

THACS

TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2015

Chairman's Introduction

On behalf of the committee, thank you to the 47 people who came out in the rain to attend our AGM on Monday 12th 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.

The committee need your help with the running of *THACS*, so please read the appeals on page 4 and help with any of tasks if you can.

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 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 nd March | Photography Workshop | 27 th February |
| 16 th March | Creative Writing Workshop | 13 th March |
| 11 th April | Spring Show | 5 th April |
| 19 th September | Autumn Show | 13 th September |

Forthcoming Events

Photography workshop “*The Judge’s Eye*” on Monday 2nd March

A photography workshop will take place at Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 2nd March, starting at 7:30pm. The presenter will be Bob Norris, who judges the photographic entries at the *THACS* autumn shows. Bob had a long and distinguished career as a professional photographer and has remained active in the world of photography in his retirement. For many years he has lectured on photography and judged competitions. He has also entered national and international photography competitions and won numerous medals and awards.

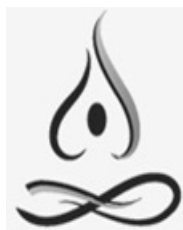
Bob aims to show those wishing to enter competitions, particularly the *THACS* photography section, what judges are looking for and how we may improve our photography. To do this, he will use some of his images that have been successful in national and international exhibitions or done well in competitions at his own photographic society. Bob invites us to bring one of our prints if we would like his comments and advice on it. It could be an image we have entered in a previous show and not done as well as we hoped, or one that we would like to enter in a future competition. Bob will also give guidance on mounting prints for competitions. Most of all he wants to encourage us to go out and enjoy photography, to enter competitions and, perhaps, to win.

Advance bookings cost £5 for *THACS* members and £6 for non-members. To book your place, send payment (cash or cheque payable to *THACS*) to:

Malcolm Allen, 47 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood, AL6 0NP, by Friday 27th February (no booking form required). Alternatively you can just come along on the evening with an entrance fee at the door of £7.

This is a marvellous chance to get an insight into the judging of photographs and guidance on improving your photographs, so do come and join us.

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:

Tues, Weds & Thursday 7-8pm & 8.15-9.15pm

For more info contact Julie on: 07788 648438

juleskimber@tewinpilates.com

www.tewinpilates.com



Creative Writing on Monday 16th March

This workshop has been organised at popular request in advance of the writing competition which is part of the *THACS* Spring show in April. Frances Wilson will again be our very able tutor. The day will start at 10am with some of her famous apple cake, followed by exercises which are always mind expanding. The rest of the morning is spent writing prose and/or poetry (of the participant's choosing). Lunch is a bring-and-share (now well known and envied!). In the afternoon we will hear one another's work and may follow on with a few exercises depending on time. The day will finish at 4pm. The cost will be £18 for *THACS* members and £21 for non-members. There is no requirement to produce something for the Show – the courses are a pleasure and you may wish to write for yourself!

Contact Joanne Allen who hosts the day (01438 798749 or jrallen14@hotmail.co.uk) if you would like to know more or wish to sign up.

Spring Show on Saturday 11th April

The *THACS* Spring Show will be held on **Saturday 11th 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 5th April**.

Please note that **no entries will be accepted after 12:00 Thursday 9th 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 have changed and are now 30p per entry for members, 60p for non-members and free for children. 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.

Future Events

Your committee have a number of events arranged for the coming year.

The Photography Workshop on 2nd March, Creative Writing Workshop on 16th March and the Spring Show on 11th April are described above.

June is the time for the village fete and *THACS* will be manning the plant stall. We'd appreciate your donation of plants and seedlings so please keep this in mind when you're sowing and propagating in spring. All proceeds will go to support your village hall.

We all look forward to a garden visit in July and this year will be no exception so keep an eye out for more details.

The Autumn Show is booked for 19th September so you have plenty of time to prepare. Last year saw record entries in a number of categories so let's see if we can continue this trend and give the shows lots of support.

Later in the year, around November, we will be holding our very popular art and craft sale. If you wish to have a stall at the sale then please look out for further information in our newsletter nearer the time.

Still under consideration for later in the year are a quiz evening, a calligraphy workshop, an art workshop and a visit to an art gallery or museum.

The *THACS* objective is to promote horticulture, arts and crafts. If you come up with any ideas for events in support of this objective, then please contact any one of your committee members (contact details below) or email your ideas to jimjhall@btinternet.com.

BOX OF DELIGHTS

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## Recent Events

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

The fourteenth THACS AGM took place at Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and the minutes are distributed with this newsletter.

We held the elections for the officers and remaining committee members and the names and contact details are as follows:-

| Name          | Telephone<br>01438- | Email                     | Address                     |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Malcolm Allen | 798749              | m.allen47@gmail.com       | 47 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood |
| Terry Brand   | 718700              | tbrand@talk21.com         | 16 Lower Green              |
| Lynne Burgess | 798799              | burgesslynne1@gmail.com   | 14 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood |
| Jim Hall      | 718505              | jimjhall@btinternet.com   | 5 School Lane               |
| Ray Keppler   | 717545              | raykeppler@btinternet.com | 15 Upper Green Road         |

After the AGM and a break for refreshments, our guest speaker Kate Harwood delivered her talk entitled *The Evolving Landscape of Panshanger Park - Past and Future?* Her presentation covered the history of the site and gave us a glimpse of possible future developments, highlighting the three main requirements of public access, preservation of wildlife habitat and respect for the history (including preservation of the key views). It was an informative presentation on a topic of considerable local interest and it was well received by the attentive audience.

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### **Appeal for helpers for 2015**

We put an appeal in the September newsletter for a new secretary but it did not generate any interest. Jim Hall has saved the day by volunteering to take the role for the time being. He is also retaining most of his previous responsibilities, so has a lot to do.

These changes mean that your THACS committee only has five people. This is the lowest it's ever been and we are unsure that we can continue much longer at this level. We do not have any spare capacity, so we are very vulnerable. If any committee member leaves, for whatever reason, then we would not be able to function for very long.

We five remaining committee members are all passionate about THACS and want it to continue to thrive. Also, we are fortunate to have a large number of supporters and helpers. Consequently, the committee has decided to carry on through 2015 at only five members and we will run the usual program of events. We'll then see how feasible it will be to continue like this.

We would be delighted if we could have more members on the committee to share in the running of *THACS*. If you are interested, then please talk to any of the committee members (whose names and contact details are given above). If you are interested but unsure about what is involved, then you could join without any particular responsibilities and later find your niche once you see how it all works.

There is also plenty of scope to help without being on the committee. Some *THACS* members already help with a wide variety of tasks and their support is greatly appreciated by all of us. We do, however, require specific help in the following areas:-

a) **Poster duties**

As you know, we use posters to advertise many of our events. These all have to be designed, printed and most of them get laminated. Terry Brand does an excellent job with this and we pride ourselves in having eye-catching posters that are put up at the right time and quickly removed after the event. We could do with some extra help with this please. We use about 40 poster locations and currently this job is done by only three people. Three more people kindly volunteered at the AGM but we'd still be interested in hearing from anyone else willing to help with this.

b) **Event organisers**

Some of our members already support us by organising events:- Hilary Tipping organises the Arts & Craft Fair, Joanne Allen organises creative writing and art workshops and Anna Clark has organised calligraphy and jewellery workshops. However, now that the committee is down to five, we would like to focus our efforts on organising the shows and AGM by getting more helpers to organise other events. This could include:-

- a visit to a garden, such as the one to RHS Wisley
- a visit to an art exhibitions, such as the one to the National Gallery
- talks, demonstrations and workshops in the village, such as the flower arranging evening.

c) **Catering organiser**

Thank you to all the many good cake makers and volunteers who help with serving refreshments and doing the washing up. We would like someone to go further than this and organise the catering for specific events. This involves contacting helpers, compiling a rota of helpers and ensuring that all necessary crockery, cutlery, tablecloths, napkins and food and drinks are supplied.

d) **Manpower for setting-up and taking-down**

The events held here in the Memorial Hall usually require a couple of hours of work in setting up before the event and clearing away immediately afterwards. We would appreciate some more able-bodied volunteers to help with this.

If you are willing to help with any of these tasks, please contact any committee member.

## **The Tewin Society Award**

The presentation of the forth annual Tewin Society Award for Heritage, Conservation and Environment took place in Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, immediately before the *THACS* AGM.

The winner of the 2014 Tewin Society Award was Michael Clark.

Elizabeth Wilson (who won the 2012 award) announced the winner and presented Michael with his prizes. The Tewin Society Award plaque had been engraved with his name and the year of

the award (2014) and Michael will have it for a year. He also received a presentation crystal vase inscribed with "Tewin Society Award 2014".

Michael received his award for his wide range of relevant work that he has done over a long period, using his extensive knowledge and skills for the benefit of Tewin and its residents. He has used his links with Herts & Middlesex Wildlife, the RSPB and the Badger Trust to give the people of Tewin a special facility at Tewin Orchard, used for apple picking and badger watching. His extensive knowledge of apple trees was also put to good use when he led the planting of the millennium orchards.

Michael was a vital participant in the project to produce and publish *The History of Tewin by the People of Tewin* book. He utilised his extensive writing and publishing skills to good effect and he also had the book published through the Tewin Orchard. He also gave us a wonderful pictorial representation of Tewin by designing the village sign on Lower Green and he helped to plan its production and installation. (*The History of Tewin by the People of Tewin* contains a more detailed account of the orchards on pages 158-164 and information about the village sign on page 247.)

Since the Tewin Society Award is for contributions to the Heritage, Environment and Conservation of Tewin made by volunteers, the nominations fitted very well, making him a clear winner.

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

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

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

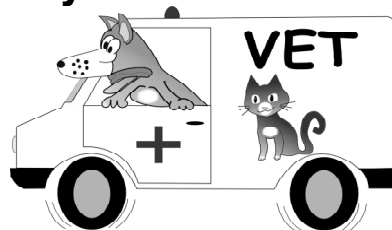
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