

# **THACS**

## **TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY**

### **NEWSLETTER JULY 2009**

#### **Chairman's Introduction**

I hope that you are enjoying the summer and that the good growing conditions have ensured that everything in your garden is growing well and looking healthy and lush.

Our full and varied programme of events for 2009 continues and we are 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 might remember the quiz night and meal that we held in December 2007. It was an enjoyable evening of fun and several people have asked if we're going to be doing it again. I'm pleased to be able to tell you that we are running another one, so come along and join us.

Ray Keppler (Chairman).

#### **Forthcoming Events**

**THACS Eighth Autumn Show on  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September**

*Calling all members!*

The marvellous growing weather this year will have put us in good stead for a bumper crop of vegetables and display of flowers in our gardens and allotments. The Autumn Show at the beginning of September is a great time to show what can be done, and if your forte is cooking, crafts, photography or flower arranging there is something for everyone. The society needs your efforts and talent to maintain the high standard achieved in previous years, so come along, have a go and support your village show!

Don't forget, the more categories you enter, the more likely you are to win a prize. Tell your friends about **THACS**, and encourage them to enter or come along to the show in the afternoon.

Schedules, with the rules and an entry form, are attached with this newsletter.

**They will also be available from**

**1<sup>st</sup> August in our local stores or from Anna Clark, **THACS** Show Secretary,  
Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green, Tewin AL6 0LX, telephone 01438 798324.**

Good luck with your entries, and we hope to see you at the show from 2.15pm on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

**The Rose & Crown  
Tewin**

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*Quiz Night - Wednesday*

*Music Quiz - 3rd Thursday  
of the Month*

# Tewin Motors

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**Steve Pocock - 07917 798500  
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(To find us, take the gravel road on the left just past the farm house)

## The Node Gardens Open Day and Exhibition on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September

The Codicote Local History Society and Environmental Group have organised an Open Day and Exhibition at Node Gardens, 2.00 - 6.00 pm on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September. This is a chance to tour the gardens with local historians on hand to guide you round if required. There will be an exhibition of the gardens in its heyday when there was an extensive Japanese Garden and it employed 30 gardeners. There will also be displays of other gardens in the area.

Tickets are **£6 per person** to include tea and refreshments and the idea is to raise funds to renovate the Paxton Peach House in the Orchard. Admission is by ticket only, obtained from **Mike Creasey, 5 Tithe Close, Codicote, Hitchin, Herts, telephone 01438 820487, email creaseys@btinternet.com.**

## Talk entitled *Food Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – why Britain needs a plan* on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September

The Datchworth Climate Change Group have organised a presentation and open forum entitled

*Food Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – why Britain needs a plan.* It will be presented by Patrick Holden, Director, Soil Association, in Tewin Memorial Hall at 7.00pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Tickets are **£3 per person** and they are available from **Barbara Massam, telephone 01920 830527, email events@datchworthccg.org.uk.**

## Quiz evening and meal on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October

There will be a quiz night, run by our local, distinguished quiz master, Andrew Whawell. It will take place at Tewin Memorial Hall on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October and it is open to members and non-members.

The doors open at 7.00pm and the quiz starts at 7.30pm. A supper of fish or chicken or veggie burger and chips will be available and will be served during the interval at about 8.30pm. Please bring your own drinks and glasses.

The price for this event is **£6 per person**, which covers the price of the supper and entrance to the quiz. Teams of eight will be formed on the night if you have not already arranged your quiz team. Those of you who came last time will remember how much fun we had, so to secure a place, please complete the form at the end of the newsletter as soon as possible and send it with your entry fee to **Pat Fulford, 27 Bishops Road, Tewin, AL6 0NP by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.**

## Future Events

### Photography talk on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Here is an early notification of a date for your diary. There will be a talk on photography during the evening of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 7.00pm – 9.00pm, at Burnham Green Village Hall. Further details will be given in the next newsletter.

### Calligraphy workshop

Would you be interested in taking part in a **THACS** calligraphy workshop?

Jo Cooper, who comes to judge our calligraphy efforts at the Spring Show, has offered to run a workshop for beginners for **THACS** in the Autumn on a Thursday or Friday afternoon or evening. If you are interested in learning the art of Calligraphy and would like to come along for a two hour session initially, please fill in the form attached at the end of the newsletter and send it to **Anna Clark, Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green, Tewin, AL6 0LX by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009.**

If we get a positive response, we will book the event and contact you.

## Recent Events

### Visit to RHS gardens, Wisley on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009

A full 57-seater coach left Tewin at 9:00am on our way to the RHS gardens at Wisley. After a smooth and comfortable journey, we set about exploring the gardens. More than 30 people elected to go on the optional guided tour and they were split into two groups, each with its own guide. The guides were very knowledgeable and achieved the right mix of horticultural and historical information, making the tour enjoyable and informative. Even seasoned Wisley visitors experienced new aspects of the garden. The tour took about 1½ hours so there was still plenty of time for lunch and exploration.

The new glasshouse and lake were magnificent and the surrounding planting was just starting to mature nicely. There were a series of glass panels either side of the path leading to the main entrance of the glasshouse, engraved with the names of the

numerous sponsors of the greenhouse construction. These included **THACS** and it was lovely to see our name there as a tangible indication of our support of the RHS.

## Card Inspirations

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The weather forecast had predicted some rain, but it did not materialise and so we were able to enjoy the gardens in dry weather. Some people visited the plant centre on the way out, resulting in an impressive collection of fine plants which were safely stowed in the coach's hold for the return journey. No doubt these plants will act as a living reminder of a great day out at Wisley.

**Treasure Hunt followed by BBQ at the Rose & Crown on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**THACS** was blessed with a rain free evening on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, when 24 intrepid walkers set out to solve the clever clues devised by Steve Stott. These clues told, in rhyming couplets, the route to take and questions to be answered along the way, in relation to **THACS** interests. Small groups of people met at the flagpole on Lower Green and were sent in four different directions on the same circuit to avoid any collusion. One group had chosen to do a shorter version of the walk and the non-walkers stayed in the Rose and Crown pub to puzzle over a quiz set for all the participants.

After the Treasure Hunt, everyone sat down to a tasty barbeque at the pub. The winners of the two walks and the quiz received delicious chocolate prizes, which they kindly shared around, so that all could relish.

It was a different and fun event, enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Steve Stott for preparing such imaginative clues.

# CATBELLS

TEWIN WOOD

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## BED & BREAKFAST

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woodland garden*

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**THACS plant stall at the village fete on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**THACS** plant stall at Tewin Village Fete was a great success, with many flowering plants, shrubs and vegetables and even some large walnut trees. People flocked to buy these plants and the helpers were kept very busy throughout the afternoon.

Many thanks to all who so generously donated their plants and their time in helping us, but especially to Sue Whitbourn, who was in charge of everything on the day. We raised more money than last year, despite the dull weather and were glad to be able to contribute £443 towards our village hall. Well done to everyone.

**Painting and Photography at Marden Hill on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009**

A painting and photography day was organised at Marden Hill by kind permission of Tove and Colin Huntley, who also opened their facilities for us. A group of enthusiastic artists were able to wander around the attractive grounds of Marden Hill House and choose a place to try their skills, by sketching, painting or taking photos for future reference.

The weather was warm and sunny and the atmosphere peaceful and relaxing. Apart from the artistic efforts, it was just good to sit and have our picnic lunch and chat with one another and enjoy a lovely day out.

Many thanks again to the Huntleys and residents of Marden Hill.

### **Visit to the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

This event was cancelled due to lack of support.

## **Recipes**

Courgettes are in season now, so here are a couple of recipes that use them in unusual ways.

### **Cheese and Courgette Muffins** - Makes 12 muffins

#### Ingredients

300g self-raising flour	Salt and pepper
3 tsp baking powder	75g grated Parmesan cheese
1 courgette [approx 200g]	150ml pot natural yoghurt
3 tbsp olive oil	3 eggs
3 tbsp milk	

#### Method

Set the oven to 200°C/Gas Mark 6 [adjust for fan oven]. Line a 12-bun muffin tin with muffin - paper cases. Put the flour, salt, pepper, baking powder, and Parmesan cheese into a large mixing bowl. Cut the stalk off the courgette, and then coarsely grate it. Add the courgette to the bowl with the yoghurt, eggs and milk. Fork together until just mixed. Spoon the muffin mixture into the muffin cases, filling each case two-thirds full. Bake them in the centre of the oven for 18-20 minutes until well risen and golden brown. Serve warm or cold with hot soup or a little butter for a snack.

### **Pitaroudia (Courgette Fritters)** - Makes 18-20 fritters

#### Ingredients

3 grated courgettes	2 large finely chopped, ripe tomatoes
1 small finely chopped red onion	1 tbsp of dried mint
3 tbsp of self-raising flour	1 egg
Salt & pepper	Sunflower oil

#### Method

1. Mix the courgettes, tomatoes, onion and mint in a bowl. Add the egg and stir the mixture until all the ingredients have combined.
2. Add enough flour to bind the mixture together (add more flour if the mixture is still runny). Season to taste.
3. Heat 3cm of sunflower oil in a shallow frying pan until very hot.
4. Spoon dollops of the mixture into the oil and turn the heat right down. Cook for 2-3 minutes on each side, until golden.
5. Leave to cool on some kitchen roll and serve hot with tzatziki (a refreshing and versatile Greek condiment made with yoghurt and cucumber).

## Cut out tiger mask

Cut around the dotted line, then thread some string through the holes on either side.

Colour in and wear, what a scary tiger you are! grrrrrr!



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# Amanda's

*in Datchworth*

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## **Jokes**

### **THE ITALIAN TOMATO GARDEN**

An Old Italian man lived alone in the country. He wanted to dig his tomato garden, but it was very hard work as the ground was hard. His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament.

*Dear Vincent,  
I am feeling pretty badly because it  
looks like I won't be able to plant  
mytomato garden this year. I'm just  
getting too old to be digging up a  
garden plot. I know if you were here  
my troubles would be over. I know  
you would be happy to dig the plot  
for me.  
Love, Dad*

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

*Dear Dad,  
Don't dig up that garden! That's where I buried the bodies.  
Love, Vinnie*

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left.

The next day the old man received another letter from his son.

*Dear Dad,  
Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.  
Love you,  
Vinnie*

## Quiz evening and meal Saturday 17th October 2009

Name/s .....Numbers.....

Address.....

.....

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

Please indicate your choice of meal below:-

<i>Meal</i>	<i>Number</i>
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Chicken & chips	.....
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Fish & chips	.....
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Veggie Burger & chips	.....
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(Each portion comes with knife, fork, salt, vinegar and serviette)

I enclose £..... (£6 per person)

Please make cheques payable to **THACS** and send to:-

Pat Fulford, 27, Bishops Road, Tewin, Herts. AL6 0NP by 30<sup>th</sup> September.

.....

## Calligraphy workshop

I would be interested in taking part in the workshop.

Name(s).....

Address.....

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

Using a scale of 1 (least preferred) to 4 (most preferred), please indicate your preference for each of the following workshop times.

		1	2	3	4
Thursday afternoon	2:30 – 4:30pm				
Thursday evening	7:30 – 9:30pm				
Friday afternoon	2:30 – 4:30pm				
Friday evening	7:30 – 9:30pm				

Please send or deliver to:-

Anna Clark, Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green, Tewin AL6 0LX by 31<sup>st</sup> August.