

THACS

TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to your December bonus newsletter! We hope that you enjoy it and that it will help to brighten the dark winter months.

Our AGM will be in January and the accompanying papers give more information about it. It is an important meeting and all members are urged to attend. The AGM will include the election of the officers and ordinary committee members as usual but, this time, we are facing more significant challenges and I would like your help in dealing with these please. During 2011, one committee member retired and a new one was co-opted onto the committee, so the current committee still has nine members. However, three are standing down at the AGM without replacements so – unless members come forward for election – your *THACS* committee for 2012 will consist of only six people. This is dangerously low.

We will try to mitigate the impact by making even more use of our wonderful staunch supporters but even this will still leave a committee that is too small to comfortably fulfil all of its duties. Unless we attract new committee members to take some of the load, we will have to reduce our activities which will be a detriment to our members. If this situation continues, it will threaten the viability of the Society. So please come and help us. If you would like to join the committee or are just curious about it, please let me know (contact details on page 5).

Ray Keppler (Chairman).

***THACS* Events**

For ease of reference, here are the dates and titles of our events, together with the closing dates for the associated bookings.

Date of event	Event	Closing date for bookings
Monday 16 th January 2012	<i>THACS</i> AGM and a talk on Wildlife Photography	No booking required
Wednesday 8 th February 2012	Visit to Anglesey Abbey gardens	Friday 27 th January 2012
Saturday 21 st April 2012	<i>THACS</i> Spring Show	See next newsletter in January 2012

Forthcoming Events

THACS AGM and a talk on Wildlife Photography on Monday 16th January 2012

The eleventh *THACS* AGM takes place at Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 16th January 2012 at 8.00pm. The presentation of the Tewin Society Award will start the evening and this will be followed by the AGM, a talk from a guest speaker and then refreshments (which will include wine).

The AGM will include the Chairman's and Treasurers report for 2011, the election of the officers and other committee members for 2012, a proposal to change our Constitution and Rules and then a preview of the events we will be holding in 2012.

The talk will be *A Passion for Nature* and it will be given by Anne Miles, who is an established and successful photographer, lecturer and tutor. The talk shows the natural world from a pictorial photographer's angle so it promises to be interesting.

More information about the AGM and the talk can be found in the associated papers accompanying this newsletter. Please read them before the meeting so that you will be ready to vote when necessary.

This is an important meeting for *THACS* and all members are urged to attend. Non-members are very welcome but not able to vote. The committee are looking forward to seeing you on the night.

Visit to Anglesey Abbey gardens on Wednesday 8th February 2012

THACS has arranged a visit to Anglesey Abbey gardens in Cambridgeshire to see their beautiful and inspirational winter garden. A path wends its way for almost a quarter of a mile through spectacular colours created by groups of Dogwood, Willow and Whitewashed Bramble. Scent and colour are provided by winter flowering shrubs including Viburnum, Mahonia, Sarcococca and Chimonanthus. Coloured tree barks and many different types of bulb and ground cover plants give added colour and interest. The Winter Garden contains some 150 species of plants chosen for their attractiveness in winter and it offers an oasis of colour when most gardens look grey and dull.

TEWIN STORES

**18a Hertford Road, Tewin
Telephone: 01438 717929**

Support your Community Shop, for locally sourced produce. Browse our shelves for your groceries and home made cakes. Enjoy a freshly brewed cup of coffee in our Café or sit in the sunshine in our Courtyard Garden. Why not become a Volunteer and participate in this exciting Village venture?

Come and see us, you will receive a warm welcome; opening hours are:-

**Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm
Saturday 8.30 am to 12.30 pm
Sunday 9 am to 12 am**

**The Post Office is open:-
Monday to Friday 9 am to 12 am
Saturday 9.30 am to 12.00 am**

During your visit, you will also have time to explore other areas of the wider 20th-century landscaped garden with its drifts of white snowdrops and yellow aconites and its superb collection of classical statuary.

Our summer garden visits have been very popular but this is the first time we have organised a visit to a winter garden. Don't be put off by the thought of winter weather, just wrap up warm and dry and come along for a memorable visit to probably the best winter garden in England.

Redwoods Restaurant is self-service and offers delicious home-cooked food, made with fresh local ingredients. There is also a shop and a plant centre. There are wheelchairs and electric buggies available for the less mobile, but there are a maximum of three buggies available per group and they are only usable for one hour as the batteries have less range in the colder months. Consequently, it is essential to book these buggies in advance.

National Trust members get free entry to the property but they must bring their membership cards with them on the day. The group rate for entry to the gardens for non-NT members is only £5.30 and consequently the prices are:-

	With National Trust membership	Without National Trust membership
<i>THACS</i> members	£11	£16.30
Non-members	£12	£17.30

The visit includes an optional guided tour for £3, which should be particularly useful to you if this is your first visit to the gardens. The tours will last about an hour and group sizes are limited, so booking is essential.

The coach will leave Tewin (from the bus stop opposite the Rose & Crown) at 9.30am, and will leave Anglesey Abbey for the return journey at 4.00pm. Please fill in the form on page 6 and send it, with your cheque (payable to *THACS*) to:- **Pat Fulford, 27 Bishops Road, Tewin, AL6 0NP by Friday 27th January 2012.**

Recent Events

Quiz evening on Saturday 29th October 2011

The *THACS* quiz night was attended by 45 people, forming six competing teams. These eager participants gathered to attempt the varied questions prepared by our local Quiz Master, Andrew Whawell. There was a tasty fish / chicken and chip supper in the interval and an ongoing question sheet to puzzle over, before the challenge of the quiz continued.

First prize went to the *Horned Vipers*, with 166 points (out of a possible maximum of 200). The second prize was shared between the *Wannabies* and the *Cobbles*, both with 163 points, whilst the bobby prize went to the aptly-named *No Hopers* with 119 points.

Andrew had carefully selected the questions with the aim of ensuring that every team scored more than 50% but no team scored 100%, so he certainly succeeded. It was a brain-teasing but enjoyable evening. Many thanks to the people who helped organise, to those who took part and to Andrew for another successful event.

Flower arranging talk and demonstration on Monday 7th November 2011

Joyce Furssedonn brought boxes of foliage and flowers, ornaments and vases, to the Memorial Hall for a fascinating talk and demonstration to about twenty five members and friends. Joyce is Chairman of the Welwyn Floral Group, she has been our Flower

Arranging judge at both the Spring and Autumn shows for two years, and she is very experienced at giving such demonstrations.

She produced three very different arrangements. The first was a Christmas wreath with a difference: orchids were used as the centre of attraction, with dried oranges and fir cones on wires pushed into oasis around the wreath, on a foundation of evergreen leaves and seasonal berries. The second arrangement started with a gold vase and an inner glass container holding the oasis. Fatsia leaves and fir sprays were used as the basis, and Joyce added the beautiful 'Bells of Ireland', lime green Chrysanthemums and gold Christmas balls on sticks to the artistic, modern arrangement. The third and final treat was an arrangement of pink roses plunged into a glass vase filled with gel and pink baubles. More foliage was added to set off the roses.

These impressive arrangements were auctioned at the end of the demonstration by Joyce's husband for THACS, and the evening ended with refreshments and a chance to chat to Joyce and admire her work.

Degas Dancers exhibition at the Royal Academy on Wednesday 16th November 2011

Forty-four members and friends were transported by Chambers Coaches to Piccadilly, outside the Royal Academy. Nine of these had elected to have a shopping day in the West End, and the remaining visitors entered the Academy for what proved to be a very interesting exhibition.

The theme through the works was the fascination of movement and, in particular, the movement of ballet dancers, and the exaggerated positions and compositions they created both on the ballet studio and stage floors, and in the paintings and sketches that Degas made. His work was influenced both by the Japanese art that was flooding the European market at this time, and also by the ground-breaking photography of Muybridge and Marey in particular, showing figures in action, examples of which were relayed on the walls of the gallery. In later years, Degas had a camera of his own, with which he continued the study of ballet form. We were able to see the cameras that Muybridge and Marey used, and throughout the technical side of this exhibition were shown the charcoal studies that Degas made of dancers, and his suggestion of movement in their arms, torsos and the positions of their feet and legs.

There were examples of Degas' sculpture as well as the beautiful paintings and pastels, including the much-loved '*Little Dancer Aged Fourteen*' with studies made for this sculpture all around the room in which it stood. Visitors to the Tate will be familiar with this sculpture, but it was here presented in a new light, with so much supporting material.

The exhibition concluded with a short film of the artist in old age. Sacha Guilty, the adventurous director, had approached Degas for permission to film him as part of a documentary he was making about living French artists, but was refused. Degas was now nearly blind, and Guilty decided to wait for him to walk along a familiar street with an escort, and shot some footage of him and others in the street.

At the end of the visit, we all met, and exchanged experiences of the day and photographs taken, which included some 'saucy' pictures of Fortnum and Mason's shop window mannequins!

Unfortunately, there was a ladies' green suede glove left on the coach. If it was yours, please re-claim it by contacting Anna Clark on 01438 798324.

ATTIMORE VETERINARY PRACTICE

WOOLMER GREEN TEL: 01438 815515

22a London Road, Knebworth SG3 6JP

Local convenient clinic with consultations by appointment, friendly and qualified staff, good parking and all the benefits of our 24 hour Hospital at Welwyn Garden City, should the need arise. (Telephone: 01707 331963).

We also sell a wide range of food and accessories.

The branch is open Monday to Saturday and provides complete health care plans for all ages.

We look forward to seeing you and your pet soon.

ATTIMORE
VETERINARY
GROUP



ATTIMORE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

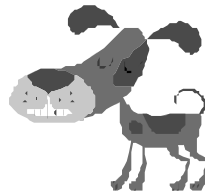
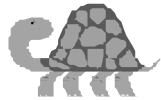
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Visit to Anglesey Abbey gardens on Wednesday 8th February 2012

Contact details

Name/s

Address.....

.....

Phone Number.....**Email**.....

Booking information

The following tables give the prices for all of the options. Please enter the number of persons required for each option in the boxes headed "Number" to the right of the associated price.

	With National Trust membership		Without National Trust membership	
	Price	Number	Price	Number
<i>THACS</i> members	£11		£16.30	
Non-members	£12		£17.30	

Total number of places required.....

Number of places for the guided tour (£3 each).....

Will mobility aids be required?

If so, please specify number and type (wheelchair or electric buggy).

.....

I enclose £.....

Please make cheques payable to *THACS* and send to:- Pat Fulford, 27 Bishops Road, Tewin, AL6 0NP by Friday 27th January 2012.

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