There was some confusion regarding the age of entrants to the show categories and the committee have now clarified the age bands, which will be clearly stated in the rules in future.

We unfortunately had to cancel the visit to Buckingham Palace and 'The Phantom of the Opera', due to lack of support, but the Quiz evening in December, run so professionally by Andrew Whawell, was very popular and great fun. This completed another year of varied and successful events.

I am not going to single anyone out, but my thanks go to everyone on **THACS** committee, for their hard work and commitment. Also to those people outside the committee, who rally round and give their valuable assistance at all the local events. As you know, everything that goes into making the society a continuing success comes from these good people, on and off the committee, who freely volunteer their time and expertise for **THACS**.

And so to all of you, many, many thanks for a great year.

Gay Cates, Chairman

Treasurer's Report for 2007

There had been a small increase of £235.38 in the Society's overall funds, mostly due to deposits for 2008 events, which needed to be paid for in advance. The costs of running the two annual shows are now controlled, by not circulating entries to the whole village. Advertising income had greatly helped to finance the shows, and it was hoped that this revenue would continue. Outings generally broke even. In 2007 there was a rise in membership to 180, the highest since the start of the society. To date, 169 members had paid for 2008, 146 by standing order. However, only 1/3 of members who do not pay through standing order have replied to their personal reminder, and 22 members have not yet renewed their membership.

Peter Burleigh, Treasurer

Election of Officers and Committee for 2008

The following were elected unanimously by members present:

Chairman – Gay Cates

Vice-Chairman – Ray Keppler

Treasurer – Patricia Fulford

Secretary – Doreen Lloyd.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Treasurer and Secretary for their work during the past three years. Committee members Lynne Powell, Dagmar Brook and Marie St Pier had stood down, and the Chairman thanked them for their various contributions whilst on the committee. Kate Stott had been co-opted on to the committee and was standing in 2008. The remaining members of the committee, Terry Brand, Peter Burleigh, Anna Clark, Alfred Fulford, Menna Searle and Kate Stott were re-elected. Gay Cates expressed her thanks to Anna Clark, who was made an honorary life member of **THACS**.

THACS committee members for 2008 are as follows:

Terry Brand	16 Lower Green
Peter Burleigh	23 Harwood Close
Gay Cates	6 Harwood Close
Anna Clark	Tewin Orchard 1 Upper Green
Alf & Pat Fulford	27 Bishops Road
Ray Keppler	15 Upper Green Road
Doreen Lloyd	27 Grass Warren
Menna Searle	19 Godfries Close
Kate Stott	20 Harwood Close

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As you will have noticed, we have started to include advertisements within the newsletter and show schedules. This is a good way of supporting our local businesses and of raising more income to **THACS** to off-set our costs. Please support the advertisers and be sure to mention that you saw their adverts in our newsletter / show schedule when purchasing items or services.

RECENT EVENTS

Quiz evening, Saturday 8th December 2007

Our Quiz Evening on Saturday 8th December was a great success! By coincidence, the number 8 occurred in several guises:- the quiz was held on 8th December and there were 8 teams with 8 people each.

Andrew Whawell did an excellent job as quiz master, posing questions on a wide-range of subjects related to THACS, in such a way that everyone could correctly answer some of them, but no one could answer all of them. Consequently there was plenty of scope for good friendly competition and most people learnt something new in the process. Thank you, Andrew!

The suppers of Fish / Chicken / Veggie Burger & Chips were eagerly devoured and there was a wide-range of donated prizes to ensure that the raffle went well.

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## **FDRTHCDMING EVENTS**

**Visit to see *The First Emperor: China's Terracotta Army* at the British Museum, London Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

If you have booked and paid for this, please note that the coach will leave the bus stop by the Rose & Crown promptly at 8:30 am.

**Talk entitled *Spring is just around the corner*, by Russell Jeffery at Riverside Garden Centre on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

This illustrated talk will start at 8:00 pm and the subject “Spring is just around the corner” seems particularly appropriate this year, in view of the early Spring. Complementary tea and coffee will be available before the talk, so we recommend that you arrive by 7:45 pm. Once the talk is finished, you will be able to look around the nursery and buy items if you wish.

**THACS** has organised this event for its members but it is open to non-members too. It's free of charge, so do please come along and join us for an interesting talk on a very topical subject.

Riverside Garden Centre is on the Lower Hatfield Road, Hertford SG13 8XX, as indicated on the map below.



**THACS Spring Show in Tewin Memorial Hall on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

**THACS** will be holding the seventh annual Spring Show at Tewin Memorial Hall on **Saturday 12 April** this year. We very much hope that non-members as well as members will be tempted to take part in this popular village event, so if any of your friends need a push to get started, please tell them what an enjoyable event the Spring show is, and we would love to see them **and their entries** this year! Of course, we are relying on you all to make this show the best yet and give Tewin something to remember.

Please see attached schedule, rules and entry form with your newsletter. Friends who are not members can obtain copies of the schedule from members of the committee and entries should be taken to the hall between 8.30am and 11.00am on the day. Please make sure that

your entry forms are delivered to Anna Clark, Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green, Tewin, AL6 0LX by **Sunday 6 April**.

The show will be open to the public at 2.15pm, after the judging has taken place. Refreshments will be available during the afternoon, and the presentation of prizes will be at 3.30pm. If anyone can help with the setting up of the hall, clearing away afterwards, making cakes for the teas and /or serving them during the show, or acting as a steward for the judges we would be very grateful for your help. Please contact Anna Clark on 01438 798324 or email to [mike.tewin@gmail.com](mailto:mike.tewin@gmail.com).

We would be very grateful for the donation of any unwanted plants or seedlings for us to sell on the afternoon of the Show. They can be flowers or vegetables, large or small, and in pots or boxes. Kindly bring your donated plants to us at the Memorial Hall on the morning of the Show. The money raised will be a great help towards our Show costs.

We look forward to seeing you there and good luck with all your entries!

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

This is now fully booked and there is also a waiting list. If you are one of the lucky ones on this trip, please note that the coach will leave the bus stop by the Rose and Crown promptly at 8:30 am. We will be returning at 3:30 pm, so should be back in Tewin about 5 pm.

**Open Gardens throughout Tewin on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

Previously, in 2002, 2004 and 2006, the Open Gardens event was in May. This time, selected gardens will be open from 10:00 to 17:00 on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June so you should see something different even if you've visited some of the gardens before.

We'd like to get as many Tewin gardeners as possible to join in, so would you be prepared to open your garden for the day? Perhaps you are tempted, but have not opened your garden before and don't know what is involved. In either case, please let me know so that I can give you more information about the event and to answer your questions.

It's not as daunting as you might think and is a great way of meeting local people and swapping gardening tips.

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

**FUTURE EVENTS**

**Visit to Copped Hall Gardens, Essex on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

***THACS* Autumn Show in Tewin Memorial Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

**Art & Craft Exhibition in Burnham Green Hall Saturday & Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

## CHILDREN'S' CORNER

On Mothering Sunday, we think particularly about our mothers and what they have done for us. Do you do special things for your mother on this day?

In earlier times many children lived and worked away from home and Mothering Sunday was a day when they were allowed home to visit their families. Often they would take a gift to their mothers, often wild flowers picked on the way home and sometimes a Simnel cake from their employers (see the Simnel cake recipe below). There is an interesting story about how the Simnel cake was named. The story is told of Simon and Nell who wanted to make a cake for their mother but could not agree how to cook it – Simon wanted to boil it and Nell wanted to bake it. In the end they did both and the Simnel cake was born. It is a rich fruit cake covered with marzipan and often decorated with eleven marzipan balls said to represent either the number of months the children were away from home or the number of Jesus disciples after Judas had left them. Because of this, they are often now eaten at Easter.

### Spring Wordsearch

Can you find these words?

Spring, March, new life  
Mothering, wind, birds,  
Lambs, flowers, Lent

They all appear in the grid below but could be across, down or diagonal.

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(not on special offer) will receive 10% discount.  
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## **EASTER SIMNEL CAKE RECIPE**

Serves 11. Takes 2 hours, plus cooling.

### Ingredients

175g (6oz) butter, plus extra for greasing  
500g (1lb 2oz) marzipan  
175g (6oz) light brown sugar  
4 large eggs  
250g (8oz) plain flour  
1/2tsp baking powder  
50g (2oz) ground almonds  
300g (11oz) mix of raisins, sultanas and currants  
50g (2oz) candied peel, chopped  
1 lemon, zest only  
2tsp mixed spice  
2tbsp milk  
2tbsp brandy  
1tbsp apricot jam

### Method

1. Grease a 18cm (7in) loose-bottomed cake tin with butter and double line the base and sides. Roll out a third of the marzipan into a round the size of the cake tin and set aside.
2. Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually add 3 eggs while beating.
3. Sift in the flour and baking powder and fold in the almonds. Add the rest of the ingredients, apart from the apricot jam and the last egg.
4. Spoon half the mixture into the cake tin, place the rolled out piece of marzipan on top, pressing lightly, then cover with the rest of the cake mix. Make a slight dip in the top of the mixture to stop it rising when cooking.
5. Bake on the middle shelf of the oven at Gas 3/170°C/325°F for about 90 mins, or until set and nicely browned. Allow to cool.
6. Roll out half the remaining marzipan to the size of the cake. Spread a thin layer of apricot jam on the top of the cake and lightly press the marzipan on top, crimping the edges.
7. Roll the remaining marzipan into 11 balls. Beat the last egg and use to brush the cake top, then stick on the marzipan balls.
8. Put under a medium grill for 1 to 2 mins to glaze.

If wrapped in foil or stored in an air-tight tin, this dense fruit cake will keep fresh for about a week. The 11 marzipan balls represent the true apostles - there's not one for Judas.

## **SWEET POTATO AND LEEK SOUP RECIPE**

Serves 8

### Ingredients

2 each medium carrots, sweet potatoes and leeks roughly chopped  
1 large Spanish onion, roughly chopped  
1 fat garlic clove, sliced  
2 celery stalks, trimmed and finely chopped



1.6 litres vegetable stock  
1 bay leaf

#### Method

Preheat the oven to 170° C [150° C fan] Gas mark 3

Put the carrots, sweet potatoes, leeks, onion, garlic, celery, stock and bay leaf into a large casserole and bring slowly to the boil. Cover, then transfer to the oven for 1½ -2 hours, by which time the vegetables will be very tender. Remove the bay leaf and liquidise the soup. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

### **GARDENING TIPS - GARDENING IN EARLY SPRING**

These tips are from '*A Year in your Garden*' by Ann Bonar.

**Kitchen Garden**:- Prepare soil outside by digging, weeding and feeding if necessary. Sow outdoor seeds such as broad bean, leek, onion, parsnip and summer spinach. Sow seeds under glass of Brussels, lettuce, peas, radish and summer cabbage and under glass with heat for aubergine, celery, cucumber, pepper and tomato. Plant outside - garlic, onion sets, if mild, early potato, rhubarb and shallot. Prune gooseberry if buds pecked out by birds and tips of raspberry canes. Spray soft fruit and protect brassicas, currant and gooseberry from birds. Feed all fruit if needed and ventilate greenhouses during the day.

**Flower Garden**:- Sow Hardy Annual seeds in prepared ground. Sow seeds under glass of dahlia, herbaceous perennials and rock plants and under glass with heat for half-hardy annuals and bedding plants. Plant biennials, herbaceous perennials, gladioli, montbretia, autumn-sown sweetpea. Divide herbaceous perennials and snowdrop clumps. Re-pot greenhouse and house plants that have overgrown their pots and top-dress any others by scooping out a 3cm layer and replacing with fresh compost. Take cuttings of chrysanthemum, dahlia, fuchsia and pelargonium. Space out and protect young greenhouse plants from sun. Lawn – rake, brush, spike and treat with weed killer and cut if needed with blades kept high. Lay new turf now.

**Shrub and Tree Garden**:- Plant deciduous trees, shrubs, climbers, roses, evergreens and hardier grey-leaved shrubs. Prune large-flowered, cluster-flowered and climbing roses, late summer-flowering shrubs and winter-flowering shrubs and trees. Finish pruning fruit and summer-flowering clematis. Cut back overgrown hedges and shrubs, removing dead wood. Feed all roses, summer-flowering shrubs and clematis and sites prepared for planting. Protect fruit trees from pecking by birds, wall grown fruits against cold and newly planted shrubs against rabbits, voles and deer. Look out for pests and diseases and treat accordingly. Pollinate apricots, peaches and nectarines. Increase fruit by grafting and clematis by layering. Inspect everything for winter damage, firm in new plantings and tie in grape vines.