

THACS

TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER MAY 2008

Dear Members,

Those of you who attended our Spring Show on April 12th will know we had a great success again and I quote, 'there was a lovely atmosphere'.

The planning of a show begins many weeks beforehand, with choosing categories, design, advertising, printing and distribution. Then organising the judges, prizes, catering and helpers for the big day, not to mention the finances involved, ably managed by our treasurer, Pat Fulford. Therefore, I would like to say many thanks to Anna Clark, who, as show secretary, was the head of operations and to the committee members who worked so hard in these capacities, and last, but not least, the members who came along to set-up, help on the day in every way and clear up afterwards.

Everyone did an excellent job and worked well as a team. Thank you all.

Gay Cates (Chairman).

THACS Spring Show - Saturday 12th April 2008

The seventh annual **THACS** Spring show was as colourful as ever, despite the unpleasant weather the week before, with a range of exhibits from tulips to chocolate cake, and children's marzipan animals to beautifully composed photographs on a variety of themes. There were poems about secrets, and calligraphy about gardens, wonderful flower arrangements and expert needlework by our talented members. Altogether - a show not to have missed!

The Van Hage Cup for Horticulture went to Anna Clark, while Audrey Walters excelled in the Arts & Crafts section and won the Tewin Society Salver. Linda Adams cooked her way to winning the Nodder Bowl for the Culinary Class, and Julie Bridgman's photographs came out on top to carry her points forward to the Autumn Show, when the annual award for photography will be awarded.

The Brownies and Rainbows took part as two groups, with their members entering different categories in the children's class, and their efforts made a tremendous difference to the look of the hall, and the number of entries submitted by children. It was therefore decided that **THACS** would award the Tewin Cowper School Children's Award to the Brownies and Rainbows to share equally for half of the year each.

73 exhibitors took part in the show, displaying a total of 261 entries. The number of entries in each class were:-

Class 1 Horticulture 84 Class 2 Arts & Crafts 21 Class 3 Photography 61
Class 4 Culinary 36 Class 5 Children 59.

<i>Special Awards for Highest Points</i>	<i>Winners</i>
Horticulture: Van Hage Cup	Anna Clark
Arts & Crafts: Tewin Society Salver	Audrey Walters
Culinary: Nodder Bowl	Linda Adams
Tewin Cowper School Children's Award	Awarded to the Rainbows and Brownies to share for 6 months each

<i>Other Prizes</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>
Horticulture	Anna Clark	Marie St Pier	Pat Fulford
Arts & Crafts	Audrey Walters	Gay Cates	Pat Klijn
Photography (points carried forward to autumn)	Julie Bridgman (9pts)	Gay Cates (4pts), Peter Burleigh (4pts)	Marylisa Webb (3pts)
Culinary	Linda Adams	Michela Browning, Hilary Tipping, Anna Clark	

<i>Children's Awards</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>
Horticulture	William Brady Maddie Gouldstone	Hannah Kirby	Lauren Walker
Arts & Crafts	Natasha Kerr Mary Cullen	Victoria Glew	Emily Cox
Photography (12 – 17 years) (points carried forward to autumn)	Christie Lockyer- Webb (8pts)	Keir Lockyer-Webb (7pts)	
Culinary	Connie Marshall Amelia Bennett	Lydia Bennett	Harriet Gouldstone

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## Recent Events

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

This visit was a great day out. Everything went smoothly and everyone seems to have enjoyed the day.

The exhibition explores one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century and provides an insight into China's First Emperor, Qin Shihuangdi, and his legacy. In introducing the idea of a unified state and effectively creating China in 221 BC, the First Emperor created what is today the oldest surviving political entity in the world.

Objects featured in the exhibition include a number of the world-famous terracotta warriors from Xi'an, China, which were buried alongside the First Emperor in readiness for the afterlife, as well as some of the most striking recent discoveries made on the site.

The exhibition is expertly staged, creating the appropriate atmosphere of grandeur and discovery. Despite the attempts by the museum to control the number of people and keep them moving, it was quite crowded and so we had to wait to get clear views of some of the exhibits, but they were worth the wait!

We had allowed plenty of time for our visit to the exhibition, so everyone had some spare time afterwards to explore the other parts of the magnificent museum and the numerous cafés and shops. It's good to be taken to these events by coach. However, we appreciated the return ride even more, since we could all relax and let someone else take the strain. We arrived safely back in Tewin just after 5 pm, with our minds still full of dramatic images of the formation of a country.

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

Russell Jeffery made his 18 **THACS** guests welcome with complementary drinks and biscuits, before giving a very lively and interesting talk. The main topic was hanging baskets and he demonstrated his approach by making a hanging basket display, using his preferred (and recommended) types of basket, compost, water-retaining gel, plant food and plug plants. In a generous gesture, Russell donated the resulting completed basket to **THACS** and it was subsequently agreed that it should be given to Karin Borg.

Russell's style was quite provocative and he touched on a wide range of topics, such as

- the impact of supermarkets and large DIY stores on garden centres
- trends in gardening retail
- impact of last summer's rain
- coping with the effects of milder winters
- pest control.

In view of this, the talk became more interesting and interactive. Our thanks go to Russell for a most thought-provoking and enjoyable evening.

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## Forthcoming Events

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

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 9:30 am. We will be returning at 3:30 pm, so should be back in Tewin about 5:30 pm.

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

More than a dozen gardens will be open from **10:00 to 17:00 on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June**, so this is a great opportunity to see some local gardens in early summer. Previous **THACS** Open Gardens days have been held in May, so this time you'll be able to see previously-opened gardens at a different time of year as well as seeing some gardens that are opening for the first time. 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, giving you entry to all of the gardens. They will be on sale at Tewin Stores, Tebbutts and Datchworth Stores from 2<sup>nd</sup> June. You may wish to get some ideas or talk to the owners about their gardens, or you can just enjoy the gardens. Come along for a lovely day out!

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 by 12<sup>th</sup> May, 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)

### **THACS stall at the Village Fete on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

THACS will again be managing the plant stall and will be grateful for any plants that members can spare to sell on the day. Unwanted seedlings, rooted cuttings and divided perennials will all be welcome. Please label and deliver to the stall on Lower Green in the morning. Alternatively you may leave with either Kate Stott at 20 Harwood Close (01438 717680) or Sue Whitbourn (01438 798221) at 107 Burnham Green Road.

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

Copped Hall is a burnt-out shell of a fine Georgian mansion sited on a ridge overlooking its landscaped parkland at Upshire near Epping. The mansion is visible from the M25 which passes through a corner of the park - you may have noticed it as you look across from the motorway near Junction 26.

The mansion was saved from extensive development by a group of individuals who set up a Trust with the aim of carefully restoring the house and gardens for educational and community benefit - that restoration is still very much 'work in progress'. **THACS** has arranged a group visit to Copped Hall on the afternoon of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August when we shall be able to tour both the house and gardens, guided by one of the volunteers involved in the restoration. Amongst the highlights will be the four-acre walled garden, flanked on one side by a 400 yard long traditional herbaceous border which should be magnificent in August.

Public access to Copped Hall can only be obtained by appointment so this event gives you a rare opportunity to see an unusual garden and the ongoing restoration work. The tour is scheduled to start at 2pm and is expected to take about 2½ hours. A nearby pub / restaurant has been recommended for lunch, so you have that option too.

The price for the guided tour will be £7 per person for members and £8 per person for non-members. Refreshments will be available (£2 for teas/ coffee and homemade cakes!).

In view of the short distance involved, we will not be organising a coach. Instead, we will be travelling by car, but we need to restrict the number of vehicles and coordinate their arrival to ensure that the gates will be opened. We would like to be able to organise lifts for the people who need them, so please give some thought to car sharing and indicate your preference on the form at the end of this newsletter.

If you wish to come, then please complete the form and send it with your cheque or cash, to Peter Burleigh by **9<sup>th</sup> June 2008**. We will then contact you nearer the time to give you map with directions and information about lunch options.

## **Future Events**

**THACS** has several events organised for later in the year. Further details will be published nearer the time but, meanwhile, here are some dates for your diary.

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

**Lunch and Guided Walk in St Albans on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008 (provisional)**

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

**Gardening talk in the Memorial Hall on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

## Obituary

Les Borg, the distinguished wildlife photographer, died on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008. It was only a few weeks before his 61<sup>st</sup> birthday and his untimely death followed a twenty month long illness.

He provided numerous beautiful photographs for many organisations, publications and for his village ventures including calendars and postcards. He had painstakingly built up a portfolio of bird, animal and landscape studies second to none and we were very fortunate to have such an accomplished professional living in our county.

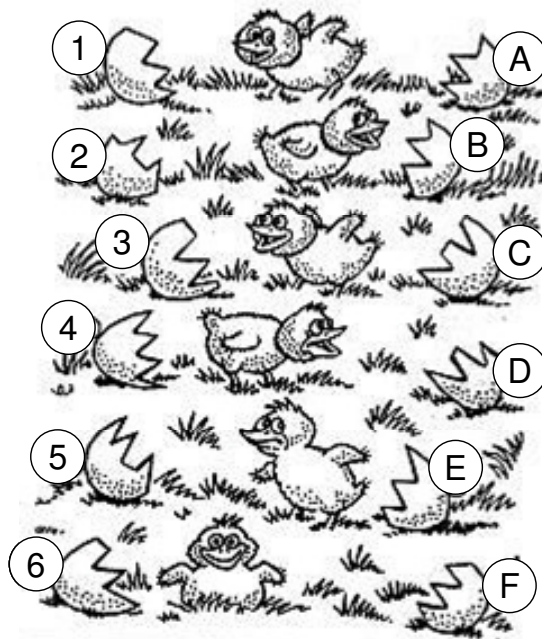
Les and his wife, Karin, moved to Tewin in 1984 where he was able to photograph the rich wildlife of the area. He served on local nature reserve committees and helped with voluntary work. For many years he used hides in Tewin Orchard and did much to develop the use of the mammal watching facilities there. As more and more of his time was devoted to photography and the digital applications in computers, he decided to run down the management work and set up *Les Borg Photography*.

He began to sell his pictures to bird watching magazines, travel brochures and newspapers and continued to support many of the local journals, too. His skill and technical brilliance meant that he was able to succeed in the very competitive world of wildlife photography at all levels, but he never neglected groups such as the *Tewin Society*, the *Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust*, the *British Naturalists' Association* and the *Barnet and Potters Bar RSPB Group*. All benefited from his pictures and his lectures illustrated by his work. He also ran popular photographic courses in Wales, Yorkshire and Scotland. He was passionate about the countryside and environment and that is why he saw the voluntary work as equally important as the commercial side of earning a living by photography.

We send our condolences to Karin in her sad loss.

## Children's Corner

Can you get the two halves of the six eggs together?



Once you have matched the halves, you can find the answers on the next page.

## CHILDREN'S' CORNER ANSWERS

1-E, 2-C, 3-A, 4-F, 5-D, 6-B

Answers

## Recipes

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

### Spinach & Nutmeg Soup

Serves 6. Preparation and cooking time 30mins

#### Ingredients:

25g butter  
1 large onion, finely chopped  
25g plain flour  
900ml Marigold vegetable boullion  
Juice of ½ lemon to taste  
700g fresh spinach  
Freshly grated nutmeg  
150ml fresh milk  
50ml single cream  
Salt & pepper

#### Method

1. Melt the butter and cook the onion very gently for about 10mins in a covered saucepan without colouring.
2. Stir in the flour and cook gently for 2mins. Gradually add the stock, lemon juice, spinach and nutmeg.
3. Cover, bring to the boil and simmer for about 5mins, until the spinach has wilted.
4. Cool a little then puree in a liquidiser.
5. Return to the clean pan and stir in the milk and cream. Reheat gently and serve.

## Gardening tips for May and early June

This is one of the busiest times in the gardening year, with the spring clear up to do, growing seedlings in the greenhouse, polytunnel units (such as Patiogro), or sunny windowsills, and preparation of the garden for your summer show!

● **Spring clear up.** If your narcissus and tulips have not been deadheaded, this should be done now, otherwise the goodness from the plant will go into producing seed instead of returning back to the bulb for next year's display. However, the leaves should be left to die naturally, rather than being tied up or cut back, as they take back the nutrients to the bulb better if left. Now is a good time to feed the bulbs with a mulch of compost or well-rotted manure, or a high potash feed, such as Phostrogen. If you have grown spring bulbs in

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ornamental pots, which you want to use for summer bedding plants, feed your bulbs, lift, store and label them in flower pots, and replant them in fresh soil in the autumn.

Slugs and snails love to hide under the dying leaves as they rot, coming out from their protection at night to eat your new tasty annuals and perennials. I have discovered a new (to me) pellet for slugs called 'Growing Success Advanced Slug Killer', which is available at the Pet and Garden Centre in Howardsgate, Welwyn Garden City, where, if you take along your **THACS** membership card, you can get a 10% discount on garden goods. It can be used around edible plants, and children and pets need not be excluded from where you have used it. Once attracted to the bait and having consumed it, slugs and snails cease to feed, and crawl into the ground or a secluded location to die, leaving no unsightly trace of slime secretion, and no necessity to collect corpses. My Hostas are certainly looking good so far, with no holes chewed in them to spoil their beautiful, unfurling leaves.



# Bedwell

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● **Growing in the greenhouse or polytunnel.** Things are beginning to get a bit cramped at this time of year, with tomato, cucumber, pepper and aubergine plants nagging you to be put in their allotted growbags, and seedlings all wanting to be pricked out or planted in the garden. It is great fun watching the seeds you sowed earlier as they develop, but cleanliness and organisation are the names of the game now. Always make sure that any pots and seed trays you have stored over winter are washed thoroughly before you pot up your seedlings, as they may well harbour baby slugs and snails and old soil can carry disease as well. Consider the conditions that different plants need; for instance, if you are potting on peppers, they will need more warmth and sunlight than say, lettuces and busy lizzies, so arrange plants in the greenhouse or polytunnel accordingly.

Many seedlings can now be hardened off before planting in the garden. Put the plants in a cold frame – you can make your own with planks of wood, covered with glass – and keep them there for at least a week, removing the glass on warm days, so that they become acclimatised to the outdoors. It is also worth scattering some slug pellets in the frame before you put your plants in, for obvious reasons!

● **Preparation for the summer garden show.** You will have been cutting the grass for a while now, I suspect, and it makes such a difference to see a tidy lawn with neat edges – it really improves the appearance of the garden. Composting the cuttings with vegetable peelings in your compost bins will give you wonderful free loamy goodness to put back onto your borders in months to come. We give everything to the chickens to eat, but it has the same recycling effect, as we use the manure from their droppings when the sheds are cleaned out!

Tall perennials, such as delphiniums, need staking now before they get too big, and some bearded irises may also need support. Collect sticks of dead wood to make pea sticks or use bamboo canes, and tie these in for peas, broad beans, sweet peas and any other annuals and perennials that you feel will need support.

Apply a balanced fertiliser around shrubs; these often get forgotten as you are so busy planting annuals. Russell Jeffrey, at Riverside Nursery, recommends Maxicrop original seaweed extract, which you dilute with water, for use as a natural bio-stimulant on flowers, fruit, vegetables, shrubs and trees. Use it early as a root drench or foliar spray and later, with fertilisers, to help ensure maximum nutrient uptake.

Having hardened off your half-hardy annuals and vegetables, you are ready to plant everything out into the garden at the beginning of June, after the fear of frost has passed. Firstly, make sure that the ground is clear, so that your plants don't have to compete with strong-willed weeds. Water the plants about an hour before planting out. Separate seedlings carefully, as their roots may have become intertwined, holding them by their stalk and leaves and gently pulling them away from the other plants. After planting, water in well and keep moist while they are establishing in the garden. Then you can sit back on your favourite garden chair and enjoy!

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

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Address.....

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

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Number of members.....

Number of non- members.....

Are you willing to give other people a lift? ..... (Yes / No).

If so, how many extra people could you take?.....

Would you like a lift? ..... (Yes / No)

Do you intend to have lunch at the pub / restaurant before the visit?.... (Yes / No)

I enclose £..... (£7.00 for members and £8 for non-members – cheques made out to **THACS**). Please send to Peter Burleigh, 23 Harwood Close, Tewin AL6 0LF by **9<sup>th</sup> June 2008**.