

# **THACS**

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

### **NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014**

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I wish you health and happiness for 2015 and hope that you will continue to enjoy your gardening, arts and crafts.

Thanks to all of those members who have paid their membership fees for 2014/15. 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 m.allen47@gmail.com) or the *THACS* page on the Tewin village website [www.tewinvillage.co.uk/thacs/](http://www.tewinvillage.co.uk/thacs/). Alternatively, you can renew your membership by sending cash or a cheque for £5 per person (payable to *THACS*) to Malcolm Allen, 47 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 0NP.

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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Closing date for bookings</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2015	Annual General Meeting	No booking necessary
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Photographic Workshop	23 <sup>rd</sup> February
11 <sup>th</sup> April	Spring Show	5 <sup>th</sup> April
19 <sup>th</sup> September	Autumn Show	13 <sup>th</sup> September

#### **Forthcoming Events**

##### **AGM on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The fourteenth *THACS* AGM takes place at Tewin Memorial Hall on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7:30pm** (not 8:00pm as previously announced).

The presentation of the Tewin Society Award will start the evening and this will be followed by the AGM. Then there will be refreshments (including wine) followed by a talk from a guest speaker.

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 2014, the election of the officers and other committee members for 2015 and a preview of events for 2015. 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 2015, 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 speaker is Kate Harwood and her subject will be *The Evolving Landscape of Panshanger Park - Past and Future?* Kate is one of the founding members and officers of the Friends of Panshanger Park (FPP) and the Conservation & Planning Officer for Hertfordshire Gardens Trust. In both roles she has been closely involved with Panshanger Park for many years.

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**Saturday 8.30 am to 12.30 pm**  
**Sunday 9 am to 12 noon**

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**The Post Office**  
**Mondays 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm**  
**Wednesdays and Fridays 9.30 am to 11.30 am**

As a garden historian she has researched and helped formulate the FPP ideas for the future of the Park.

Panshanger has a fascinating history going back to prehistoric times but the park as we know it evolved during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Both the leading designers of the day, Capability Brown and Humphry Repton, worked on Panshanger Park and made it into a glorious English landscape park. The renowned art and architecture historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner called it “one of Repton's most perfect schemes”, the queen in his string of pearls which are the estates along the Mimram valley. The Victorian era gave us interesting water management technology and grand formal gardens around the house, but the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw decline and exploitation. The FPP hope the 21<sup>st</sup> century will see it somewhat restored to its former splendour and opened to all.

There will not be any 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 2015**

The Spring Show will be on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and the Autumn Show will be on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015. The Show Schedule and entry form for the Spring Show will be distributed with the next *THACS* newsletter in February 2015. Meanwhile here are the photographic categories for both shows:-

<b>Spring 2015</b>	<b>Autumn 2015</b>
1. * Spring flowers	1. Clouds
2. * Silhouettes	2. * Classic cars
3. Wind and rain	3. Food (still life)
4. Sport / action	4. * People relaxing
5. * Winter scene	5. * Insect world

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

## Recent Events

### Flower arranging presentation on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014

The wet weather did not deter the 28 people who attended the flower arranging evening.

The welcoming wine / fruit juice and nibbles helped everyone to relax and settle down to an enjoyable presentation from Gill McGregor. She entertained and informed us all with her demonstrations and certainly lived up to the billing of giving us “inspirational designs with distinction wrapped in a conversation of humour”.

The aim of the evening was to encourage and inspire more people to have a go at flower arranging. Consequently, all of the principles and techniques were clearly explained so that any novices could learn new things. Some advanced techniques were also used, so hopefully even the more experienced flower arrangers learnt something new. Gill disclosed some amazing tricks and techniques, including one to stop the aging process (but unfortunately only for carnations!). If you would like to know more about Gill's work, then visit her web site [www.gillmcgregor.com](http://www.gillmcgregor.com).

The flower arrangements were raffled at the end of the evening, in aid of Isabel Hospice. The desirable prizes and worthy cause were popular and several people brought extra raffle tickets after the demonstration, once they saw the quality of the arrangements. Raffle ticket sales went very well, raising £110 for Isabel Hospice.

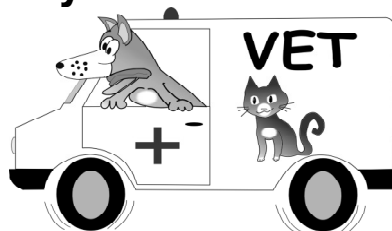
Our thanks go to Tewin Stores for selling the tickets and to Tewin Cowper School for the loan of their stage blocks, which were used to make an ideal stage for the demonstration.

If the evening inspired you to develop your interest in flower arranging, then please join in one of the meetings or workshops of the Welwyn Floral Group. The group will be 55 years old next year with lots of goodies planned. Their motto is “Fun and Friendship through Flowers”, and the flower arranging evenings aim to be both educational and enjoyable. The evenings start at 7:00pm for 7:30pm on the first Wednesday of the month (not in January) and the entrance fee is £5 for visitors. Demonstrations are given by professionals and all of the arrangements are raffled. Refreshments are available and there is also an opportunity to buy supplies at wholesale prices. In addition, workshops are held in Tewin during the year. If you would like to find out more about the Welwyn Floral Group, please contact Mavis Haggar (phone 01438 798611 or email [familyhaggar@gmail.com](mailto:familyhaggar@gmail.com)).

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## Arts & Crafts fair and sale on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014

The *THACS* Art and Craft Fair was a great success. The weather was very kind to us this year and we had a steady stream of shoppers buying their early Christmas presents.

Special thanks to Hilary Tipping for organising the event and to Anne Hall who stepped in at the last minute and worked with Hilary to save the cake stall (from which £125 profit was donated to the British Legion Poppy Appeal). A huge thank you to all who took part and to all those who gave their time to set up and dismantle the tables and to sell refreshments and cakes. We have such a wealth of local talent and the fair was a great showcase for it.

After requests from the stallholders and the public, the committee has decided to make this an annual event and hope to see you all again next year.

## Visit to the National Gallery on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014

The *THACS* visit to the National Gallery on 26<sup>th</sup> November proved popular with many art lovers and a few who had Christmas shopping in mind.

Founded in 1824 and housing over 2,300 paintings dating from mid-13<sup>th</sup> century to 1900, the time we had to spend there was a fraction of the time needed to fully appreciate this collection. Many people had planned their visit to ensure they concentrated on areas of interest to them.

Most of the visitors to the gallery were there to view the special exhibition, *Rembrandt: The late works* and they were not disappointed. Anna and Michael Clark were enthusiastic visitors as the paintings reminded them of when they met, so Michael describes the trip and its significance below.

What a smashing day the *THACS* National Gallery visit proved to be, it gave an opportunity to enjoy the late works of Rembrandt. Anna described it as being like a lovely visit to see old friends again as familiar treasures such as the Kenwood self portrait, which is thought to have been his finest, we have stood in front of on a number of occasions.

In fact almost exactly 52 years ago I bought my first volume on the artist at a second-hand book shop in Crouch End as a new art student in London. It was *Rembrandt's Etchings* and within three weeks the art student Anna I had met that very week agreed to join me on our first date. I like to think I asked her to come up and see my Rembrandt etchings some time, but the event was just a trip to see a Peter Sellers film in Barnet and to this day she reminds me that I drove through a traffic light on red at Whetstone. To see so many etchings and paintings at first hand at the National Gallery was a

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treat. Everywhere there are treasures on display in a packed series of rooms in the Sainsbury Wing. It is difficult to pick out any for special mention as all are so interesting and many are new to being shown in the UK. Some however deserve special mention.

The etchings are mingled with the wonderful paintings which are nearly all portraits and brown pervades the canvases as Rembrandt's dramatic light and shade so frequently included the fur of martens, foxes, European mink and possibly even sable on the people portrayed. Fur trimmings to clothes were a status symbol of the day. *The Jewish Bride*, c1665, is an all time favourite, but *Margaretha de Geer*, dramatically facing the artist in the painting, has her hair and ruff so technically brilliant, the portrait always stuns me when I see it. He is thought to be the first painter to use a palette knife on the canvas, (*Lucretia*., 1666), on her white sleeves.

The etching *Christ Preaching*, c1657 is incredible for its figures and depth in the architecture and several stages of the different subjects are shown. There is amazing calligraphy below his etching of a calligrapher, who added his comments below this now unique portrait print. *Abraham's Sacrifice*, 1655 is one of the most powerful and dramatic images, for the expression on Abraham's face alone. It is a very moving as well as a stunning collection of the great man's final years of painting, drawing and printmaking.

## The Tewin Society Award

The deadline for submitting nominations has passed. At the time of writing this, the evaluations have yet to be made and the winner has yet to be selected.

If you want to find out who won the award this year and why, then come along to the announcement and presentation at Tewin Memorial Hall at 7:30pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (immediately before the *THACS* AGM).

Ray Keppler (Chairman of the Tewin Society Award Sub-Committee).

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

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