

THACS

TEWIN HORTICULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017

Chairman's Introduction

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I wish you health and happiness for 2018 and hope that you will continue to enjoy the *THACS* events and newsletters.

Ray Keppler (Chairman)

Thanks to those members who have paid their membership fees for 2017/18. If you are one of the few who have not paid yet, please consider setting up an annual Standing Order (for a form go to www.tewinvillage.co.uk/clubs/thacs/). You can also pay your subscription by bank transfer (Sort Code 60-23-07 Account no. 80215068) or by sending cash or a cheque (payable to *THACS*) for £5 per person to Malcolm Allen at 47 Bishops Road, Tewin Wood, Welwyn, Hertfordshire AL6 0NP. Contact Malcolm on 01438 798749 or by email at allendmw@outlook.com with any questions.

THACS Events

For ease of reference, here are the dates and titles of our events for 2018, together with the closing dates for the associated bookings.

Date	Event	Closing date for bookings
15 th January	Annual General Meeting	No booking required
14 th April	Spring Show	8 th April
1 st September	Autumn Show	26 th August

Forthcoming Events

Annual General Meeting on Monday 15th January 2018

The seventeenth *THACS* AGM will take place in Tewin Memorial Hall on Monday 15th January 2018 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 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 2017, the election of the officers and other committee members for 2018, an outline of the challenges and opportunities the society faces and a preview of events for 2018.

Our guest speaker is Richard Fishbourne and the subject of his talk will be *A Worm's Eye View of Bringing a Garden to Life*. Richard runs his own natural gardening business called *Bugs and Beasties*.

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His talk will provide an in-depth look at ways of creating space for nature in the garden. It will deal with life within the soil, the advantages of composting, sustainable means of feeding the birds, building with green materials, tending your veggies, planting for wildlife, creating habitat and refuge for bugs, birds and bees alike. This is a great opportunity for you to be entertained, enlightened and possibly even enthused by his infectious passion about bugs and beasts and their role in our gardens.

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 2018**

The Spring Show will be on Saturday 14th April 2018 and the Autumn Show will be on Saturday 1st September 2018.

The Show Schedule for the Spring

Show will be distributed with the next *THACS* newsletter in February 2018. Meanwhile here are the photographic categories for both shows:-

Spring 2018	Autumn 2018
1. Shadows	1. Arches*
2. People at work*	2. Fruit / vegetable*
3. Landscape*	3. Farmland*
4. Boats*	4. Informal portrait
5. About town	5. Face spotted in an everyday texture (e.g. wood grain, wallpaper, toast etc.)

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

We recognise that it can be difficult to produce good needlework, knitted items or other hand-crafted items in a relatively short time. So, in order to give exhibitors more time to produce their handiwork, here are the adult handicraft categories for both shows:-

Spring 2018

1. Stitched household object (for example, tea cosy, cushion cover, draught excluder, apron.)

Autumn 2018

1. Object made from wood. Maximum size 30cm (12ins) in all dimensions.
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 we need your guidance and feed-back 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.

Recent Events

Art workshop on Thursday 19th October

This was quite a success according to the spontaneous feedback we received. The people who came really enjoyed going outside their comfort zone (once they did it!) and producing new material from collage. With that and the contributions from everyone towards a delicious lunch, participants felt quite stimulated and refreshed by the end of the day. Many thanks to Jude O'Sullivan, our tutor, who apparently went outside her comfort zone to imagine it. We may hope for more. Some of the work will be on display at the AGM in January.

Joanne Allen, Event Organiser

Creative Writing workshop on Friday 10th November

Course membership was full and the day proved a very enjoyable one which gave participants an opportunity to explore new ways of writing in very good company. Our tutor, Frances Wilson, provided several exercises to get us scurrying to undiscovered parts of ourselves to produce some good writing which was, on occasion, surprising to everyone including the writer! Lunch was a sumptuous feast as ever. The next workshop is likely to be in the spring in time for the *THACS* spring show and its writing competition.

Joanne Allen, Event Organiser

Art & Craft Fair on Saturday 2nd December

This year the Arts & Crafts Sale moved from previous dates in October to the later time of the 2nd of December. This move encouraged more people to come and shop for Christmas presents and there was a constant stream of visitors all day.

The charity cake stall made over £330 which will, this year, go to the Isabel Hospice and lots of other stalls raised money for their favourite charities.*

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Saturday 8.30 – 12 noon
Sunday 9am – 12 noon

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The Potters Wheel proved popular again this year and there are now many visitors waiting for their pots to be fired and glazed.

We said farewell to Victor the wood turner and his wife Joan who have retired after having a stall at every sale since our first in 2008. We will miss them very much.

A huge thank you to all the helpers who gave their time setting up and dismantling the stalls, those selling teas and washing up and also to all those who came and supported all our wonderful local talent. The Stallholders always remark on what a lovely atmosphere there is and what a friendly lot we are in Tewin and look forward to the sale again next year.

Hilary Tipping, Event Organiser

* *Editorial note:-* Some of the visitors to the Fair were under the impression that its purpose was to raise funds for THACS. They were mistaken! This Fair is a showcase for local talent and the only people that make money out of it are the stall holders and the charities that some of them raise money for.

Other News

Donations to charity

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At the Spring and Autumn shows this year, there was considerable interest and a great deal of enthusiasm for the children's work. Their wonderful exhibits sparked off some animated conversations among visitors to the shows. Most of the exhibits come from children who attend Tewin Cowper School, Tewin Under-Fives Pre-school or the Tewin Parent and Toddler group. In recognition of the hard work and enthusiasm of the children and the adults who make it all possible, the THACS committee has recently made a donation of £50 to each of these three organisations.

We have also made a donation of £100 to St John of God Hospitaller Services (Digswell Nurseries), using the money raised from the sale of produce at the two shows. Digswell Nurseries is a horticultural centre selling a wide range of plants whilst providing a supportive working environment and training for vulnerable adults. (You can find out more at their website www.digswell.org.uk).

The donations support the aims of THACS, which are to promote the good cultivation of gardens and allotments, to foster interest in garden design and plants and to encourage village arts and crafts.

Galleries, Museums and much more....

As 10cc said in their classic *Art for Art's Sake, Money for God's Sake* well there will be plenty of art available and some of it will cost nothing to see.

London Art Fair

The London Art Fair returns for its 30th anniversary 17th- 21st January 2018 and will be an unmissable opening to the international art calendar.

Over the last thirty years, London Art Fair has given access to exceptional modern and contemporary art, as well as expert insight into the changing market. Presenting leading British and international galleries alongside curated spaces Art Projects and Photo50, the Fair invites collectors and visitors to discover works by renowned artists from the 20th Century to today.

The fair takes place at
Business Design Centre
52 Upper Street
London N1 0QH

Call 020 7288 6475 for further details or visit. businessdesigncentre.co.uk

Art courses

If you feel the need for instruction there are weekend courses available at The Art Academy (<http://artacademy.org.uk>). Courses cover drawing, painting, sculpture, etching, wood carving and many more. Beginners and experienced hands, have a look at their site.

Exhibitions

Harry Potter a history of magic at the British Library on now until 28th February 2018.

Cezanne Portraits at the National Portrait Gallery until 11th February 2018.

Tate Modern are showing Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, *Not everyone will be taken into the future*, on now until 28th January 2018.

I highlighted a number of exhibitions in our last newsletter and would remind you to check <http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/> for what is happening at the National Gallery.

The Science Museum has a number of exhibitions on: - *Illuminating India* on until March 2018, *Super bugs*, *The Fight for our Lives* on till Spring 2019 and, for Star Wars fans, there is *The Last Jedi* in IMAX 2D from December 14th, and much more. Check www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/see-and-do for times and prices.

The V&A are showing *Winne-the-Pooh: Exploring a Classic* from December 9th to April 2018 along with other exhibitions. Check www.vam.ac.uk for times and prices.

The Natural History Museum are showing *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* until 28th May 2018, featuring over 100 images showing the drama and beauty of the natural world.

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Did you know the Natural History Museum have galleries at Tring? There are hundreds of exhibits on display there, all donated by Walter Rothschild. It's not too far to drive, has free entry and there is free parking. If you fancy a little shopping, you're a few minutes' walk from the town centre. See [nhm.ac.uk/tring](http://nhm.ac.uk/tring) for more information.

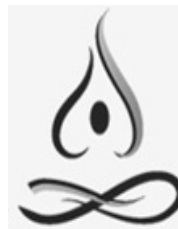
If you make it to Tring, then a short distance from there is Aylesbury, where you can visit the Bucks County Museum. There you will find the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery, full of amazing exhibits inspired by his famous stories. See [buckscountymuseum.org](http://buckscountymuseum.org) for more info and prices.

Lastly if fashion is of interest to you then *Diana, Her Fashion Story* is displayed at the birthplace and childhood home of Queen Victoria, Kensington Palace. After a £12- million renovation, it is well worth visiting, Look at [www.hrp.org.uk/kensington-palace](http://www.hrp.org.uk/kensington-palace) for times and prices.

I hope some of these are of interest and you find time for a visit.

Jim Hall (Vice Chairman)

## Tewin Pilates



Pilates classes held in Tewin Pavilion,  
Upper Green, Tewin, AL6 0LX

### Day Classes:

Mon, 8.30am & 1.15pm, Tues, Weds, Thurs,  
& Fri, 9.15am, 10.30am & 11.45am

### Evening Classes:

Tues, 6.10pm, 7.15pm & 8.20pm  
Wed, 7.0pm, Thur, 7.0pm & 8.15pm

For more info contact Julie on: 07788 648438

[juleskimber@tewinpilates.com](mailto:juleskimber@tewinpilates.com)

[www.tewinpilates.com](http://www.tewinpilates.com)



### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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