



Heswall Photographic Society is pleased to announce that its Annual Exhibition of Images is to be held at Ness Gardens.

This popular event will open on Monday 17 September and will run for 7 days. Entry into the exhibition is free.

A selection of member's printed and digital images will be on show and it is an excellent opportunity for visitors to chat to club members and find out more about HPS and what we do.

Last year the exhibition attracted over 600 visitors from far and wide, each visitor was invited to vote for their favourite image.

Enquiries and potential new members are very welcome. You don't even need to own a camera, just have an interest in photography.

Meetings are held from September to May at St Peters Centre, Lower Heswall Village. For more information check out our website www.heswallphotosoc.com or follow us on Facebook.

Greasby-based chocolatier Éponine receives nine awards



Cheshire-based chocolatiers Éponine have received an incredible nine new awards from the 2018 Academy of Chocolate Awards.

Husband and wife team Chris and Natalie Sibthorp have been handcrafting some of the UK's finest luxury chocolates for the past three years, picking up over thirty awards along the way. These are not your usual chocolates – each piece is a handmade work of art, made using some of the best chocolate and ingredients in the world.

2018 is shaping up to be another successful year for Éponine, with their chocolate bonbons receiving nine new awards from one of the most prestigious international chocolate institutions – the Academy of Chocolate. In 2016, the Academy named Éponine the Rising Star of the chocolate world, and they have gone on to become one of the most highly awarded chocolatiers in the UK. Their awards haul this year included an incredible three gold awards out of only eleven awarded for chocolate bonbons worldwide.

Their gold-winning creations included a ganache infused with yuzu (a fragrant Japanese citrus fruit), along with two pure dark chocolate truffles made with single-origin chocolates from Honduras and Guatemala. To elevate plain truffles to gold-winning heights, Éponine's head chocolatier, Chris, spent over six months selecting the very best chocolates and developing a new style of ganache to bring out the unique flavours of cocoas grown in different regions.

Five silvers and one bronze also went to other bonbons in Éponine's range, with every chocolate they entered receiving an award. Flavours included classics such as raspberry with Madagascan dark chocolate and a praline layered with biscuit and caramel, alongside some more unusual combinations that showcase Éponine's flair for innovation.

Judging took place earlier this year at Westminster Kingsway College in London, where industry experts took part in fifteen days of intense tasting, deliberating over key criteria including flavour, aroma, appearance, texture and finish. Judges included leading chocolate professionals, food and drink journalists, and some of the UK's most prominent food writers and chocolate bloggers.

The awards were presented in July at a glittering ceremony held at Claridge's in London, along with a number of special achievement awards including the Golden Bonbon for best chocolate truffle and Golden Bean for best bean-to-bar chocolate.

Holding three out of only eleven gold awards in the chocolate truffle category Éponine have their fingers crossed for even more good news later in the year, but they aren't counting their chickens just yet.

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