



# CHRISTMAS MARKET SHOWCASES COMMUNITY TEAMWORK

This year's Tenterden Christmas Market will be held on Friday and Saturday 24 and 25 November.

This year's Tenterden Christmas Market will be held on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th November, with the emphasis on quality independent local businesses showcasing their fantastic product.

The organisation of the Christmas event is a joint effort bringing together members of the local community, high street businesses, local churches and charities with support from local councillors.

Says Mayor Cllr Justin Nelson: "We have so much to be proud of; it's a wonderful opportunity to show off the talent there is in Tenterden and the surrounding villages to the thousands of visitors from all over Kent who come every Christmas.

"And no wonder - our dazzling display of Christmas lights, street entertainment and a very special

*atmosphere make our Christmas Market one of the most anticipated events in the county's seasonal calendar."*

To help meet parking demand, the Kent & East Sussex Railway car park will be available to visitors in addition to the existing town car parks. It is also hoped that the railway will be running a shuttle service from Rolvenden station to Tenterden.

*Would you like to be involved in with the Christmas Market? The organising team would welcome your expertise, manpower and enthusiasm! Email [townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk), telephone 01580 762271, or visit the Town Hall (open 9am-4pm, Monday to Friday).*



TENTERDEN  
TOWN COUNCIL

AUTUMN 2017



## REGENERATION

£3.5million investment planned for Tenterden

## DESIRABLE DESTINATION

New train plans and TripAdvisor accolade

## HOW TO CONTACT THE TOWN COUNCIL

Tenterden Town Council welcomes comments and feedback on its activities. This is how to get in touch...

If you would like to contact your local councillor, please feel free to call or email.

**By email:** [townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk)  
**By phone:** 01580 762271  
**By post:** Town Hall, 24 High St, Tenterden TN30 6AN  
**Website:** [www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk)  
**In person:** Visit the Town Hall, 9am-4pm, Mon to Fri.

Mike Carter (West)	Caxton Cottage, 12 West Cross, TN30 6JH	01580 388709	<a href="mailto:cllr.carter@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.carter@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Jean Curteis (St. Michaels)	38 Henley Fields, TN30 6EL	07799 765730	<a href="mailto:cllr.curteis@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.curteis@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Henry Edwards (North)	Eastwell Farmhouse, East Cross. TN30 6AD	01580 763428	(not contactable by email)
Sue Ferguson (North)	2 St. Benets Court. TN30 6QS	01580 765546	<a href="mailto:cllr.ferguson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.ferguson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Nikki Gooch (South ward)	24 Longfield, TN30 7NH	01580 764349	<a href="mailto:cllr.gooch@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.gooch@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Harry Hickmott (St. Michaels)	High Force, Grange Road, TN30 6EE	01580 766496	<a href="mailto:cllr.hickmott@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.hickmott@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Roy Isworth (South)	11 Elmfield, TN30 6RE	07585 022154	<a href="mailto:cllr.isworth@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.isworth@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Rory Knight (St. Michaels)	14 The Lindens, St. Benets Way, TN30 6QT	01580 761430	<a href="mailto:cllr.knight@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.knight@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Callum Knowles (South)	57 Shrubcote, TN30 7BG	07810 155686	<a href="mailto:cllr.knowles@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.knowles@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Lisa Lovelidge (South)	57 Shrubcote, TN30 7BG	07733 318836	<a href="mailto:cllr.lovelidge@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.lovelidge@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Richard Lusty (West)	The Hurst, Conghurst Lane, Hawkhurst	01580 754376	<a href="mailto:cllr.lusty@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.lusty@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Ken Mulholland (St. Michaels)	Dering Court, Grange Road, St. TN30 6DT	01580 762827	<a href="mailto:cllr.mulholland@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.mulholland@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Justin Nelson (North)	66 Rogersmead. TN30 6LF	01580 765313	<a href="mailto:cllr.nelson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.nelson@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Pam Smith (St. Michaels)	The Old Malthouse, Swain Road. TN30 6PS	01580 765081	<a href="mailto:cllr.smith@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.smith@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Alan Sugden (North)	60 Rogersmead. TN30 6LF	01580 765581	<a href="mailto:cllr.sugden@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.sugden@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Terry Thorpe (South)	4 Leslie Crescent, TN30 6BX	07775 561736	<a href="mailto:cllr.thorpe@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.thorpe@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Town Clerk's office	Town Hall, 24 High Street TN30 6AN	01580 762271	<a href="mailto:townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk">townhall@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk</a>

# AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



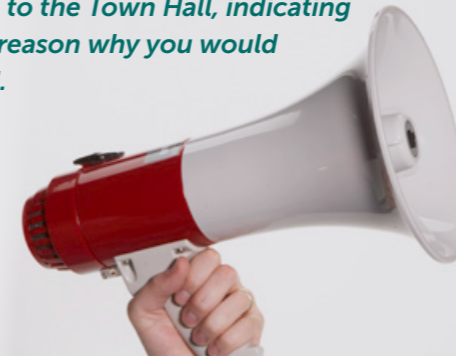
Tenterden Town Council would like to thank Lewis Brockway for the pictures used in this newsletter

## JOIN OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS

Tenterden Town Council wants to harness the talents of local volunteers to help....

- Improve its communications with the public
- Preserve and care for the war memorial, and
- Make our 2017 Christmas Market the best ever!

*If you have relevant skills in any of these areas, or would simply like to lend a hand, email [townclerk@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk) or apply in writing to the Town Hall, indicating your age, and the reason why you would like to be involved.*



## WHAT IS TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR?

Sometimes it is difficult to know which local authority you should contact if you have a local issue you would like to discuss. Here is a list of Tenterden Town Council is responsible for . . .

- The Recreation Ground, including Advertising banners Markets, fairs and events The Pavilion and children's play area The football pitch and tennis courts
- Small grants for local events such as Tenterden and the Folk Festival
- The May Fayre
- Mowing and strimming grass areas and cemeteries, and maintaining hedges and shrubs inside the town boundaries..
- The Millenium Garden
- East Cross Gardens
- Litter picking on Council property
- Park benches, and
- Maintaining the Town Hall, and marketing it for functions such as weddings and parties.

In addition, the Town Council is consulted by Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council which make the final decisions on a range of other issues, including housing, economic development, highways, the Leisure Centre, events licensing, planning, and car parking.

For a copy of our leaflet "Which authority should I contact?" please visit the Town Hall. ■

## WELCOME NOTE

Tenterden Town Council is committed to improving communications with the town's residents, and this Newsletter is part of an information programme to help keep you abreast of council affairs.

*"As a community, we have so much to celebrate. But there is always work to be done to enhance, protect and improve Tenterden and St Michaels. Sometimes there will be differences of opinion as to how we do that, but your Newsletter will keep you informed of debates and developments.*

*"I hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter and, as always, we welcome your feedback and comments."*

Cllr Justin Nelson  
MAYOR

*If you would like to receive future copies of the Newsletter and mini-Newsletters, please email [townclerk@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk), or call in at the Town Hall.*

## REGENERATING THE TOWN FOR THE FUTURE

**For the first time in a generation, Tenterden has the opportunity - and a budget of more than £3.5 million - to help regenerate the town for the future.**

The money has come from the sale of Council-owned land to the builders of the Three Fields and Church View housing developments, currently being built behind the Leisure Centre.

Earlier this year, the Town Council commissioned a research project to find out how residents would like the money spent and, as expected there were widely differing opinions expressed during the subsequent three month public consultation period.

As a result, the Town Council have formed Focus Groups - teams of local people working together with councillors - to get together and come up with costed proposals. The Focus Groups include.....

**Recreation Ground:** Evaluating the opportunity to develop and make more of our Recreation Ground, the Pavilion and the football pitch leading down to the Leisure Centre.

The first project which has been agreed is a skate park, recognising the wishes of our younger residents, and the potential for additional sports facilities, which is also being studied by a Council-led **Sports Review** working group.

**Cinema:** Tenterden had a cinema in the early 20th century at The Fairings, called the Picture Theatre, which was succeeded by The Embassy with its 900 seats over two floors, which was closed in the 1960s and is now the site for the M&Co shop. Existing competition for local cinemagoers comes from the Ashford multiplex and Kino cinemas at Hawkhurst and Rye.

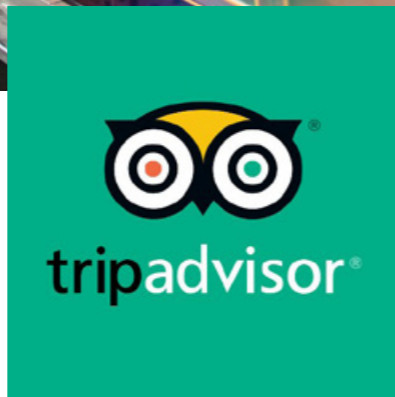
**The Town Hall:** One of the town's most beautiful buildings and an iconic focus for the High Street, the Town Hall was built in 1792 (an earlier version was burnt down by a vengeful convict in 1661!). The ornate balcony was added in 1912. With age comes problems, and the Town Hall is in urgent need of repair - for example, rain recently came through the ceiling the Mayor's Parlour. The Focus Group's objective is to see whether the Town Hall could better serve local people, need further investment and how booking them can be made easier.

**Community Halls:** There are several community halls in and around the town, and the Focus Group will be concentrating on their current usage, whether they could better serve local people or need further investment.

In addition, several local organisations have asked to be considered for an allocation from Tent1 funding, including St Mildred's Church - a major project to redesign the interior - the cricket club, scout group, and Day Centre. ■



## NEW TRAIN SERVICE AND TRIP ADVISOR MAKE TENTERDEN A DESTINATION OF CHOICE



There have been two boosts to Tenterden's reputation as 'The Jewel in the Weald' and the destination of choice for so many visitors - the announcement of the new rail link between the town's station and Robertsbridge, and accolades from TripAdvisor.

Finance is in place, and permissions given, for the creation of a 10.5-mile rail link between Tenterden and Robertsbridge, meaning that mainline passengers from London Victoria will now be able to travel all the way to Tenterden by train.

While there are still some legislative hurdles to cross, it not anticipated that these will delay the £6m project, which has a completion target date of Spring, 2019.

It is estimated the new railway could bring up to 100,000 visitors to the town, an enormous boost to the local economy.

Meanwhile, Tenterden continues to earn glowing reviews from the TripAdvisor website, which has half a million reviews and opinions on restaurants, hotels and places to visit around the world.

Tenterden High Street has just earned the website's highest accolade, a Certificate of Excellence, prompting Town

Clerk Phil Burgess to comment: "Trip Advisor is very important to Tenterden, as it is the first website visited by many people when they are planning a day out.

"We're absolutely delighted that the High Street has been awarded their Certificate of Excellence, with 93 percent of visitors rating it as "excellent" or "very good".

"In addition to that, 37 restaurants and cafes in the Tenterden area earn marks of at least 4 out of 5, while 12 hotels and B&Bs are ranked at least 4.5 out of 5.

"We're proud to be the Jewel in the Weald, and it's marvellous that independent reviews from visitors agree with that accolade". ■



## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Here, the Mayor Cllr Justin Nelson, explains his role as Tenterden's principal ambassador, and outlines his objectives for his year in office.

*"I have two main priorities - to do all I can to emphasise that Tenterden is a great place to live, work and visit, and to explore ways of revitalising our High Street.*

*"I represent the town at events held at other Cinque Ports, the ancient confederation which includes towns such as Hastings, New Romney, Hythe, Rye and Winchelsea, but which has a very modern purpose.*

*"These events, and others across the county, are not just 'civic socials', but are really useful in finding out how they approach the problems and opportunities which face towns similar to Tenterden.*

*"I'm pleased to be able to nominate Community First Responders and Tenterden Cricket Club as my charities for the year.*

*"Community First Responders is the organisation of local trained volunteers who are*

*often able to attend the scene of an emergency before the ambulance arrives, and deliver life-saving first aid.*

*"As our ambulance service has to come from Ashford, it is essential we have more First Responders, and we are beginning to build a team.*

*"And our cricket club, mainly because of its excellent programme which engages young and old, male and female, as well as providing a real sporting and social structure for young people.*

*"Finally, I chair Town Council meetings, which is both a privilege and an opportunity to help shape the debate on the council's activities and priorities.*

*"I also want to improve communications between the Town Council and the people of Tenterden - which is one reason why you are receiving this new-look Newsletter. I hope you like it."*

## YOUR CHANCE TO HELP SPEND £165,000!

If you would like to help spend £165,000 on community projects, then Tenterden Town Council would like to hear from you.

The funds - called the Community Chest - have been set aside from the money received from the Tent1 project, and are specifically to help fund smaller projects around the town.

Town Clerk Phil Burgess is asking for volunteers to join the committee which will evaluate applications for funds.

And if you have a project which would benefit your community, then simply let the Town Hall know.

The Community Chest team will also be able to advise applicants if further money is available in the form of grants.

Says Phil Burgess: "This is an excellent way of involving local residents, giving them a real say on how we spend our money".

*If you would like to be a member of the Community Chest team, or have a project you would like to be considered for funding, please call the Town Hall on 01580 762271 or email [www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk)*

## THE HIDDEN SECRET OF COOMBE LANE

The Town Council has commissioned a Kent Wildlife Trust report on one of the town's 'hidden secrets', the disused cemetery between Coombe Lane and Station Road.

The report says that the half-acre site, which has not been used for burials for more than half a century, provides a peaceful walking environment shaded by trees and shrubs, which is rich in birdlife - the Trust team recorded sightings of bullfinch, swift, buzzard and sparrowhawk, as well as five different types of butterfly.

The report will now be considered by the Council for further action. The last 'hidden secret' identified by the Council was the Millenium Garden, tucked away behind the High Street, which was re-planted, restored and re-opened by the Council in 2000. ■



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AT THREE FIELDS AND CHURCH VIEW DEVELOPMENTS

Homeseekers in Tenterden and St Michael's are being given priority for the first phase of affordable homes in the new housing developments of Church View and Three Fields.

Until recently, there had been some doubt that local people would be given priority, but Ashford Borough Council has now confirmed that applicants from Tenterden and St Michael's will be at the top of the list when the affordable homes are allocated.

ABC has told Tenterden Town Council that the rental properties will be let to "those with a housing need... we aim to offer the properties to a percentage of transfers, homeseekers and homeless applicants".

ABC's statement adds "...we also aim to let a percentage to people in employment and also to provide a mix of ages of children in order to create a sustainable community"

Said Town Clerk Phil Burgess: "This is great news. Our town councillors have been working tirelessly to ensure that local people are given priority on these developments, and we are delighted that Ashford Borough Council has now confirmed that this will be the case".

Local residents who believe they may qualify for one of the rental homes to be let by ABC should register online without delay at [www.kenthomechoice.org.uk](http://www.kenthomechoice.org.uk)

## SOCCER GOAL - MORE PITCHES FOR LOCAL TEAMS

Tenterden Town Council is in discussion with Homewood School to extend the number of football pitches in the town. Homewood have applied to both the Town Council and Ashford Borough Council to part-fund a 3G artificial turf pitch at the school, which will be available for use by other teams outside of school hours.

Part of the Town Council-led Sports Review group's longer-term plan to expand sports facilities in Tenterden is a project to extend the use of the school's existing pitch in Appledore Road to other teams, lay two more grass pitches, provide smaller training pitches, and even build a clubhouse.

The Town Council are working with the school and sporting organisations in the town to establish sources of local authority funding, and funding from outside organisations including the Football Foundation.



## COUNCILLOR ROY TAKES ON 65TH BIRTHDAY FREEFALL CHALLENGE FOR TENTERDEN DAY CENTRE

Most people celebrating their 65th birthday would perhaps enjoy a party with family and friends, and maybe check what their State pension is worth. But not Tenterden Town Councillor Roy Isworth.

Instead, on Saturday 19 August, he and his 25-year-old daughter Jane abseiled freefall down the 262 ft corkscrew tower which stands outside the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London.

Roy's aim was to raise £2,000 for the Tenterden & District Day Centre, the charity which he chairs.

Says Roy: "It might not have been the most conventional way to celebrate my 65th birthday, but I couldn't think of a better cause."

The Day Centre needs to raise around £70,000 a year from the local community to provide services to 120 older and disabled people in the Tenterden area, as well as additional services to hundreds more.

Roy and Jane's descent from the ArcelorMittal Orbit Tower, the UK's highest freefall structure, was the latest in a series of abseils he has undertaken in the past in aid of charity.

Liz Thorne, the chief executive of the Day Centre commented: "The ethos of our mission is to keep older people as active as possible, to maintain their health and wellbeing."

"Roy seems to have taken this advice literally by deciding to hurl himself from a 262ft tower suspended by just a rope to raise funds for us. He's not just our chairman, he's also our champion!"



## WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT TENTERTAINMENT

The news that the organisers of Tentertainment were not planning to run the event next year provoked a vigorous response, particularly on social media, much of it criticising the Town Council.

We have done a great deal to correct some of the misapprehensions that arose from this campaign, and have endeavoured to answer all claims that the Council in some way did not support Tentertainment.

There has been media coverage of the meetings which have recently taken place, where members of the public put their point of view.

*These were the Council's key responses . . .*

- Tenterden Town Council has always supported

Tentertainment, and will continue to do so.

- Ashford Borough Council advised us on noise levels, and suggested that 65 decibels was a sensible limit to minimise the potential for complaints and protect the council's music licence.
- Those limits were adhered to - if they had not, events from Tentertainment to the Circus, the Fair to wedding receptions in the Town Hall were at risk of not being allowed to play music in future.
- Tenterden Town Council is legally and morally obliged to take into account the

views of supporters of Tentertainment, and, equally, the views of those who may not be supporters, particularly those living within yards of the event.

- There had been complaints in previous years. This year, nobody complained, and the event was, according to the organisers, an enormous success.
- We have invited the organisers to meet with us to see what can be done to avoid conflict and misunderstandings, and to work together for the future benefit of the event.

## CLASSES FOR ALL AT THE TOWN HALL AND PAVILION

The Town Hall and The Pavilion are the venue for a range of classes - here's the latest schedule.

If you would like to attend a class, simply contact the instructors, or, if you would like to stage a class yourself, just speak to the Town Hall staff.

MONDAYS				
09.15	Pilates	Liz Ebbens-Sims	Town Hall	07958 708874
11.15	Pilates	Liz Ebbens-Sims	Town Hall	07958 708874
19.00	Martial Arts	Glenn Thompson	Pavilion	07999 559748
TUESDAYS				
09.30	Under 5s Dance	Ami Piper	Pavilion	07929 648009
11.45	Yoga	Maureen Ladbury	Town Hall	01233 861362
14.00	Pink Ribbon Pilates	Genevieve Pollock	Town Hall	07779 670502
14.15	Acro-Tots	Charlotte Hudson	Pavilion	07875 525518
15.15	Over 4s Dance	Ami Piper	Pavilion	07929 648009
WEDNESDAYS				
10.45	Chi Ball (keep- fit)	Ally Walker-Davies	Town Hall	07709 052808
THURSDAYS				
09.30	Pilates	Annie Knight	Town Hall	07989 869217
15.45	Speech & drama	Lucy Speed	Pavilion	07884 431462
FRIDAYS				
09.30	Yoga	Angela Morrissey	Pavilion	01580 291215
10.45	Chi Ball (keep- fit)	Ally Walker-Davies	Town Hall	07709 052808
SATURDAYS				
10.00	Speech & drama	Lucy Speed	Pavilion	07884 431462