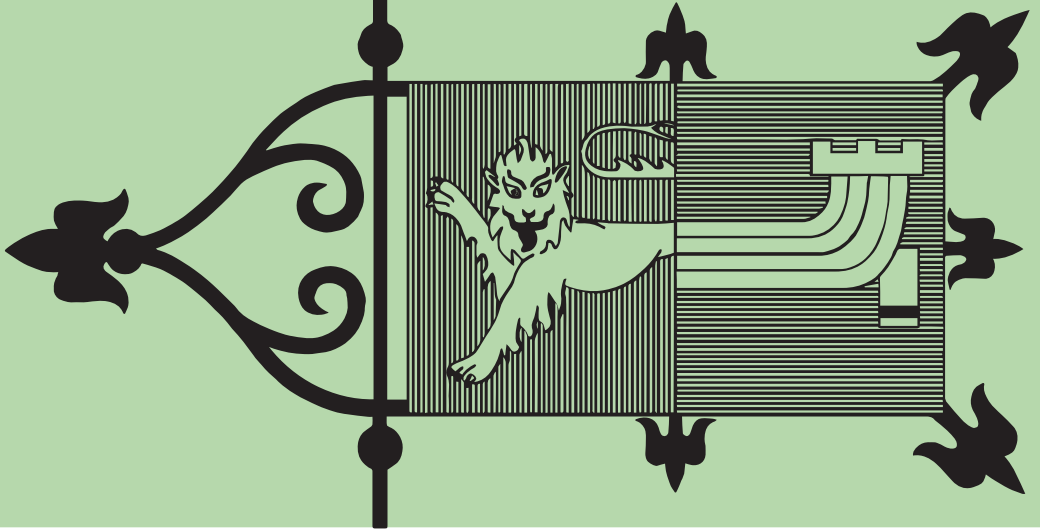




# **The Resident**



**Tenterden & District  
Residents' Association**

**2019**

# 2018/2019

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President – Sir Terry Farrell CBE

## **OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Chairman – Alan Bates

Secretary – Nigel Webb

Treasurer – Howard Burnside

Planning Secretary – Siggie Nepp

Membership Secretary – Mike Lyons

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Bill Chantler

Ken Grant

Adrian Greaves

Ian Marsden

Carol Parkin

Mike Winiberg

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## **Special General Meeting and Annual General Meeting**

There will be a Special General Meeting of the Association, immediately followed by the Annual General Meeting, to be held on:

**Wednesday 15th May at 7:30 pm**  
**St. Mildred's Church Hall, Church Road, Tenterden**

The purpose of the Special General Meeting is to seek approval to make some amendments to the TDRA Constitution. Further details are available on the TDRA website: [tdra.org.uk](http://tdra.org.uk), and there will be information available on the evening.

### **AGM - Guest Speaker: Richard Masefield**

We are delighted to welcome Richard as our guest speaker. Before retiring to Tenterden, Richard was for more than 40 years an East Sussex livestock farmer with a lifelong interest in wildlife and conservation. He is also the author of historical novels, and in parallel with farming worked for a number of years as Care Manager and Teacher at Chailey Heritage near Haywards Heath, an educational and medical facility for severely physically disabled children. In his previous Sussex village he led a successful campaign to create a new, green village centre.

Refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the evening.

# Chairman's Report 2019

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The last twelve months has been a period of gradual evolution in Tenterden, rather than sudden change. Various shops and businesses have disappeared from the High Street, including the longstanding family firm of Jenner's. Losses also include Femme Fatale and most recently, Orvis. New start-ups include Judges Bakery, This Ancient Boro Ale House and Tapas Bar and Space NK luxury cosmetics shop. Whilst we are all saddened by the closure of old friends

we are fortunate to have a High Street which is resilient and in which many shops continue to flourish.

Over the year your Committee together with a number of TDRA members have continued to support the concept of a boutique cinema in Tenterden. As well as providing a welcome entertainment destination, we consider that a cinema would bring other benefits to the Town, encouraging additional footfall to restaurants, tea rooms, pubs and shops. The 'Site Options Appraisal' report prepared for TTC was submitted in July 2018 and concluded that 'The Pebbles' building (currently The White Stuff shop) was the preferred site, being centrally located in the High Street and fortunately owned by Tenterden Town Council. We are pleased that TTC has continued to support the cinema plans (using funds from the Tent1 land sale), most recently by engaging consultants to prepare a 'pre-planning' submission to ABC for conversion of The Pebbles to create a two-screen cinema. The Cinema and Cultural Hub Focus Group have prepared a 'Route Map' for the implementation activities with a view to opening of the new cinema in Spring 2022. Separate working groups have been formed to consider the legal and financial aspects as well as making contact with potential operators. Several cinema operators have indicated that they would be keen to be involved in the project. If you would be interested in donating to, or investing in, the cinema - please get in touch with me, all are welcome!

One of the other planned developments in the Town, using some of the £3.5 million proceeds of the land sale for Tent1, has been the re-ordering of the Recreation Ground. I wrote in February 2018 (as published in last year's edition of 'The Resident') that "the cost of the reconfiguration and improvement works have yet to be estimated but will be discussed at the next Focus Group meeting". This turned out not to be the case – as you will have read in the TDRA Newsletters published in Autumn 2018 and Spring 2019, your Committee has disagreed with some aspects of the plans prepared for TTC by their consultants. Our complaints have been twofold:

- Firstly, we considered that expenditure of over £500,000 to move the Bowls Club would be a misuse of public funds. We proposed that an alternative layout should be

considered that did not involve moving both the Bowls Club and car park.

- Secondly, we objected to the policy of secrecy that TTC appear to have adopted regarding the cost estimates for the recreation ground works. None of the costs have been revealed by TTC to the Focus Group members or to the public. At the time of writing (early-March 2019) there had been no meetings of the Focus Group since March 2018.

Following a press release and correspondence with TTC in October 2018, I wrote to Recreation Ground Focus Group members in January 2019 highlighting my concerns. The Committee are pleased to note that TTC have scheduled a meeting of the Focus Group for 21st March 2019 with the specific objective of considering alternative plans for the recreation ground which would avoid moving the Bowls Club. We hope that this and future meetings will be conducted with a greater spirit of openness, particularly in relation to the estimated costs of the proposals.

On a separate issue, TDRA Committee were pleased to support the proposals for re-ordering at St. Mildred's Church recognising the continuing importance of St. Mildred's as a community centre in the 21st century. We hope that TTC will feel able to offer significant support from the Tent1 funds.

The Tent1 development, which became adopted Ashford Borough Council policy in 2010, has progressed to the point that over 50 dwellings are now occupied. By the end of 2019 almost all of the planned 250 dwellings in Phase A will be complete. We receive frequent comments from passers-by praising the design of the houses, in particular the wide variation in appearance of the houses featuring brickwork, rendered and weatherboard walls together with both tiled and slate roofs. The overall impression created is very different to the many 'all the same' housing developments so common in the recent past. This outcome is a credit not only to the architects but also to the many local residents who gave their time to participate in the 'stakeholder' consultations.

Whilst observing this gradual change, it should be remembered that this pace of development has been far slower than was originally planned. Tent1 Phase A was planned for completion by 2016 to be followed by a further 175 houses in Phase B over the period 2016-2020. Now, with the formal adoption on 28th February 2019 by ABC of the Local Plan to 2030, Tent1 Phase B is increased to 225 dwellings but is only due for completion by 2030. Other developments in the recently adopted Local Plan to 2030 include 100 dwellings at Tilden Gill and 50 houses at Pope House Farm (actually in High Halden parish, but adjacent to St Michaels). Other proposals will, no doubt, continue to be put forward by developers but the Local Plan will form the basis for planned development. The Committee will continue to monitor all development proposals in Tenterden in line with the TDRA objectives.

In terms of administration of TDRA, you will have seen that we are holding a Special General Meeting immediately prior to the AGM to consider some changes to our constitution, in part to

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reflect changes in legislation regarding data protection. The relevant papers are on the TDRA website should members wish to look at them before the meeting. Also you should be aware that, in accordance with good practice in charity governance, we have taken out insurance cover for our various events and to cover our volunteers. In connection with the insurance, we adopted a formal Health and Safety Policy at the beginning of the year.

In terms of communications, we have developed the capability to send out e-mail messages to our membership; however, we only have e-mail addresses for about 40% of the overall membership so if you have not given us your e-mail details already, please do so when you can.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their support throughout the year

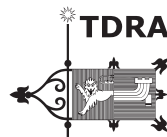
**Alan Bates**  
**Chairman TDRA**

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*A visualisation of the new interior of St Mildred's Church - see article opposite*



# St Mildred's Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



**M**any TDRA members will already be aware of the proposals for improvements to St Mildred's Church. So what is involved?

St Mildred's proposes a reordered church for the 21st century. The aim is to create a church to meet the needs of all the people of Tenterden so that the church will not only be a centre for worship but also a centre for culture /arts /music / meetings /exhibitions, etc. With its central location St Mildred's is the most suitable building in the town for large scale events. Only the main sports hall at the leisure centre offers a similar large flexible space but lacks history and atmosphere and has dreadful acoustics!

A number of churches throughout the country have followed this route to achieving greater involvement of the community and greater use of church facilities. One example within Kent is the church at Meopham. When I first visited the

church some 10 years ago it was a rather forbidding building, fairly dark inside – not a place in which one felt comfortable. A more recent visit some 8 years later revealed that the church had been transformed – the building now has an attractive light interior - modern lighting has eliminated the dark spaces. A new stone floor with underfloor heating makes for a much more comfortable environment. The pews have gone and chairs are provided instead. The space can now be used for many differing purposes and can once more be a focus for community activity.

In Tenterden the interior of the church is already a much more inviting space visually than was the case at Meopham but the benefits of reordering at St Mildred's could still be substantial. Of course the church has changed substantially over the last 900 years. Building commenced in the 12th century and the church was extended on several occasions. The tower was added in the 15th century. Internally, the box pews were replaced with the current pews in the 19th century. The organ was moved some 150 years ago! The rood screen was also a 19th century addition.

For the future, the church community wants the church to be a more flexible space that is both welcoming and useable by all for a wide variety of events. In 2017 the Lipton consultation by Tenterden Town Council identified that the town lacks a high quality accessible venue for culture, arts and music. It confirmed the 'enormous majority' of the community supports St Mildred's Church meeting that need.





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To achieve all these ambitions, retain and enhance the historic church and widen the opportunities for worship a number of specific objectives have been identified:

### **A LARGE FLEXIBLE SPACE:**

The Nave would be cleared of the pews and the font moved. A new stone floor with underfloor heating and modern seating would be provided. The organ would be moved up high in the west end and the balcony would be extended. A new kitchen, sized for large events, is placed in the north-west corner. The Lady Chapel is enclosed in glass to remain a place for quiet prayer and as a new home for the War Memorial.

### **MULTI USE ROOMS:**

Two new rooms are created in the organ chapel including a Heritage Centre on the ground floor whilst upstairs is a flexible multi-use room with lift and stair access. Uses could include a green room for performances in the nave, children's activities such as Sunday School, meetings of local groups, choir rehearsals, fitness classes, exhibitions, etc.

### **NEW REAR EXTENSION:**

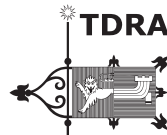
Direct level access to the extension is from the Nave via an old door in the North wall. It will provide 5 unisex toilets with full disabled access and baby change facilities. The building would be built of brick and oak with clay tiles on the roof. Ramped access to the churchyard is provided at the rear. Full disabled access is provided to all areas of the church except the balcony.

To achieve the re-ordering of the church St Mildred's needs to find £2.2m from the congregation, from local people, national and local charities including the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council. The church community has asked Tenterden Town Council to give £750,000 from the proceeds of the TENT1 land sale, as they believe it would be very good value for the town and be an effective use of public money. TDRA Committee has written to the Town Council in support of this application for a contribution by TTC as part of the financing of the project. At the time of writing the Town Council has not yet made any final decisions about supporting the St Mildred's scheme.

**The Reverend Canon Lindsay Hammond**



# Tenterden Cinema - the latest



The Cinema Focus Group is still awaiting reports from Historic England and Ashford Borough Council about The Pebbles building as a possible venue for our cinema. Architect Stefanie Fischer is involved in liaising with these two organisations and will report back as soon as decisions have been made. Her report will also be forwarded to the cinema operators who have expressed interest in running a cinema in Tenterden.

While they are playing the waiting game the Cinema Focus Group is, as ever, being proactive in addressing the next stages of the project if the report is positive.

The next stages are to gain funding for a full feasibility study, consider methods and approaches to fundraising and investigate the company structure needed to manage the development and look after the interests of investors and backers (including the council).

In the meantime, Tom Evans, chair of the Cinema Focus Group, conducted a presentation to councillors. This was attended by seven of the sixteen councillors, all of whom seemed receptive to the project. His presentation can be found on Tenterden Town Council website. It is also planned that he will make presentations to a number of other local organisations in order to inform as many people as possible about the cinema.

Spreading the word about Tenterden Cinema is a key part of the process of keeping the local community informed and involved and it is likely that at some point a 'Friends of Tenterden Cinema' group will be set up in order to help promote the project and gain publicity.

Further news will be added to TDRA website when it becomes available and it is also possible to get information from TTC website.

**Carol Parkin**



# Planning Report

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**W**e have been actively monitoring planning applications over this period and have formally issued our comments to Ashford Borough Council for a number of key applications including:

- 17/00708/AS – Care Home on land north of 14 Westwell Court, Tenterden
- 16/01090/AM01/AS – Revision to remove T15 Beech tree as originally stated in tree condition survey on planning permission 16/01090/AS part of conditions 18 and 19, at land west of Shrubcote and south west of Appledore Road, Tenterden
- 18/01594/AS, The Pines, Smallhythe Road, Tenterden, TN30 7LN - Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 7 residential units, with associated access, parking, landscaping and drainage
- 18/01637/AS – Change of use of part of amenity garden to provide two new semi-detached dwellings with outbuildings and amenity facilities at Ashburnham House, Ashford Road, St Michaels, Tenterden, TN30 6SR
- 18/01518/AS – Proposed stable block comprising 6 stables, hay store, tack room, feed room, store room and domestic 20m x 40m arena with access track at The Woodlands, Swain Road, Tenterden, TN30 6SH
- 18/01094/AS – Proposed dwelling and associated external works at Heronden, Smallhythe Road, Tenterden, TN30 7LR
- 18/01041/AS – Change of use of agricultural land to residential with erection of a dwelling to accommodate a key agricultural worker at Haffenden Farm, Bugglesden Road, Tenterden, TN30 6TG
- 18/00858/AS – Land South and East of Tilden Gill Road, Tenterden
- 18/00448/AS – Land South of Tilden Gill Road, Tenterden
- 18/00759/AS – Land to the South of Sickfield House, Ashford Road, St Michaels, Tenterden

For more information on the above please refer to our website.

## **Growth Strategy**

Following on from my last article for The Resident in 2018 ‘Where is the Growth Strategy for Tenterden?’, TDRA have worked with the Tenterden Green Space Group over the last year to prepare a strategy for the formal designation of our most valued and important ‘Green Spaces’ within the parish of Tenterden. The group, led by Richard Masefield, included representatives from Tenterden Town Council, Kent Wildlife Trust, TDRA, Tenterden Schools Trust as well as local residents and specialists, all working together to realise the following objectives:

- To identify green space within the parish of Tenterden that is considered worthy of preservation for the social, educational, physical and emotional wellbeing of residents

of all ages, for its inherent biological or historical importance, for its contribution to our iconic Wealden landscape and/or for the preservation of its indigenous wildlife

- To consider ways in which connectivity of green space through and around the parish may be preserved for the future
- To recommend means by which protected green space can be enhanced and maintained for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to the parish and for the preservation of its wildlife
- To publicise the Tenterden Green Space movement as a means of attracting local support and funding.

This resulted in an extremely successful ‘Town Presentation’ last September at Tenterden Town Hall, where over 180 people attended, indicating local residents’ support for the initiative and the appetite to ensure that meaningful action was required. This paved the way to the formal interpretation of the original objectives above. A legally binding planning policy document – ‘A Selective Neighbourhood Plan (NP)’ which will have equally powerful status to the Ashford Local Plan and once adopted, will have to be referred to for all future development planning applications. Approval by Ashford Borough Council and Tenterden Town Council for the preparation of the Selective NP was confirmed on 14 March. Moving forwards, TDRA welcomes this news and will offer support wherever it can. We will also provide updates as progress is made via our website.

**Siggi Nepp**  
**Planning Secretary**



# Tenterden - a Food Paradise?

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I don't know about you but, when we are lucky enough to go away for a few days, we enjoy sampling the local cuisine to experience the flavours and tastes that are unique to where we are staying. On one such trip, we were fortunate recently to visit Malton in Yorkshire which describes itself as 'Yorkshire's Food Capital'. It certainly has a lot going for it with great locally produced food and drink, lovely shops, a great market, a livestock market and a very well promoted message.

In the grumpy aftermath of getting home and back into our usual routines, it struck me that actually we live in quite a foodie place here in Tenterden. Perhaps we just don't appreciate it properly? I also wondered if we could create a meal solely from local produce?

I investigated what a definition of 'local food' was. Using Google, I was surprised that to be termed a 'locavore' (a word coined in 2007 apparently) you try to eat food produced within a 100 mile radius. That seemed a big area and could involve a lot of 'food miles' getting produce to me here in the town. I thought I'd look at what is produced really locally here in our part of the garden of England and within around five or six miles of the town. Using food miles as a means to determine a sustainable food choice has become discredited recently as there needs to be a more balanced method of evaluating environmental impact, but I was keen to explore how much local production and therefore unique taste there might be. The French use the term 'terroir' to explain the specific environmental factors that affect the taste of produce and I suppose I was searching for the Tenterden terroir.

Obviously, the best way to reduce food miles and sample a unique Tenterden terroir is to grow your own produce! However, we are not all fortunate enough to have big enough gardens, the time or the skill to be able to do this. If you don't have space but are interested, there are allotments run by the William Judge Trust but these have an 18 month waiting list and a finite



capacity. I have therefore concentrated on really local producers that give everyone an opportunity to sample the truly local. I want to stress I have not been paid or incentivised in any way in the making of this list.

I am sure I have missed some producers as there is no definitive list and I apologise to them if I have. Please let us know via our website if there are any omissions! Even with that proviso, it's quite astonishing really what we do have.

For locally produced drinks, we have Chapel Down (gin, sparkling wine, table wine, lager and beers), Biddenden Vineyard (table wine, cider and juices), Gusborne Estate not far away in Appledore (sparkling wine). I also understand there will be wines available soon from new producers at Farnell Farm, Rolvenden (who also supply a large range of Kentish cobnuts) and Woodchurch Wines (table wine and sparkling wine). That's five



commercial wine operations all within a five mile radius! We have our own micro-brewery in the Old Dairy Brewery (beers and ales). Nightingale Farm produces cider, perry and fruit juices as well as their own fruit and honey. They sell a lot more from their farm shop, much of it produced from other parts of Kent. If you fancy brewing your own then Hukins Hops at Haffenden Farm produce hops to give you that added local flavour.

Silcocks Farm produces its own organic meat (beef, pork and lamb), milk, cream, three types of cheese and ice cream and also has a cafe and farm shop (again with many other products from elsewhere in Kent). John Howe in Biddenden and Appledore Turkeys produce turkeys reared to high welfare standards. Carley Family Butchers sell their own meat reared in Woodchurch. Moons Green Charcuterie, Wittersham, makes saucissons, bacons, hams and uniquely British cured meats. Korkers Sausages in Rolvenden has been producing locally for sixty years. Other butchers such as Huntley the Butchers, Marchants, Bethersden and Farm Butchers provide some locally reared meat but not all from within my nominal five to six mile radius.

If you fancy buying a permit, you can catch fish to eat at Tenterden Trout Waters, Coombe Farm (which claims to be one of the top 50 still water fisheries in the UK) and also at Chequertree Fishery in Bethersden. You can shoot at Morghew Park Estate with pheasant, duck, partridge, pigeon and goose among the bag. I have heard of wild boar and deer roaming





the countryside but not found an outlet that sells these locally.

Hinxden Farm Dairy in Benenden produces milk, cream, yoghurt and crème fraîche and will deliver to your door as will Street Farm Dairy, High Halden, which produces milk, yoghurts, eggs and fruit juices. Plurenden Manor Farm, High Halden sells milk and cream from the farm gate. Montalbano Italian Gelato, which makes ice cream and gelato and The Chocolate Shop - Truffles at Coco, who make hand made chocolates, are both based in the centre of town. Pottical makes alcohol inspired ice cream in St Michaels.

Appledore Salads has been vaunted for many years and apparently introduced pea shoots into bagged salads. Morghew Park Estates produces twenty types of potato, its own cold pressed rapeseed oil and also honey. Huggit's Farm on the Isle of Oxney even produces Kent grown and pressed olive oil!

There are also many smaller producers selling cakes, eggs, seasonal vegetables, etc. from roadside stalls in the area. There is a weekly farmers' market every Thursday morning in Rolvenden Church and Rolvenden village market on Friday morning. Wittersham community market and Appledore multi market are also held on Friday mornings. The Tenterden country market opens on Friday mornings and there are the stalls on the main High Street market and the market square on Fridays which occasionally sell food and drink made within the nominal 5 mile radius.

I suggest a visit to the Tenterden Food & Drink Festival that is planned for 17th to 19th May 2019 to showcase other produce. There is obviously much more available from many outlets in Tenterden and local villages for those of you who wish to become locavores!

I am convinced we have as much to celebrate as Malton. It's not that easy to find what we do

have, perhaps the new town centre manager will be able to help coordinate and promote the offer more widely, in much the same way that Malton has, so that an increasing number of people can share in our local specialities?

I have no doubt we can create many meals using produce grown/reared within a five or six mile radius and hope you agree we do have really great, locally produced food and drink made right here. I recommend the Tenterden terroir to you!

**Ian Marsden**

P.S. I have listed some websites that might be of interest should you decide this is something you want to explore further.

*[www.producedinkent.co.uk](http://www.producedinkent.co.uk)*

*[localfoodbritain.com](http://localfoodbritain.com)*

*[www.bigbarn.co.uk/local-food-map](http://www.bigbarn.co.uk/local-food-map)*

*[www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/opinion/item/4121-how-and-where-to-find-and-buy-local-food](http://www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/opinion/item/4121-how-and-where-to-find-and-buy-local-food)*

*[www.kfma.org.uk/FindaMarket.asp](http://www.kfma.org.uk/FindaMarket.asp)*

*[www.mytenterden.co.uk](http://www.mytenterden.co.uk)*

*[kentfoodtrails.co.uk/trail/tenterden-wine-vineyard-trail](http://kentfoodtrails.co.uk/trail/tenterden-wine-vineyard-trail)*





# Tenterden Remembers

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On 11th November 2018 nearly 3,000 people gathered in Tenterden High Street at the town's War Memorial. It was 100 years to the day that the First World War (The Great War) ended. The crowd paid their respects to the men and women who gave their lives in both World Wars and in later conflicts.

What is the story behind the building of Tenterden Town War Memorial?

Shortly after the end of World War One in January 1919 a committee from a large number of organisations in the town met to discuss how to commemorate the lives lost in the conflict. Many ideas and suggestions were put forward and among them were:

- A Public Drinking Fountain
- Memorial Hall
- The purchase of Ivy Court House (behind Café Nero)
- The purchase of a Motor Ambulance
- Requesting a Gun from the Army to be made into a suitable Memorial

After many meetings it was decided to build a Portland stone memorial on the Green outside of Borough Place. The architect of the memorial also had a link to Tenterden – Mr. W Diggle the architect was the son of a former Mayor, Mr. J R Diggle. The builder was the local firm of Messrs Weeks and Son.

The design of the Memorial contained subtle references to the conflict.



The four steps represent the four years of the war whilst the base (or fifth step) the first year of peace.

The carved head over the main 1914/1919 plaque represents thought. The shaft shows the arms of Tenterden and the county crest of the horse together with a carved spear pointing down to signify Tenterden in mourning.

The first service to unveil and dedicate the memorial took place in the evening of 26th May 1920.

As we do today a procession formed up in Recreation Ground Road and the Mayor and Corporation at the Town Hall. In the procession were the representatives of the many organisations in the town, including the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides who were led by Lady Drury CBE (widow of Admiral Sir Charles Drury) then living at Homewood (now Homewood School). In 1920 the Royal British Legion had not yet been formed (founded in 1921 as The British Legion) so there were several organisations representing the forces marching in the procession, two of whom were the National Federation of Demobilised Soldiers and Sailors and Comrades of the Great War - these totalled over 60 people.

The Memorial was draped in the Union Flag which was unveiled by Lt. Col. J Body and then dedicated by the then Vicar of Tenterden Rev J Babbington. The hour-long service included the playing of both the Last Post and Reveille by three buglers from the East Kent Regiment 'The Buffs'.



This first service established a tradition in Tenterden that has continued for nearly one hundred years.

In addition to the names of the fallen from the First World War inscribed on the Memorial the names of those who lost their lives in the 1939/1945 conflict were subsequently added.

**Bill Chantler**

*Cleaned and restored Memorial,  
taken in 2018*

# An Unknown Memorial?

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I am sure many of you will know the War Memorial on the High Street - centre of the Remembrance Day Services each year. Many will also be aware of the one in St Mildred's Church.

There are two other Memorials on the High Street though and one is currently being restored...

In the Tenterden Methodist Church near West Cross, on the wall by the Sanctuary, is a plaque naming those in the congregation of the then Wesleyan Church who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Great War; the plaque is not the memorial - it is the organ of the church.

When Mr David Smith moved to the area and joined the congregation, he not only noticed the state of the instrument, but - after extensive cleaning - uncovered the plaque explaining that the instrument was a Memorial to Church members lost in the Great War. Further research discovered a little about the dedication of the Memorial and its entry in the Imperial War Museum's records.

Built in 1919 by Griffen and Stroud of Bath at a cost of £376, it is one of only three WW1 Methodist Memorial Organs still in England, the others being in Gateshead and Barnard Castle. It was last overhauled in 1991. Although regularly tuned since then, some pipes have been damaged and the action, blower and keywork have suffered from wear and tear over the years, so much so that it was in serious need of attention.

Dr Alan Thurlow visited the Church to see if it might be possible to obtain a Historic Organ Certificate which would help with grant applications. Although not successful, he did recommend an organ builder from Wadhurst to undertake the restoration. Mr Alistair Curtis recently restored the organ at Rolvenden where the Organist from Canterbury Cathedral gave a recital. After careful inspection a quote for restoration was obtained and the search for grant funding began in earnest.



The Centenary of the end of the first World War was an ideal opportunity to support the restoration and preservation of Great War Memorials as extra grants were available during the year: Mr Smith made a successful application to the War Memorials Trust Grants Scheme and obtained a £6000 grant. A further application to the Pilgrim Trust was also successful and they graciously agreed to match the offer. With these grants to assist with funding Mr Curtis was able to start restoration in March 2019.



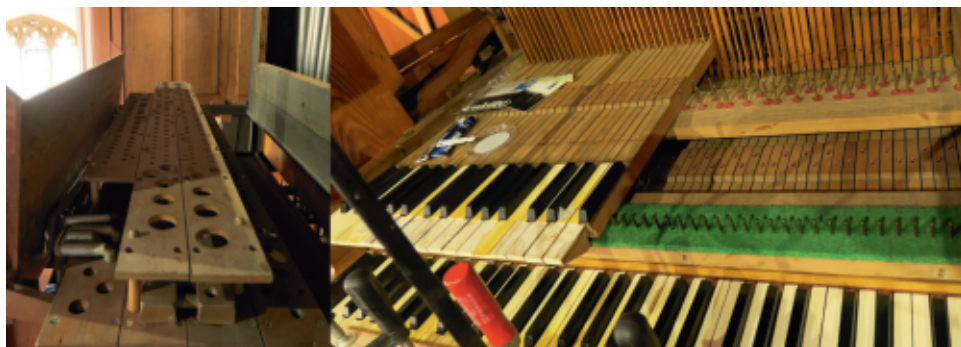
The Organ in this Church was erected to the Glory of God and in ever Grateful Memory of those whose names are recorded below who valiantly gave their lives in the Great War 1914-1918.

Bishop, Albert E  
 Bishop, George  
 Burgess, Horace R  
 Burgess, John E  
 Goodman, Harold  
 Goodsell, H Allen  
 Goodsell, Sydney J  
 Link, Horace B  
 Parsons, Percy W  
 Taunt, Arthur F  
 Taunt, Herbert J  
 Wiles, Frank

**GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS.**

You can see here a photograph of the plaque, but as it is still hard to read the text is also shown.

A total of 24 young men went off to war from the Church but only 12 survived; however there is no record of who those survivors were. Tenterden Methodist Church would be very grateful for any information anyone might have to complete the records of this important part of our local history: if you can help please contact Mike Winiberg on 0117 230 6992 or [mike@chartersoftware.co.uk](mailto:mike@chartersoftware.co.uk).





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The original dedication of the organ was in December 1920 on a Wednesday afternoon, preceded by a parade led by the Mayor and civic dignitaries. The Chairman of the Kent District of the Methodist Church made the dedication. Each of the 12 bereaved families were presented with flowers, and the Nunc Dimittis and 'O Valiant Hearts' were sung. An organ recital was given in the evening.

It is hoped that a re-dedication involving a re-enactment of the original procession culminating in a service at the Church can be held one Wednesday afternoon near Armistice Day. During the service flowers will be laid in honour of each of the fallen by local school pupils.

**Mike Winiberg**

*Above and below are shown a few photographs of the work in progress. When complete we will have a Memorial suited to serve as a reminder to the generations to come and a fine instrument to accompany Church Worship.*



**T**enterden & District Local History Society celebrated its 60th anniversary on 25th November 2015. The Society owes its formation to the indefatigable Mrs Hildegard Sykes (pictured) who convened a group of like-minded friends, cajoled them into forming a committee and founded a society of which she became a keystone for decades. From the start, the principal activity was the monthly talk on an appropriate subject, during the Winter period. However, there were always members involved in investigating and researching the story of Tenterden, the locality, and, indeed, history in a broad sense. Mrs Sykes herself (her father was Librarian of Wye College) had always shown deep interest in the county's story, and was indeed an early attender, before the Second World War, at county-level meetings co-ordinating the studies and communication of the amateur and professional workers in the discipline. Under the current Rules of the Society, "The Objects of the Society are to encourage, support and enable the study of history, particularly in respect of Tenterden and its surrounding district."



Currently, the Society promotes talks on the last Monday of the months from September to April every year (December is excluded), and topics may be local or more general, an individual figure, or a national theme. The spectrum of interest is very wide. Additionally, the Society usually has a couple of Coffee Mornings per year, at which, as well as interesting chat, the 'scrapbooks' kept from 1955 are in evidence (we have one donated volume from earlier) giving a fascinating record of the small details in Tenterden life over the decades. Outings are arranged in the Summer months to a variety of interesting venues and these are much in demand. The Society has a Library, collected from the beginning, and housed in Tenterden & District Museum. The Museum itself is the responsibility of a different organisation, but the two societies obviously liaise together. Our Archivist and Librarian, as well as maintaining the scrapbooks, keeps a huge collection of images relevant to the society's work, and a number of members are involved in research of various kinds. This can lead to consultation by various bodies hoping to elicit information in many areas. The Residents' Association has, at the time of writing, a presentation by Richard Masefield concerning the new Local Plan, and, at a recent meeting, the President, Archivist and Chairman of the Local History Society met Richard, who sought in-depth briefing on the story of the town (pretty well from pre-history onward!)

An important area of work lies in the numerous queries coming in from all over the world. The Society is a principal recipient of such enquiries (as are the Museum, the Town Hall and St Mildred's Church). The frequency of these has increased substantially with the growing interest in Family History, Genealogy, and the stories behind buildings. Over many decades, a succession of researchers have dealt with these, so that there is now a substantial file of queries

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relating to many of Tenterden's historic families. For certain families, information is ready-to-hand when fresh queries arrive. The Society is attempting to get digital records of genealogical information online, in an appropriate format, but that is 'a work in progress'.

There are always new questions to be asked. History is never a set story. New data comes to light. Other information may be lost when records are destroyed, and documentary or archaeological investigation may be needed to reassess the story of a person, building or area. We recently ascertained from old aerial photographs the exact course of the wartime oil pipeline (PLUTO) across the district (a project initiated by a member of both Local History Society and Tenterden Golf Club – intrigued by the anecdotes of PLUTO crossing the golf course). Anecdote proved accurate and the two organisations are considering marking the line properly now that it is known.

The Society is a member of the British Association for Local History and has been a member of the Kent History Federation since a formal county organisation was brought into being many years ago. Like many voluntary bodies, the Federation has struggled of late to find willing organisers, but has proved a vital co-ordinating and communicating body between the amateur societies, the archive and library services, the universities and colleges, and the archaeological bodies. The Tenterden society has played its part in this, with articles for the county publication (Kent History Journal) and also, on several occasions, by hosting the annual One-Day-Conference, which brings people from across south east England to a Kent venue to learn from its story. On the most recent occasion that Tenterden hosted (2014), there were visits to a





variety of places in the town (and at Smallhythe) with lectures on shipbuilding, on the timber-framed buildings of the town, and on the men commemorated on our War Memorial (all talks by local speakers).

We have a number of guides who can conduct walks around the town to point out places of interest, and our Honorary Secretary will always be willing to arrange this for any organisation (from Tenterden or from afar) that would like a tour of the town. From time to time, we organise these for our own members as well, since they themselves usually discover on such tours things they didn't know! Talks about the town, with illustrations, can be arranged, often using the resources collected by the Tenterden Archive Group, which has now ceased to exist, but whose collection is now in the hands of the Local History Society.

This all sounds a lot but, to return to where I started, our major activity is certainly the monthly talk. Most of our members enjoy hearing about a variety of subjects. In Winter 2018-19, subjects included "Dickens in Kent", "Jewellery at the Court of Henry VIII", "The History of Infectious Disease and Epidemics" and "The History of Women in Science to 1900". 2019 -20 looks likely to include a talk about one of Tenterden's most indefatigable and unstoppable women, the renowned Miss Babington, an account of the Cathedral Archive, and a talk about the hazards of Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages. The writer has been a member of Tenterden & District Local History Society for forty years and can call to mind "Weather in History", accounts of most of the individual Cinque Ports and of Kent's major towns, and even fascinating scandal of long-dead celebrities. As Lady Wortley Montagu is supposed to have said as she died "It has all been most interesting".

For more information about Tenterden & District Local History Society, our Honorary Secretary, Mrs Jane Mills, can be contacted at [janemills54@hotmail.com](mailto:janemills54@hotmail.com)

**Nick Hudd**

**Chairman, Tenterden & District Local History Society**

**01580 763704**

## A Selective Neighbourhood Plan for Tenterden

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**T**he exciting news is that Ashford Borough Council have now approved TTC's (Tenterden Town Council) application for Neighbourhood Area Designation (of the entire parish), effectively clearing us to proceed. A great step forward!

To recap, our objective is a selective Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Tenterden which provides a coherent, forward-looking plan for the parish. The eventual NP will establish (and where possible offer statutory protection to) a network of locally valued and interlinked green spaces, with the aims of promoting the health and wellbeing of residents and wildlife, enhancing biodiversity and continuing to attract visitors to this famous old town. Once 'made', it will become part of the statutory Development Plan for Ashford Borough, with the same status in planning as the recently adopted Ashford Local Plan.



The Town Council has appointed Jim Boot, a Community Planner with wide experience of neighbourhood planning, to guide us through the process. Three Councillors are to support the work of a new NP Steering Committee comprising four members of the Tenterden Green Space Group (who originally promoted the plan), joined by up to five additional residents to represent the widest possible interests of the parish. The work is expected to take up to two years to complete, involving wide public consultation and the likely formation of a number of working groups. A series of public meetings to launch the initiative and gain public support are to be held in early May.

By the time you read this article a pre-launch workshop will have been held at the Town Hall Assembly Room in early April and we aim to publicise as much feedback as possible from that event. Meanwhile if you would like more information or wish to get involved, please contact me on [rlmasefield@btinternet.com](mailto:rlmasefield@btinternet.com). I very much look forward to hearing from you.

**Richard Masefield**

# TENT1A Proposed Artworks

The TENT 1A developers, as agreed in the original planning approval, have appointed artist John C Merrill, to create two pieces of sculpture to be sited within the development. One piece will be sited near to the woodland area and one near to the bridge over the newly landscaped stream. Both positions offer the opportunity for important focal points within the site.

The TDRA met with John Merrill at the beginning of February to discuss his vision and to view some of the mock ups that he had prepared for a series of interactive workshops with local residents and schools.

John is keen on using the historical cultural context of the town to inform his concepts and to perhaps also project the idea that history is ever evolving with a nod to the future. We discussed the possibility of the sculptures offering some interactive or immersive aspect and perhaps some functionality such as seating. John works

largely with wood and at large scale, using the natural characteristics of the materials to influence his designs.

For more about his work go to <http://johncmerrill.blogspot.co.uk>.

We hope to continue our participation with him, to be involved in the design process and that the end results will be positive additions to the town.



**Siggi Nepp**

# TDRA Membership

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## TENTERDEN & DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM

Registered Charity No 1121579

Please complete this form in BLOCK CAPITALS and send it to  
TDRA Secretary, c/o Webbs Ironmongers, 51 High St., Tenterden TN30 6BH

I/we wish to join the Tenterden & District Residents Association and enclose an initial donation of £.....(the suggested annual donation is £5.00 per household)

Please complete the name(s) of the main householder(s)

Title	Forename(s)	Surname
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....

Home Address (including postcode) .....

.....

.....

Telephone number (optional) .....

E-mail address (optional) .....

TDRA is happy to confirm that your personal details will be held on a secure database and will be used solely for the purposes of administration and distribution of Tenterden and District Residents’ Association communications or similar information.

Signature .....

Date .....

## **Tenterden and District Residents' Association**

is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers

so if anyone is interested in getting involved,  
they would be most welcome.

Just speak to any Committee Member or contact us through the website:  
[www.tdra.org.uk](http://www.tdra.org.uk). Please ensure that you've given us your email address  
so we can keep you up to date with what's happening although if you  
don't have one we'll make sure you don't miss out.

## **The objectives of the Charity are:**

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

These are 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.

[www.tdra.org.uk](http://www.tdra.org.uk)

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