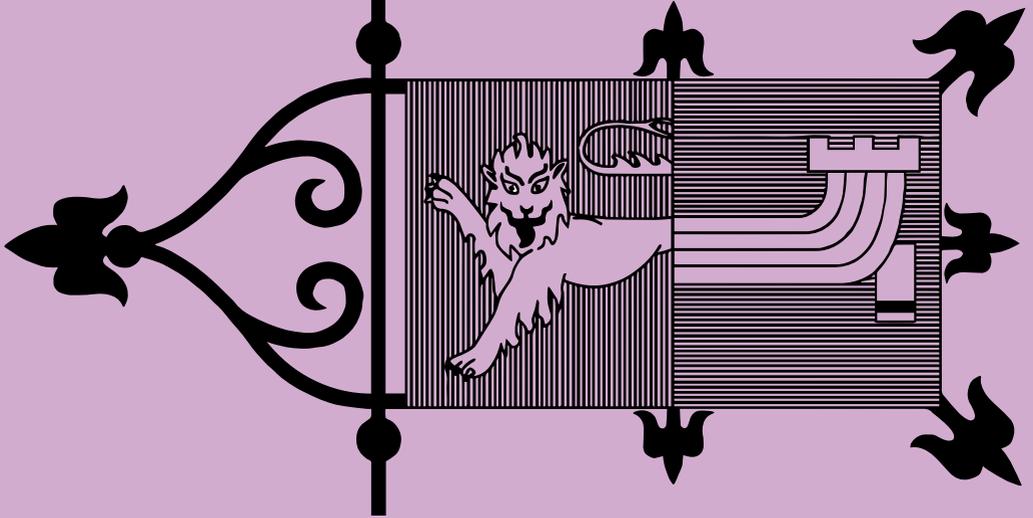




# The Resident



**Tenterden & District  
Residents' Association**

**2015**

**2015/2016**

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President – Sir Terry Farrell CBE

**OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Chairman – Roy Isworth

Secretary – Nigel Webb

Treasurer – Howard Burnside

Planning Secretary – Siggie Nepp

Membership Secretary – Mike Lyons

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Alan Bates

Bill Chantler

Ken Grant

Ian Marsden

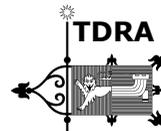
Sue Pughe

Mike Winiberg

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# Chairman's Report 2015

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**T**HIS HAS AGAIN BEEN A BUSY YEAR FOR THE ASSOCIATION. The Steering Group process for the Tent 1 Development continued, culminating in the granting of detailed planning permission for 248 dwellings on Phase A of the site.

We have been very fortunate that TDRA's new Planning Committee Member (following Peter Davies' retirement) is Mrs Siggie Nepp, an Architect. As such she has made numerous expert interventions at the Steering Group meetings and I am sure these will greatly benefit the final development of the site.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Peter and Aline Davies for their enormous contribution over the years to TDRA. Theirs have indeed been big shoes to fill (metaphorically speaking of course!).

As many of you know, we lost our President, the incomparable Sir Donald Sinden, in the Summer. Peter Davies, Nigel Webb and I attended the fu-

neral in Wittersham. It was perhaps inevitable that the arrival of the coffin was greeted with a roar of laughter as Sir Donald had insisted that it was painted in the colours of the Garrick Club.

I have continued to attend meetings of the Parking Forum (the mills continue to grind exceeding slow), but at least the Tenterden Group are united in what we want. In addition I have held a number of meetings at Homewood to try to improve access to the considerable facilities within the site. I have also sought to encourage sixth formers to involve themselves in the processes likely to take place in the coming months for the use of monies coming to Tenterden from the TENT1 development. These will be in two forms - Section 106 payments from the developers and the proceeds of the sale of the wildflower meadow by the Town Council. I would urge you all to express your views on the best use of these funds, as this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the long-term benefit of our wonderful town.

TDRA will continue to press for appropriate infrastructure provision for the additional population of TENT1. In the current economic climate this is going to require continued persistence - do not forget that a town the size of Paddock Wood is going to be built at Chilmington Green.

We held a successful Coffee Morning in November. Those who attended seemed to like the new display format and we aim to repeat that this year.

This will be my last Chairman's Report, as I am standing down at the AGM after three years in

the role. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Committee Members for everything they have done on your behalf, and for the support of the Association's members. TDRA sits at the various tables of consultation on your behalf - the more members we have, the greater our voice.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM.

**Roy Isworth  
Chairman TDRA**



## TDRA – Looking Back over the Years

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**W**E ALL KNOW TENTERDEN HAS CHANGED OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS. Time stands still for no town and some may feel that the changes have not always been for the better!!! We thought it would be illuminating to look back over past copies of 'The Resident' as a means of tracking change .....and to see also what has resolutely remained the same!



The earliest issue of The Resident available is dated July 1987 and marked as Volume 15, No. 4. (Where have all the others gone, Volumes 1 to 14? Does anybody have copies of earlier issues?) John Cantrell in his message from the Chairman wrote:

"Apathy is our great enemy. Once each squall has passed, it is our nature to retreat into our shells of privacy, and hope that another keruffle will not come along for a while.

With this in mind we must all pull together. There must be continuous discussion and analysis on all matters of importance; there must be involvement. We must all contribute as individuals, and not expect someone else to raise the hue and cry. These views must then be put before the appropriate authority in a timely manner.

On matters of detail, we can each contribute by helping to clean and tidy the environment, and amongst other things help to quell the appalling litter problem.....".

So now in 2015, 28 years later, we should take John Cantrell's advice. As the TENT1 development is shortly to commence construction following an unprecedented series of stakeholder consultations with Tenterden residents over the period 2008-2014, we need to continue monitoring of the construction as well as



maintaining a watching brief on all other proposed potential developments in the Town. And we need to address the litter problem too! If anything, this is greater than ever in the past. Plastic drinks bottles, beer and cider cans, disposable coffee mugs, food cartons, sweet wrappers and plastic bags of dog poo are liberally discarded on our streets and throughout the countryside. So much for the beauty of the Weald!

In 1988 The Resident set out the questions asked by the TDRA Planning Sub-Committee regarding each development for which planning applications had been submitted to ABC. These remain essentially the same in 2015:

- Is it in keeping with the local plan (currently Tenterden and Rural Sites Development Plan Document October 2010)?
- Is it in keeping with the surroundings and existing buildings?
- Does it intrude on neighbours by way of light and access?
- Will it cause traffic problems?
- Will it enhance the Town?

The main subjects of articles in The Resident in 1988 and 1989 were the plans for the new Waitrose supermarket and also for the Leisure Centre. These are developments which have long since been completed and are probably universally accepted as being of huge benefit to the Town, but at the time were controversial.

Interestingly, 'A New Town near Tenterden' was the basis for another article in The Resident in September 1989. And now in 2015 the same plan is moving forward as the renowned 'Chilmington Green' development for the expansion of Ashford adjacent to Great Chart.

The year 1990 saw the adoption of the latest 'Local Plan'. Interestingly, the Little Orchard site on Ashford Road was subject to comments by the Planning Inspector who recommended that one 'substantial' house be considered but not the five houses requested by the promoter. Now in 2015 a planning application for the Little Orchard site is currently under consideration by ABC with a proposal for eight new apartments plus conversion of the existing house to provide three more units, a total of eleven altogether!

The Local Plan for 1990 confirmed that Three Fields and Six Fields would be retained free from development in the plan period (up to 2000). Of course, this area is now the TENT1 site!

The Resident in 1992 highlighted the issue of traffic flows (or non-flows) though the town and predicted that demand for a bypass would certainly grow. Has traffic become more of a problem over the intervening 23 years, and will TENT1 make it worse? Or will the fact that all of the TENT1 housing is within easy walking distance of all of the town's facilities including shops, infant and junior schools, doctors' surgery, leisure centre, library and post office result in little change to traffic volumes at peak times?



April 1994 brought comments in 'The Resident' about car parking being a continuing problem! Charges were rising at way beyond rates of inflation and the High Street was clogged by cars cruising looking for free spaces. Perhaps not much has changed there but the formation of the Parking Forum involving the Town Council, ABC, Chamber of Commerce and TDRA has brought the question of parking to the fore and change is under way! Surveys of car park usage were undertaken on four days in May 2013 and this was followed by lively discussion at the forum of problems and possible solutions. The



first change has been the introduction of free parking (since November 2014) in Bridewell Lane car park on Sundays and the parking on the south side of the High Street will shortly be banned on Sundays, as it is for all other days of the week. This should encourage better patronage of the under-used Bridewell Lane car park as well as better traffic flow along the High Street. Further changes are planned to address the issue of car parking in residential streets causing obstructions, though a blanket ban on car parking in these streets is not considered desirable as shop and office workers, especially those on variable hours contracts, find the car parks unaffordable.

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!

**Alan Bates**



## A Personal Account of the Fire at Webbs



Noted for Grocery and Provisions of the best quality  
A trial solicited. Personal attention. Phone 68

**E. E. STANGER, Grocer & Provision Merchant, TENTERDEN**

DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF A PESSIMIST, BUT THE GLASS OF WINE THAT SAT ON THE TABLE IN THE WINDOW OF CAFÉ ROUGE FOR 4 MONTHS DURING THE VERY WET WINTER OF 2013/14 ALWAYS LOOKED HALF EMPTY. It sat there day after day, week after rainy week, together with two abandoned plates and cutlery. On the night of November 5th, 2013, at about 6.30pm the diners had smelt smoke, heard the commotion next door, and fled.

This was the beginning of what was to become a journey into the strange world of loss adjusters, TV interviews, subrogated insurance, forensic investigators, planners, listed buildings inspectors, structural engineers, etc. Of terrible things and reassuringly good things.

It started with a call at about 6.30pm. Carol phoned to say that the shop was on fire and I might want to have a look. She sounded calm, so I didn't panic. A few buckets of water should sort it out. It turned out she was probably in shock.

The first indication of the seriousness of the situation was finding the road blocked by Police. Despite the flashing lights nothing had prepared me for what I was about to see. Ten fire engines and fifty crew, smoke, foam and lights all meant that this was bigger than I could ever have imagined. I had never seen anything like it in real life, and probably neither had Tenterden. As flames shot out through the upstairs windows and smoke seeped through the Kent pegs, a voice in my head said that nothing would be the same again. This was existential.

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Looking back it seemed like a nightmare, with the events of that night playing out in slow motion. It was a very long night.

I joined the crowd keeping vigil in the alley opposite and tried to will the flames to stop. Several times it looked as if it was under control, but then there would be another burst of the red glow from deep inside the old building.

I began to get calls from friends and family miles away. The news was spreading faster than the fire itself. By the next morning we had heard from Canada, Australia and Central Europe. Such is the power of social media. Even Radio 2 breakfast traffic news reported on the congestion and the reason for it.

By about 9.30 pm the fire seemed to have abated. This was a short lived respite, as it was now turning its attention to the rear of the building. The whole of the wooden structure was alight and there was little that could be done other than stop the spread to neighbouring properties. This was no longer about saving the building as much as damage limitation.

Losing your own property is one thing, but watching smoke pouring from the roof and the sinister glow from the upstairs windows of Café Rouge and Waterstones was another. What if it





spread to the whole block? People live above some of these buildings. Mercifully it was quite a still night and the spread was largely confined, due to the skill of the fire fighters. Despite that, one could not help thinking of the hundreds of books being damaged by smoke and water.

By 11pm the fire seemed to be largely out. Rev Lindsay Hammond brought me a large brandy with a drop of coffee in it. The Church has always been there with comfort for those in distress. By the next morning there was a prayer on an A board where we had stood the night before.

This was to be my first realisation of how this tragedy was touching others as well as ourselves. I had no idea of the impact it would have on the people of the town, and indeed further afield. It felt like they were mourning the loss of something personal – an old friend who had always been there. People approached me in tears. Some hugged me. They said prayers for us. Many offered their help in a variety of ways – money, labour, professional advice. Companies we trade with offered to suspend billing until things sorted themselves out. Hundreds of letters and cards arrived, flowers were sent. One fellow trader donated a telephone system because they knew ours had been destroyed. None of us had any idea just how much part of the community we are, and indeed how much people cared.

In the cold light of day the extent of the destruction became apparent. Other than the façade, only the medieval oak structure remained. It is a testament to those who built it all those years ago that the oak in the oldest part survived with just charring. I was told that the temperature at the height of the fire must have reached about 1200°C. At this temperature a steel structure would not have survived. I still feel sad that after all these years this destruction had to happen on our watch.

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The next few days were a constant round of interviews, TV appearances and meetings with surveyors and insurers. The story of the fire is not yet over, and there have been many chapters between that night and the present. We still have a way to go yet, but all being well we aim to be open in September, and two years late for Christmas. There is now light at the end of the tunnel – and hopefully it is not a naked flame!

**Nigel Webb**



*Work was well underway in July 2014*

## Planning Committee Update

**W**E HAVE HAD A BUSY YEAR MONITORING AND COMMENTING ON KEY PLANNING APPLICATIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, ON YOUR BEHALF. Our aim is to voice concerns or positive comments on planning applications, either in writing or by attending committee meetings, on behalf of Tenterden's residents. The key cases are outlined below.

We maintained a strong presence on the TENT 1A Steering Group Committee throughout the design review process, pushing for important criteria for this development such as, design quality; adequate infrastructure; construction quality monitoring; adequate affordable housing and transparency on Section 106 agreements. So far, I believe this has been a largely successful process, however the 'proof is in the pudding' so our role is by no means over yet! We are intending to monitor the development as part of a smaller focus group to try and ensure that these agreed principles are carried forward.

We have voiced our comments regarding the Collina House proposals in Tenterden (Case no: 14/01252/AS), although largely supportive, we do have concerns over the lack of parking facility and impact of the additional traffic that is likely to be generated by the scale of such a development.

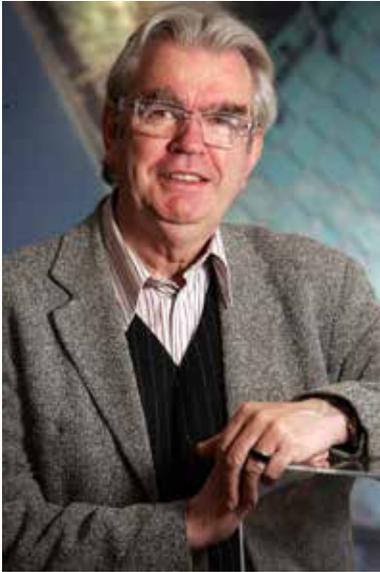
We have objected to the Little Orchards development proposals in St Michaels (Case no: 15/00185/AS), as we feel that this scale of development is likely to harm the urban boundary of St Michaels setting a precedent for more sprawl along the A28 towards High Halden. We also have concerns over the impact of the probable increase in traffic on to the A28, already busy at peak times.

**Siggi Nepp**



## New President Announced

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**W**E ARE HONOURED TO WELCOME SIR TERRY FARRELL AS OUR NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE TDRA. We believe that his interest in local matters, in spite of being a world renowned Architect with a large portfolio of ongoing projects, will be significant to the profile and objectives of the TDRA. Included below is a short synopsis of his background and extraordinary professional career:

Sir Terry Farrell was born in Sale, Cheshire. As a youth he moved to Newcastle upon Tyne, where he attended St. Cuthbert's High School. He graduated with a degree from Newcastle University, followed by a Masters in Urban Planning at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

In 1965, Farrell moved to London to form a partnership with Sir Nicholas Grimshaw. In 1980 he founded his own company, Terry Farrell & Partners. In addition, Farrell lectures at a number of different universities including Cambridge University, the University of London, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Sheffield.

In the early part of his career with Grimshaw, Farrell gave emphasis to housing projects. Later, after the break with Grimshaw, he became the UK's principal postmodernist and was best known for the TV-am headquarters in Camden Lock and the redevelopment of Comyn Ching Triangle in London's Covent Garden. In the 80s and 90s his projects included Charing Cross Station, the MI6 headquarters building, The Deep Aquarium in Hull and The International Centre for Life in Newcastle. More recent work includes the new headquarters for the Home Office, the conversion of the Grade 1 listed Royal Institution of Great Britain and the Great North Museum in Newcastle.

Over the course of his career he has been responsible for regeneration projects in the UK including Newcastle Quayside, Brindley Place in Birmingham, Edinburgh Exchange District, Greenwich Peninsula and Paddington Basin. He has also designed his own iconic buildings within these projects, including the Edinburgh International Conference Centre and The Point in Paddington Basin. In May 2010 he was appointed to regenerate the 72-acre (290,000 m<sup>2</sup>) area around Earls Court Exhibition Centre. In 2012 his practice was appointed as masterplanners for Wood Wharf - the next phase of Canary Wharf's development.

In East Asia, projects include Incheon International Airport in Seoul and Beijing South Railway Station - the largest in Asia. When completed in December 2010 Guangzhou Station will be the largest railway station in the world. Since setting up his practice in Hong Kong in 1990 he has

designed the Peak Tower, Kowloon Station development and the British Consulate-General, Hong Kong. His KK100 tower in Shenzhen is the tallest building ever by a British architect.

Farrell has contributed to key strategic issues. He advises the Mayor of London on his Design Advisory Committee and the Department for Transport on high-speed rail (HS2). In 2008 he was appointed Design and Planning Leader for the Thames Gateway - Europe's largest regeneration project.

Farrell was named CBE in 1996 and made a Knight Bachelor in 2001.

He has received many prestigious awards for his architecture and has had numerous articles and books published.

He currently resides in both London and Rolvenden, and has recently completed a sensitive refurbishment to Grade II listed coach houses within the grounds of Great Maytham Hall, Rolvenden Layne, a stately home designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

## **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on:

**Wednesday 13th May at 7:30 pm**

At St. Mildred's Church Hall, Church Road

Guest Speaker:

**Priti Paintal**

composer, performer, music producer and promoter

There will also be an opportunity over refreshments to discuss current issues with Committee Members.

Wine and snacks will be available.



### So – how much do you remember about 2014?

**W**ELL, DURING THAT YEAR MORE THAN 120 LOCAL RESIDENTS JOINED FORCES TO SEND THEIR PICTURES TO A PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT CALLED 'TENTERDEN 365'. There were very few rules – the pictures could be of any subject whatsoever, taken by anyone and on any sort of equipment, but they just had to be of the town or the surrounding countryside. Over the course of the year an incredible 3,600 pictures arrived of people, places, events and things that simply caught someone's eye.

In addition, 60 local businesses became the project's judges. Taking it in turn they had a

delightful task of selecting their favourite picture for the day. The individual choice was hidden away each day and is still being kept a closely guarded secret. Of the rest, just 4 a day were shown on the project website [www.Tenterden365.co.uk](http://www.Tenterden365.co.uk) so that even now no-one knows whose pictures have been picked.

The project was the brain-child of local photographer Stuart Kirk, who went on to collect all the pictures by email, sort them into daily folders, send them off to the judges and maintain the website to keep everyone informed. "It's taken hours of work each day" he said. "No holidays, not even a single day off, but it's been a fantastic year and one that I will never forget."



Helped along the way by a small but very hard working committee and lucky enough to have attracted a few local sponsors to help with the finances, the project has been totally free for all the participants.

Now that the year is over the project has 365 pictures, one for each day of the year. All have now been printed and are ready for an Exhibition which will take place in St. Mildred's Church during the first week of May.

The Exhibition is not from just one person or about one subject, it is from 120 people, all with different ideas and viewpoints and selected by 60 judges, each with yet another perspective on the town.

So, how much do you remember about 2014? You may be surprised at how much you've forgotten. If you were there you may even be part of it.

Tenterden 365 Exhibition will be held at St. Mildred's Church and open to the public from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM from Saturday 2nd May to Wednesday 6th May, including the bank holiday on Monday 4th May when the Church Tower will be open for photography. All pictures are for sale with the proceeds going to St. Mildred's Church.

More details can be found at [www.Tenterden365.co.uk](http://www.Tenterden365.co.uk) and on the Facebook page [www.Facebook.com/Tenterden365](http://www.Facebook.com/Tenterden365)

**Stuart Kirk**

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# TENTERDEN & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM

*(Please complete in block capitals)*

I wish to join the Tenterden & District Residents' Association and I enclose my annual donation of £..... (the suggested voluntary annual donation is £5.00 per household).

Please give the name and address of the main householder:

Title ..... Forenames(s) ..... Surname .....

Home Address: .....

.....

Tel: .....

Email: .....

Gift Aid Declaration: I want the Tenterden & District residents' Association to treat:  
*(please tick as appropriate)*

- The enclosed donation of £..... As a Gift Aid donation.
- The donations of £..... which I made as a Gift Aid donation(s).
- All donations which I make from the date of the declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.
- All donations I have made since 13th November 2007, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Signature: .....

Date: .....

You must pay an annual amount of Income Tax and / or Capital Gains Tax at least to the tax that Tenterden & District Residents' Association reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year.

Please complete the form and send to:

**TDRA Secretary, c/o Webbs Ironmongers, 51 High Street, Tenterden, TN30 6BH.**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Our grateful thanks to:

Dr Jack Gillett,  
Tenterden 365,  
and  
The Resident authors  
and editors

for the use of photographs and their  
contributions to this magazine

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## **The Charity's objects are:**

- to promote high standards of planning, architecture and conservation
- to educate the public in geography, history, natural history and architecture of Tenterden and the surrounding area
- to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area

for the benefit of the inhabitants of Tenterden and the surrounding area and for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants

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'The Resident' is published for circulation free of charge, to members of the Tenterden & District Residents' Association.

Editorial Team: Ken Grant & Mike Winiberg

*The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Committee of the Association.*