

***THACS***  
**TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY**

**NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2015**

**Chairman's Introduction**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I wish you health and happiness for 2016 and hope that you will continue to enjoy the *THACS* events and newsletters.

Ray Keppler (Chairman)

**Your *THACS* committee needs your help!**

We need a new secretary if we are to continue operating effectively next year. Could that be you?

When we were unable to attract a new secretary at the end of 2014, Jim Hall kindly saved the day by volunteering to take the role temporarily (whilst retaining all of his other *THACS* responsibilities). That generous offer was gratefully accepted and we now need to respond to his gallantry by finding the right person to take over the Secretary role on a longer-term basis.

The administrative aspects of the role consist of taking minutes of meetings, arranging the AGM, record keeping, dealing with correspondence and being a co-signatory of *THACS* cheques. You will also be actively involved in all of the committee discussions and decisions, so you will have significant influence on *THACS* activities.

If you would like to join the committee as Secretary or are just curious about it, please 'phone the Chairman Ray Keppler 01438 717545 or the current Secretary Jim Hall on 01438 718505.

Thanks to all of those members who have paid their membership fees for 2015/16. If you are one of the few who have not paid yet, then please consider setting up an annual Standing Order. You can get the form for this from Malcolm Allen (01438 798749 or [allendmw@outlook.com](mailto:allendmw@outlook.com)) or the *THACS* page on the Tewin village website [www.tewinvillage.co.uk/clubs/thacs/](http://www.tewinvillage.co.uk/clubs/thacs/). You can also renew your membership by sending cash or cheque (payable to *THACS*) for £5 per person to Malcolm Allen at 47 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 0NP.

## 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
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	Annual General Meeting	No booking necessary
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Show	3 <sup>rd</sup> April
17 <sup>th</sup> September	Autumn Show	11 <sup>th</sup> September

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## Forthcoming Events

### **AGM on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

The fifteenth *THACS* AGM takes place at Tewin Memorial Hall on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7:30pm**. The evening will start with the AGM and then there will be refreshments (including wine) followed by a talk from our guest speakers.

The notices for the AGM accompany this newsletter. As you can see from the agenda, the meeting will include the Chairman's and Treasurer's report for 2015, the election of the officers and other committee members for 2016 and a preview of events for 2016. The committee is still developing the programme of events and would like to hear your suggestions for this. If you have any ideas for events in 2016, then please let us know by contacting Jim Hall on the night or you can email [jimjhall@btinternet.com](mailto:jimjhall@btinternet.com).

Our guest speakers are Mike and Anna Clark and their subject will be ***From the Buchart Gardens in Vancouver to the Orchards of Washington State***. They visited old friends in Canada and Washington State where they stayed on Vancouver Island and in the

extensive Yakima Orchards to the east of Seattle over three weeks, celebrating Anna's birthday with visits to the beautiful Buchart Gardens and several fruit growing centres. Their illustrated talk will show the diversity of flowers and fruit as well as a remarkable Folk Museum. Staying in the foothills of Mt Baker at Glacier, in a log cabin next to rapids, they also toured Mt Ranier and Salt Lake Island where an organic orchard featured red flesh apples.

There is no admission charge for the evening and no booking is 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.

## THACS Shows in 2016

The Spring Show will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and the Autumn Show will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The Show Schedule and entry form for the Spring Show will be distributed with the next *THACS* newsletter in February 2016. Meanwhile here are the photographic categories for both shows:-

Spring 2016	Autumn 2016
1. Juxtaposition (two things placed together with contrasting effect)	1. Open category (any subject)
2. * Birds	2. * Water creatures
3. * Spots (anything that has spots)	3. * Informal portrait
4. A tranquil scene	4. * Parks and gardens
5. * People at work	5. Close up of a household object

The Adult Section consists of all ten categories and the Children's Section consists of the six categories marked with \*.

In the July newsletter, we undertook to set the handicraft categories for the 2016 shows early and publish them in this newsletter in order to give exhibitors more time to produce their handiwork.

The adult handicraft categories for both shows are as follows:-

### Spring 2016

1. Stitched household object (for example, tea cosy, cushion cover, draught excluder, apron.)
2. Embroidered Easter motif on a handkerchief (for example, Easter chick, bunny, egg.)

### Autumn 2016

1. An object made from wood. Space allowed 30cm x30cm (12ins x12ins)
2. Soft toy, any material
3. Hand knitted garment. Space allowed 60cm x 60cm (24ins x 24ins)

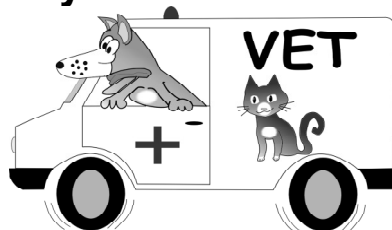
Please remember that these are your shows, so your committee needs your guidance to ensure that the shows reflect the interests of *THACS*

members. So, if you have suggestions for any categories for future shows, we'd love to hear from you.

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## Recent Events

### Creative writing workshop on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October

This was a very successful day under the guidance of Frances Wilson. The quality of writing produced was high and some may be on display at the THACS Spring Show. It was also a day of mirth and the development of ideas. What's enticing about creative writing is the production of

a piece by the end of the day about which the writer had no idea at the beginning. Very satisfying!

The next one is likely to be in the spring.

Joanne Allen

### Art workshop on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October

There were twelve participants at this day where we learned to paint glass and objects seen through glass. We also experimented with pastels. Our new tutor, Alison Howells, gave very practical demonstrations which made us feel confident in making a start, and she was attentive to each participant, helping us at each stage. One participant said she learned more in a day with Alison than she had over two rather expensive residential art courses! Everyone was pleased with what they had done and enthusiastic to do more.

We would like to have her back sometime next year. This may be difficult as she is in high demand, but we will try.

Joanne Allen

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

31<sup>st</sup> October saw the return of our Arts and Crafts Sale which has now become an annual event. The weather was very kind to us and we had a steady stream of visitors all day.

I would like to thank all those who participated in the event, all the stallholders and those who helped with setting up the Hall and worked tirelessly in the kitchen. It is such a joy to see that there is so much talent around our village.

The cake stall run by Anne and Debbie Hall raised £300 for the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

A quote from one of our stallholders:

"...it is without a doubt the friendliest, jolliest and well organised of the craft fairs that I attend."

Hilary Tipping

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## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

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