

THACS

TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012

Chairman's Introduction

The eleventh *THACS* AGM took place at Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 16th January 2012 and was attended by 48 people. I presented the Chairman's report for 2011 and Pat Fulford presented the Treasurer's report for financial year 1st November 2010 to 31st October 2011. We held the elections for the officers and remaining committee members and the names, telephone numbers and addresses of these individuals appear on page 5. The meeting then approved proposed changes to the *THACS* Constitution and Rules and I gave a preview of planned *THACS* events for 2012.

The AGM was followed by an inspirational photography talk entitled *A Passion for Nature* by Ann Miles, followed by refreshments.

**The twelfth *THACS* AGM will be held at Tewin Memorial Hall
on Monday 14th January 2013 at 8.00pm.**

Ray Keppler (Chairman).

AGM Report

Chairman's report for 2011

It's been another busy and successful year for *THACS*. We had a full and varied programme of events and all of them were well-supported, so thank you, members.

We organised and ran fourteen events during 2011. Each of them has been reported on in our newsletters, but its worth while taking a few moments on an over-view of the whole year.

1) Horticulture

We had several events for gardeners. There was a visit and guided tour of Margaret Easters' garden in June and a visit to RHS Hyde Hall gardens in August.

There was also the *THACS* plant stall at the Tewin Village Fete in June. This raised just over £340, which we made up to £500 before passing it onto the Tewin Memorial Hall Management Committee.

2) Arts

Art lovers had a bumper year.

There was a talk by Barry Dodge on the *Life and Work of Henry Moore* in this hall in May, attended by more than forty *THACS* members.

In June, there was a visit to *The Cult of Beauty* exhibition at the V&A museum and a guided tour of Leighton House. This was originally intended to be a coach trip, but there was insufficient support for that. So, instead of cancelling the whole event, we just cancelled the coach and the ten *THACS* members went by train.

Fifty people took part in our visit to Kenwood House and Estate in July, and had guided tours of both the house and the estate.

In November, forty-four people went by coach to 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 *Degas Dancers* exhibition.

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3) Crafts

The crafts were also well-represented.

There was a series of ten calligraphy workshops and three jewellery workshops.

Joyce Furssedonn gave a fascinating flower arranging talk and demonstration to about twenty five people in November.

4) Photography

Those interested in photography were treated to an informative and entertaining talk entitled *Victorian and Edwardian Photographs* by Bob White.

5) All

Horticulture, Arts and Crafts all come together in our shows.

The Spring Show in April and the Autumn Show in September were both well-supported and successful. In particular, the children and staff of Tewin

Cowper School provided marvellous support for the Shows by preparing friezes to decorate the hall, as well as entering lots of the school children's efforts in many of their categories.

The main aim of *THACS* is to promote and encourage interest in horticulture, arts and crafts, so it is particularly satisfying so many children had their work exhibited.

Our Spring and Autumn shows entail much hard work from the committee and other staunch helpers, who are always willing to support us in catering, setting up and clearing the hall. Thank you to these people and to the judges, who give us their valuable time and expertise.

6) Fun

Not everything we do is directly related to horticulture, arts or crafts. Sometimes it's just good to have some fun and that was certainly provided by the *THACS* quiz night in October.

As I complete my third year as chairman, I would like to express my gratitude to the *THACS* committee. We have an excellent team, who work well together and individually. Our thanks also go to the numerous willing members and supporters of the society, who reliably help us with many diverse tasks. Thank you all.

Ray Keppler (Chairman).

Treasurer's report for financial year 1st November 2010 to 31st October 2011

The 2011 financial year was successful and our funds are healthy and secure.

At the end of the financial year the cash surplus for the year was £679.46 compared with £1,215.28 in 2010 when there was a surplus of £646.00 on the Open Gardens event.

Deposits of £181.00 were received in 2010 for 2011, and deposits of £649.00 were received in 2011 for 2012. Removing the effect of these deposits over the year ends there was an income surplus of £211.46.

The Membership at the end of 2011 stood at 228 members compared with 214 members in 2010. Of the 228, 186 pay their subscriptions by standing order, making a savings on postage and administration costs.

Our Membership income of £1,125 covered the AGM costs, RHS Membership, the Newsletters, Printing and Sundry expenses, Gifts, plus the losses on our Spring and Autumn Shows. These expenses amounted to £1,097.44.

The Newsletter printing and postage costs for 2011 have increased by £9.58, which is the net result of increased postal costs, and 13 members electing to receive their Newsletters by email. Fifty seven members are now receiving their Newsletters by email

Income from Advertising was £273.00, an increase of £16.50 from 2010.

During the year we gave donations of £204.57, including £159.57 to the Tewin Memorial Hall, £25 to the British Legion, and £20 to two separate presentations.

The *THACS* plant stall at Tewin Fete in June brought in income of £340.43, which was paid in September to Tewin Memorial Hall together with a further donation of £159.57.

For use at the Shows, we purchased a triple safety screen for £556.49. This screen has given us considerable additional space for displaying our photography exhibits.

The schedule of the Analysis of the Accumulated Funds, reflects the income and expenditure details for the individual activities carried out during the year, and is also a guide to the make up of our results.

The RHS Hyde Hall visit gave a surplus of £185, and the visit to Kenwood House and Estate a surplus of £117. When pricing our events, we assume that 40 *THACS* members will take part, and the intention is to break even with the costs. For both Hyde Hall and Kenwood House, many non-*THACS* people joined the event and this resulted in the surplus amounts.

It was similar for Quiz night, when most persons who took part were not *THACS* members, and the result was a £69.24 surplus.

Margaret Easter's garden visit gave a surplus of £12.50, and her garden talk a surplus of £22.65, including the £15 deposits received in 2010.

The Life and Work of Henry Moore talk produced a surplus of £31.00

Nine Calligraphy workshops gave a £30.00 surplus, including the £60.00 deposits received in 2010.

Having achieved stable financial results for the year, the bank and cash balances to be carried forward at 31st October 2011 were £ 6,248.11.

We shall continue to act carefully to ensure our Society's finances remain secure.

Pat Fulford (Honorary Treasurer).

Election of Officers and Committee for 2012

The following officers were elected.

Chairman	Ray Keppler
Treasurer	Malcolm Allen
Secretary	Nick Whiting

Anna Clark was Vice Chairman in 2011 but she has resigned from the committee. Anna has made an enormous contribution to *THACS* over the eleven years since it was founded. She has served as Chairman for four years, Vice-chairman for three years and Secretary for three years as well as being our perennial Show Secretary and organising innumerable events. She has nurtured *THACS* from its inception and guided it to become an established and successful society and that is a significant achievement. She already has the distinction of being our only Honorary Life Member.

We do not have a candidate for the role of Vice Chairman and so it will remain vacant for this year.

Pat Fulford has served as Honorary Treasurer for four years and has resigned from the committee. Pat has served on the committee for seven years and, in addition to her good work as Treasurer, she has maintained our membership records, successfully recruited advertisers for our newsletters and show schedules, organised the distribution of the newsletters, dealt with the administration of most of our outings, helped out at shows and just generally been extremely helpful.

Malcolm Allen was elected as the new Honorary Treasurer.

Doreen Lloyd and Kate Stott have resigned from the committee and so did not stand for re-election. Doreen served as Honorary Secretary for three years and stood down from this role at the last AGM. She remained a committee member but then decided that it was time to leave the committee earlier this year. Kate Stott served on the committee for five years in various roles including catering and organising the *THACS* plant stall at the village fete.

The remaining members of the committee, Terry Brand and Lynne Burgess were re-elected. Jim Hall had been co-opted onto the committee in 2011 and was duly elected. Graham Spring has been the independent examiner of our accounts for several years and this was formally recognised by electing him as our Auditor.

THACS committee members for 2012 and their contact details are given in the table below.

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Name	Telephone 01438-	Address
Malcolm Allen	798749	47 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood
Terry Brand	718700	16 Lower Green
Lynne Burgess	798799	14 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood
Jim Hall	718505	5 School Lane
Ray Keppler	717545	15 Upper Green Road
Nick Whiting	717230	5 Churchfield Road

Forthcoming Events

Calligraphy workshops in Burnham Green Hall starting on 3rd February 2012

The calligraphy workshops will continue this year in Burnham Green hall and the first three have been booked for **Fridays 3rd February, 24th February and 30th March**. If you attended the classes last autumn, then Anna Clark will contact you about these workshops. If you are interested in attending but have not been along before, or would like to find out more about them, then please contact **Anna Clark, Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green, Tewin, Herts AL6 0LX (telephone 01438-798324)**.

THACS Spring Show in Tewin Memorial Hall on Saturday 21st April 2012

The *THACS* Spring Show will be held on **Saturday 21st April**. The show schedule, rules and entry form are with this newsletter. Further copies can be obtained from Tewin Stores or the *THACS* page on www.tewinvillage.co.uk from 1st March. Please make sure that your completed entry forms and fees are delivered to **Ray Keppler, 15 Upper Green Road, Tewin, Welwyn Herts AL6 0LE by Sunday 15th April 2012**.

Please note that we've made some substantial changes to the show schedule and rules this year, so please read them carefully before you submit your entry forms. In particular, **no entries will be accepted after 12:00 Thursday 19th April** so please submit your entry forms and fees in good time.

Entries should be taken to the hall between 8.30am and 10.30am on the day. 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.

Entry fees remain unchanged at 25p per entry for members, 50p for non-members and 10p for children. However, we have abolished the admission charge of 50p to the Show in the afternoon so admission will be free.

We hope that as many of you as possible will enter the shows this year; we try to offer a varied selection of categories, both for adults and children, so please have a go and ask a friend too!

Future Events

Plant stall at Village Fete on Saturday 30th June 2012

The Tewin Village Fete will be on Saturday 30th June and we intend to have a plant stall there as usual. We'd appreciate your donation of plants and seedlings so please keep this in mind when you're sowing and propagating in spring.

Open Gardens

We hope to run Open Gardens again this year, with a variety of gardens in Tewin, and also gardens of members outside the village. We are aiming to open the gardens on a Saturday and/or Sunday in May, and would like as many gardeners as possible to join in.

If you would be prepared to open your garden for a day, or if you would just like to know more about what it involves, then please contact Jim Hall on 07731 381734 or email to jimjhall@o2.co.uk.

THACS Autumn Show

The Autumn Show will be held on **Saturday 15th September 2012**

Jewellery workshops in Homebeads, Knebworth

We hope to organise some more jewellery workshops at Homebeads, Knebworth. If you are interested in attending these, or would like to find out more about them, then please contact **Anna Clark, Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green, Tewin, Herts AL6 0LX (telephone 01438-798324).**

Arts & Crafts fair and sale

We intend to hold another arts & crafts fair and sale in the autumn but can't give you a date for this yet.

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We Deliver Locally

Appeal for help

Your *THACS* committee for 2012 has only six members. This is dangerously low. Consequently, we have not organised any other events for 2012 and we are unable to commit to getting any more done.

Unless we have new committee members to take some of the load, we will have to reduce our activities which will be detrimental to all the members. If this situation continues, it will threaten the viability of the Society. So please come and help. If you would like to join the committee or are just curious about it, please let any committee member know.

We have plenty of ideas for other events. Our summer garden visits have been very popular, so it would be lovely if we could organise another one this year. We'd also like to hold more talks and demonstrations in Tewin Memorial Hall too. If you would like any of these things to happen and are prepared to organise them, then please let us know!

In addition to needing more committee members and / or people to organise events, we are always looking for new helpers for a wide variety of things, such as

- 1) setting up and clearing the hall
- 2) making cakes for use at our events
- 3) serving refreshments at our meetings

- 4) providing plants for us to sell
- 5) manning our plant stall at the Village Fete
- 6) distribution of the newsletter.

If you are willing to help in any of these tasks, please let any committee member know.

THACS is a thriving society and is well supported by its members and friends. Let's keep it like that and help in whatever way we can.

The Tewin Society Award

The winner of the first Tewin Society Award is Margaret Knight.

So much of the beauty of Tewin is due to the tree planting scheme which our Margaret organised over many years.

To appreciate the significance of Margaret's achievements, we need to consider its impact on the village landscape. For centuries, Tewin had been a village with a landscape dominated by huge ancient Elm trees. After Dutch Elm disease and the felling of all of these trees, all that remained were the saplings, which grew for a few years and then died. The appearance of Tewin without its beautiful Elm trees changed completely.

The Parish Council asked the Tewin Society to provide a Parish Tree Warden whose role would involve the planting of trees and monitoring of their health and growth. Margaret Knight took on that role. She ran a project that involved the planting of saplings which are now fully grown trees enhancing the roadside landscape virtually everywhere in Tewin and the Mimram valley. A great number of trees have been planted in the village due to her organising the working parties. Under her direction, these groups of local helpers also cleared ponds, tidied undergrowth and planted many spring bulbs. Margaret was also closely involved was the planting of the Hundred Year Wood in 1995 and selecting the Millennium oaks.

Her aim has always been the conservation of the environment and the care and beauty of Tewin. She has excelled in this and her efforts have resulted in a truly spectacular achievement.

She was unable to attend the *THACS* AGM meeting to be presented with her award due to illness, so the prizes were delivered to her later. The Tewin Society Award plaque had been engraved with her name and the year of the award (2011) and Margaret will have it for a year. She also received a presentation crystal vase which comes with a separate small base inscribed with "The Tewin Society Award 2011".

Our congratulations to Margaret and our thanks to all those who helped her in this work.

If you submitted a nomination for this award, then thank you. If your local hero was not successful this year then we hope that you will nominate them again for the 2012 award.

Ray Keppler (Chairman of the Tewin Society Award committee).

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Ray Keppler Email: raykeppler@btinternet.com Telephone: 01438 717545

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