

# **THACS**

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

### **NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014**

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

On behalf of the committee, thank you to the 43 people who braved the wind and rain to attend our AGM on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January. The evening went very smoothly and I hope that you enjoyed it.

The minutes of the AGM have been distributed with this newsletter, so you get the full AGM minutes promptly. The Spring Show Schedule has also been distributed with this newsletter, so you have a bumper package this time.

This newsletter includes three appeals to you:- for garden owners willing to open their gardens, for more people to exhibit at the Spring and Autumn shows and for plants for Tewin Cowper School. Please consider these appeals and help with any of them if you can.

Ray Keppler (Chairman)

#### **THACS Events**

For ease of reference, here are the dates and titles of our events.

<b>Date of event</b>	<b>Event</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014	Creative writing workshop
5 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	Spring Show
18 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	Open Gardens

#### **Plants for Tewin Cowper School**

As part of our liaison with Tewin Cowper School, we want to help them establish a new section of their garden. They want to plant-up the bare area surrounding the swimming pool fence with nectar-rich, wildlife friendly plants, shrubs and herbs. The children play right next to this area and would benefit greatly from watching all the butterflies and bees it would attract.

So this is an appeal to any of you who feel you may be able to provide them with such plants. Buddleja, lavender, teasels and herbs are just a few examples and would do very nicely. The gardeners amongst you will know of a lot more! You may have surplus plants or maybe you could grow some from cuttings.

The work is being lead and coordinated by Esther Carley (mother of a pupil), who has organised Saturday working parties. The 'Big Dig' garden working party will be on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 9am-4pm. Come along anytime between these times, for however long you can manage and help us dig over the area we are going to plant-up and to dig the holes for the fruit trees. (If the weather is bad or the ground frozen solid, it will be postponed to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March).

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 9am-4pm is the 'Big Plant-up' where all the plants will be planted out. (If the weather is bad, this will be postponed to Sat 15th March). If you would like to donate plants before then, or you need any other information about this, then please contacted Esther on 01438-717734.

The working parties have already made significant improvements, including building four more raised beds to add to the two that THACS donated. This means that every class has their own

raised bed and the children will be encouraged to grow their own food, which can then be cooked in the classroom. We wish to support this initiative, so we have just made a donation of £100 towards the cost of buying gardening tools and equipment.

## Exhibitors at Spring and Autumn Shows

The Spring and Autumn shows last year were enjoyable and successful and the quality of exhibits was generally good. However, there is scope for making the shows bigger and better, with your help. For this, there needs to be more people exhibiting.

There is a trend showing that number of exhibitors has been decreasing over recent years. There were 87 exhibitors in the Spring Show in 2013, down 36% from the peak of 136 in 2011. Similarly, there were 40 exhibitors in the Autumn Show in 2013, down 64% from the peak of 111 in 2010. Some of these exhibitors have increased the number of their entries, so the decreases in the number of exhibits have not been so large. Even so, the numbers have decreased significantly. There were 243 exhibits in the Spring Show in 2013, down 35% from the peak of 371 in 2011. Similarly, there were 290 exhibits in the Autumn Show in 2013, down 45% from the peak of 528 in 2010.

These figures are for all exhibitors and exhibits, including children. If we just focus on the adults, we see that there were only 23 adult exhibitors in the Spring Show and 26 in the Autumn Show. This represents 12% of the *THACS* membership, so there is huge scope for increase.

There are numerous factors that affect the number of exhibits at any show, such as the timing of the shows and the preceding weather. However, it is clear that there is an opportunity to make the shows bigger and better.

So, as Show Secretary, I'm appealing to you for help in adding to the number of exhibits and overall interest and diversity of the shows.

If you are a regular exhibitor, then thank you. Please continue to exhibit and if you know people who share your interest then please encourage them to enter too.

If you have not exhibited before, then please consider entering in 2014. There are classes covering flower arranging, flowers, vegetables & fruit, photography, culinary and a wide range of arts & crafts, so there is something for everyone. The shows are enjoyed by villagers and visitors, so come and meet friends and have fun. There was a first time for all of us so don't be afraid of having a go!

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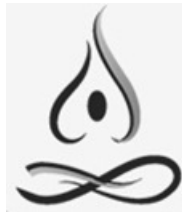
OPENING TIMES:

MONDAY - SATURDAY 9.30am -  
5.30pm

SUNDAY CLOSED

Ray Keppler (Show Secretary)

## Tewin Pilates



Pilates classes held in Tewin Pavilion,  
Upper Green, Tewin, AL6 0LX  
Classes held during the day: Mondays 1.15pm,  
Tues, Weds & Fridays 9.15am & 10.30am  
Evening classes:  
Wednesday & Thursday 7-8pm & 8.15-9.15pm

For more info contact Julie on: 07788 648438  
juleskimber@tewinpilates.com  
www.tewinpilates.com



## Forthcoming Events

### Creative writing workshop on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014

The THACS spring writing workshop will take place on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March from 10am until 4pm. This is just a few days before the spring show which may give you the inspiration you want to put forward your best piece into the show (Class 3 Arts & Crafts, category 6 poetry or prose). If you're not exhibiting at the show, we hope you will come along for the sheer pleasure of writing and the enjoyment of the day.

The arrangements for the day will be as usual with Frances Wilson leading and each participant being asked to bring something to share for lunch. Frances is happy to have between 4 and 10 writers and the cost will be between £10 and £25 depending on numbers. .

Please register your interest with

Joanne Allen on 01438-798749 or jrallen14@hotmail.co.uk. Firm bookings will be required by 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## Spring Show on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014

The THACS Spring Show will be held on **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.tewinvillage.co.uk) from 1<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> March**.

Please note that **no entries will be accepted after 12:00 Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** so please submit your entry forms and fees in good time.

Exhibits 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, there will be free admission to visitors in the afternoon.

So go on, take a look at the categories and have a go. You never know, you could be a winner! Ask your friends along to see the show in the afternoon. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Open Gardens on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2014

We are planning an Open Gardens Day on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2014 with several local gardens open from 11.00am to 6.00pm. This is a very popular event with local residents, whether they are gardeners or not. It is a very nice way of spending a couple of hours, travelling around the village and being welcomed into private gardens.

We are delighted that a number of gardeners have already agreed to open up their gardens to the public and join us in what should be a great day. It is lovely to chat to the visitors who come and admire your gardening skills.

Lots of us enjoy spending time in the garden and do our best to put on a lovely display. So, if this is you, then why not join in and open your garden on the 18<sup>th</sup> May?

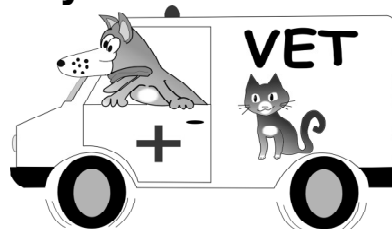
If you think that maybe your garden isn't of a good enough standard, please don't be put off! In the past we have had gardens that are still a "work in progress". We have seen small gardens, large gardens, it really doesn't matter and it is just an enjoyable event to be a part of.

If you are willing to open your garden on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May, or if you would like more information or advice then please contact Jim Hall (email [jimjhall@btinternet.com](mailto:jimjhall@btinternet.com) or telephone 01438 718505).

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**Mon-Fri. 8am – 6pm**

**Sat. 9am – 4pm**

## Future Events

In addition to the events described above, we intend to run more events as follows:-

- 1 Art Workshop in June
- 2 THACS sponsored plant stall at the Village Fete on 28 June
- 3 Visit to RHS Wisley in the summer
- 4 Flower arranging talk in August
- 5 Autumn Show 6<sup>th</sup> September
- 6 Arts and crafts sale on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November
- 7 A visit to an art venue in October/November

We look forward to more days out in 2014 and (as we discussed at the AGM) we are looking to you, our members, to suggest locations. We are also looking for suggestion for events we can hold in the village, such as talks, demonstrations and workshops. Our aim is to provide a variety

of events for members in line with *THACS* objectives, which (as the name suggests) is to promote horticulture, arts and crafts. Don't forget, if you come up with the ideas, we will do the organising.

Please email your ideas to Jim Hall [jimjhall@btinternet.com](mailto:jimjhall@btinternet.com) or telephone him on 07731381734.

## Recent Events

### ***THACS* AGM on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

The thirteenth *THACS* AGM took place at Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 and the minutes have been distributed with this newsletter. Please note the announcement about the discontinuation of *THACS* membership cards.

We held the elections for the officers and remaining committee members and the names, telephone numbers and addresses of these individuals are as follows:-

| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Telephone 01438-</b> | <b>Address</b>              |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 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          |

After the AGM, our guest speaker Dr David Butcher delivered his talk entitled *The Art of Monochrome Landscape and City Photography*. His presentation featured a collection of stunning black and white photographs from around the world to show the more artistic side of landscape and cityscape photography. It was a very enjoyable and informative presentation that was well received by the enthusiastic audience.

### **The Tewin Society Award**

The presentation of the third annual Tewin Society Award for Heritage, Conservation and environment took place in Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January, immediately before the *THACS* AGM.

David Gregg started the presentation by announcing the winner and describing the work being recognised by the award. The winner of the 2013 Tewin Society Award is Patrick Holden.

Patrick received his award for his leadership in the 1980s and 90s of a team of more than 50 people who cleared,

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rehabilitated and mapped the footpaths of Tewin. The culmination of the project was a beautifully illustrated map, still available today from Tewin Stores, used by many walking groups around the county and from further afield. More maps have been sold than there are people in Tewin and the maps have gone across the world to Australia and beyond. A more detailed account of the work can be found on pages 242 & 243 of "*The History of Tewin by the People of Tewin*".

In accepting the award, Patrick was careful to thank the many people who helped with this venture. He said, "Our village map is an exemplar for other community maps and has stood the test of time over several decades".

I was delighted to present the award to Patrick. The Tewin Society Award plaque had been engraved with his name and the year of the award (2013) and Patrick will have it for a year. He also received a presentation crystal bowl which comes with a separate small base inscribed with "The Tewin Society Award for Heritage, Environment and Conservation 2013".

Our congratulations go to Patrick and our thanks and gratitude to all those who helped him in this work.

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

#### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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

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**All Enquiries Welcome**

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