

THACS

TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2015

Chairman's Introduction

The *THACS* Spring Show helped celebrate the arrival of spring, so I hope that you came along to enjoy the show. The report and results appear below.

We have arranged a visit to Audley End house and gardens for Tuesday 7th July. This may seem to be a long way off, but I expect this to be a popular event so recommend that you book early to ensure your place. Details are given on pages 4-5, along with a booking form on page 10.

I am delighted to welcome Alice Greenwood to the *THACS* committee. She will no doubt bring a fresh perspective as well as a helping hand, so look out for her at future events. I'm also grateful to Audrey Walters and Shirley & Simon Barker, who volunteered to help with poster duties and started with the posters for the Spring Show. Their assistance makes a difference and is much appreciated.

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	Event	Closing date for bookings
7 th July	Visit to Audley End house & garden	29 th June
9 th August	Calligraphy workshop	31 st July
19 th September	Autumn Show	13 th September
19 th October	Creative writing workshop	
31 st October	Arts & Crafts Fair	

***THACS* Spring Show on Saturday 11th April**

Well done to all who took part in the *THACS* Spring Show.

The display in the main hall was lovely. There were impressive flower arrangements, a colourful display of horticulture exhibits, mouth-watering culinary exhibits and beautifully made hand-crafted items, together with thought-provoking poetry and prose. The children's art exhibits were delightful and very colourful: - there were so many that the display was divided between the main hall and the corridor. The children also provided lovely displays to decorate the hall and the overall effect was enhanced by the bunting that had been put up in preparation for an event on the following day.

The Parish Room contained the photographs, paintings and calligraphy. We had received some requests to include more opportunities to enter paintings in the spring shows, and we responded by including three painting categories in the Arts & Crafts class. This change resulted in 26 paintings being exhibited (split fairly evenly between the three painting categories) and they certainly enhanced the show. The number of adult photography exhibits was slightly lower than

last year and unfortunately there were no children's photographs so the whole display was smaller.

Overall, the show was smaller than the spring show last year. There were a total of 121 exhibitors and 293 exhibits, compared with 161 exhibitors and 364 exhibits last time. The number of adult exhibitors and exhibits was very similar to last year, so the reductions in size were mainly due to having fewer children entering. There were 90 children exhibitors and 103 children exhibits, compared with 130 exhibitors and 170 exhibits last time. Even so, that is a good number of children exhibitors and it would be incredible if we got the same number of adults entering!

The adult trophy winners were Mavis Haggard for Flower Arranging, Ray Keppler for Horticulture, Shirley Ashby for Arts & Crafts, Jules Bridgman for Photography, and Shirley Barker for Culinary. Imogen Winters won the Tewin Cowper School Award for the highest number of points in the children's classes for horticulture, arts & crafts and culinary. There were no children's photographs, so the Les Borg Cup for Children's Photography was not awarded. A full list of all the prize-winners is shown below.

Many thanks to everyone who helped at the shows:-

- The staff, helpers and children at Tewin Cowper School, Tewin Tots, the Under-Fives Pre-school and the Parent & Toddler Group, who have been very enthusiastic and supportive
- The judges, who give their time and expertise freely
- The Judges' Stewards, who helped the judges and recorded the results
- Rev'd Susannah Underwood and Rosemary Nodder who presented some of the prizes
- Mike Clark and John Ling for taking the photographs
- Kirston Winters for being the auctioneer
- The committee, who worked so hard to make the show a success
- All the helpers behind the scenes, setting up and clearing the hall, manning the door, helping with teas, cakes, lunch for the judges and washing up
- All the exhibitors, without whom there would be no show!

Ray Keppler (Show Secretary)

<i>Special Awards for Highest Points</i>	<i>Winners</i>
Flower Arranging: Welwyn Times Trophy	Mavis Haggard
Horticulture: Van Hage Cup	Ray Keppler
Arts & Crafts: Tewin Society Salver	Shirley Ashby
Photography: Peter Allen Memorial Cup	Jules Bridgman
Culinary: Nodder Bowl	Shirley Barker
Tewin Cowper School Children's Award	Imogen Winters
Children's Photography: Les Borg Cup	NOT AWARDED

<i>Other Prizes</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>
Flower Arranging	Mavis Haggard	Audrey Walters	Judy Puddefoot
Horticulture	Ray Keppler	Anna Clark	Shirley Barker
Arts & Crafts	Shirley Ashby	Terry Brand	Diana Brannen & Audrey Walters
Photography	Jules Bridgman	Terry Brand	Ray Keppler
Culinary	Shirley Barker	Hilary Tipping	Linda Crawford

<i>Children's Awards</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>	<i>Third</i>
Horticulture			
Nursery & Reception	Ashley Winters	Kitty-Rose Carley	Imogen Winters
School years 1 & 2	Riley Gibbons	Annabel Goodison	May Carley
School years 5-7	Luke Faraway		
Arts & Crafts			
Nursery & Reception	Imogen Winters	Kitty-Rose Carley, Peter Goodison & Ashley Winters	
School years 1 & 2	Annabel Goodison	Andrea*	Riley Gibbons & Tegan*
School years 3 & 4	Ocean*	Amelia*	Alfie*
School years 5-7	Saffy* & Ellie-Rose*	Una* & Charlie*	Ashley* & Mathew*
Culinary			
Nursery & Reception	Imogen Winters	Ashley Winters	Kitty-Rose Carley
School years 1 & 2	May Carley		

*:- These children are pupils at Tewin Cowper School.

Forthcoming Events

Plant stall at the village fete on Saturday 27th June

Despite earlier doubts, the village fete will go ahead and it will be held on Saturday 27th June. THACS will be organising the plant stall again and all the monies raised go to help maintain the village hall, so it's a very worthy cause.

Please support this effort by providing us with plants that we might sell on the stall. Now is a good time for spring sowing, so please think ahead about what you might be able to cultivate for the stall. If there are seedlings left over they might be just the thing for people to buy later on. When you start on the herbaceous beds there may be a bit of dividing or thinning to do. You may have plants that others would value highly so keep us in mind when you find spare offshoots and seedlings.

If you have any plants to donate, then please bring them along to us at the plant stall on Lower Green during the morning of the fete. If this would be inconvenient then you can drop them off before the fete to either Nick Whiting, 5 Churchfield Road, or Sue Whitbourn, 107 Burnham Green Road. Any further enquiries to Nick on 01438 717230.

Visit to Audley End house & gardens on Tuesday 7th July

Audley End is an English Heritage site at Saffron Walden, Essex. It offers a wide range of attractions, including extensive landscaped gardens, stunning views across the unspoilt Essex

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countryside, a decadent Jacobean mansion house, an 1880's service wing and a working Victorian stable yard. There is something there for everyone, so come along and join us for a great day out!

The gardens were among the largest and most opulent in Jacobean England. They reflect the work of two of the most famous and influential designers of the 18th century. Lancelot 'Capability' Brown swept away the remnants of a declining formal garden to create extensive views, a serpentine lake and more natural planting. The neoclassical designer Robert Adam designed the elegant garden buildings, such as the bridge over the River Cam.

There is a beautiful restored parterre and the walled kitchen garden is run entirely on organic principles. On the way to the kitchen garden is the Elysian Garden, with its Tea House Bridge, cascade and wonderful London plane tree. The garden is a great place to sit and, if you're lucky, to see the kingfishers. In the Pond Garden the summer bedding has a typically Victorian hot-coloured

theme, with banana plants, cannas, dahlias, zinnias, rudbeckias and the lovely Spanish flag. The climbing and rambling old-fashioned English roses along the walls give a romantic feel to this quiet oasis.

The mansion was once one of the largest and most opulent houses in Jacobean England. Whilst there, you'll be able to discover the history of Audley End, wander the impressive great hall, magnificent state apartments, intimate dressing rooms, libraries and 18th century gothic-style chapel with more detail than ever before.

There is a nursery where you can get a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the eight Braybrooke children who lived there with their governess, nursemaids and tutors.

The 1880's service wing will enable you to experience a world of hierarchy, discipline, long hours and hard labour, through film projections, introductory wall displays and even traditional food from the era. Carefully restored to its former heyday, you can wander through a world 'below stairs' that was never intended to be seen. This insight into earlier times continues in the Victorian stable yard where you can see the resident horses and an interactive exhibition tell the story of the estate at work and play.

There are two cafes. Locally-sourced hot and cold meals, drinks and snacks will be available from the Servants' Hall Tea Room, whilst light refreshments will be available at the Cart Yard Café next to the children's play area.

Disabled access is reasonably good, although there is no disabled access to the first floor of the house and the tearoom is only partially accessible. Mobility scooters and wheelchairs are available free of charge, but must be booked in advance.

English Heritage members get free entry to the property but they must bring their membership cards with them on the day. Other people in our group will benefit from the 15% discount given to groups like ours. The resulting prices are:-

	With English Heritage membership	Without English Heritage membership		
		Adult	Concession ¹	Children ²
THACS members	£10.00	£23.50	£22.00	£18.00
Non-members	£12.00	£26.00	£24.50	£20.50

¹:- Concession prices are available to people who are aged 60 or over

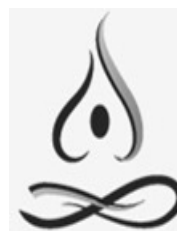
²:- Prices available to children who are aged between 5 and 15.

The free guided tours of parts of the garden last about one hour but these are lead by volunteers, so their availability cannot be guaranteed. There are no tours of the house (because of the restricted size of some of the rooms) but there will be room guides in the main areas.

If you want to find out more about Audley End house & gardens before visiting, then please see their web site at <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/audley-end-house-and-gardens/>.

The coach will leave Tewin (from the bus stop opposite the Rose & Crown) at 9:30am, and will leave Audley End for the return journey at 3:30pm. Please fill in the form on page 10 and send it, with your cheque (payable to THACS) to:- **Ray Keppler, 15 Upper Green Road, Tewin AL6 0LE by Monday 29th June 2015.**

Tewin Pilates



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Calligraphy workshop on Sunday 9th August

Calling all calligraphers or potential calligraphers!

There will be a half-day calligraphy workshop between 2 - 5pm on Sunday 9th August. It will take place in Burnham Green hall, where refreshments will be provided during the afternoon. This workshop will be run by Mark L'Argent, who is a practising calligrapher and teacher and also judges the calligraphy entries at the *THACS* Spring show. Mark will bring some examples of student projects and his own work to show us, and will set us an exercise for the session. He will provide calligraphy marker pens and paper for this. You can see sample calligraphy scripts at www.writemarkdesign.co.uk and examples of creative pieces at www.largent-art.co.uk.

The fee for the three hour tuition and work practice is £12.00 for *THACS* members or £15.00 for non-members. This includes materials, hire of the hall and refreshments. The workshop is open to anyone interested in letter forms, and no experience is necessary or required. Bring a friend!

To book your place, please fill in the form on page 8 and send it, with your cheque (payable to *THACS*) to: **Anna Clark, Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green, Tewin AL6 0LX** by **31st July 2015**.

While this is a one-off workshop afternoon, we hope you will enjoy the experience and wish to continue. With sufficient numbers recruited, we hope to establish more regular classes in the autumn. If you are unable to attend in August, but would like to be included in later classes, please indicate this on the form on page 7. Any further enquiries to Anna Clark at mike.tewin@gmail.com.

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### **Arts & Crafts Fair on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

Due to popular demand, the *THACS* Arts & Crafts Fair has become an annual event. Our next sale will be on Saturday the 31st October and we already have provisional bookings from ten stallholders wishing to take part.

If you are an artist or crafts person or know of anyone locally who would like to take part please contact Hilary at [hilary.tipping@talk21.com](mailto:hilary.tipping@talk21.com) or phone 01438 718700 for more details.

### **Recent Events**

#### **Photography workshop “The Judge’s Eye” on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

On a chilly Monday evening at the beginning of March, eleven hardy souls made their way to the Memorial Hall for a workshop entitled “The Judge’s Eye”. Our speaker was Bob

Norris, who spent his working life as a professional photographer and lecturer. In retirement he expanded his portfolio and has successfully exhibited his images in competitions all over the world. He has served as judge at all levels, including the photography section of the *THACS* shows.

Bob illustrated his talk with his own prints as well as those of other photographers. He gave advice on mounting prints to present them to best effect and spoke about some of the points a judge will consider, such as composition. He emphasised that fancy equipment and technical excellence is not necessarily required to make a picture interesting and pleasing. He illustrated the latter point with a prize-winning picture of a young ballet dancer taken from overhead by her mother on a phone camera.

We had an insight into the creative processes Bob uses to produce some of his landscape images and this led to animated discussion about editing and manipulating photographs with computer software. No-one present used a darkroom!

After a break Bob reviewed some of the photographs participants had brought with them and gave us the benefit of his expert advice. Let's hope that members will be fired up to enter more of their work in the *THACS* shows!

Malcolm Allen

## **Creative Writing on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

Seven of us attended the creative writing day which was held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March. From the start the atmosphere was vivacious and the day was inspirational. We were under the guidance of Frances Wilson, a published writer who sometimes judges the *THACS* writing competitions (although she will not be doing it this year). The exercises we undertook spurred us to take on some challenges and produced some very clever and interesting writing. Good food, camaraderie and lots of laughter were the order of the day. There were requests for a further day in the autumn and this day has now been set for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Joanne Allen

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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

### **ADVERTISEMENTS**

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## **Calligraphy Workshop on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

*(Please delete as necessary)*

I / we would like to attend the Calligraphy workshop on 9 August 2015 between 2 -5pm.

I cannot attend on 9 August, but would like to be contacted about future classes.

Name/s .....

Telephone Number.....Email.....

Are you a member of *THACS*? Yes / No

Cost: *THACS* members £12.00, non-members £15.00.

I enclose a cheque made out to *THACS* for £.....

Please return to Anna Clark, Tewin Orchard, 1 Upper Green, Tewin AL6 0LX by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015. Any further enquiries to Anna Clark at mike.tewin @gmail.com.



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## Visit to Audley End on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015

### *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 “#” to the right of the associated price.

|               | With English Heritage membership |   | Without English Heritage membership |   |                         |   |                       |   |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|
|               |                                  |   | Adult                               |   | Concession <sup>1</sup> |   | Children <sup>2</sup> |   |
|               | Price                            | # | Price                               | # | Price                   | # | Price                 | # |
| THACS members | £10.00                           |   | £23.50                              |   | £22.00                  |   | £18.00                |   |
| Non-members   | £12.00                           |   | £26.00                              |   | £24.50                  |   | £20.50                |   |

<sup>1</sup>:- Concession prices are available to people who are aged 60 or over

<sup>2</sup>:- Prices available to children who are aged between 5 and 15.

Total number of places required.....

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:- Ray Keppler, 15 Upper Green Road, Tewin AL6 0LE by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015.