

## **St. Michaels Community Group**

### **Annual Report**

During this last year the St Michaels Community Group has successfully managed a variety of activities.

Fundraising is a vital part of being able to maintain our presence in the village and various events were held in 2018 including Dinner/dance at London Beach and Quizzes at The Crown. Our main events, The Tributes in the Park and the Christmas Tree Switch On and Childrens Christmas Party are expensive to run and would not be able to happen without the generous grants we have received.

We have produced the St Michaels Bites Newsletter, which gives information of local interest and promotes our events, and is delivered free of charge by the Community Group members and families.

This newsletter is totally self funded by advertisements

Volunteers have maintained the Ox Lane Green and have created a very good looking entrance to Tenterden.

The Point, central to Christmas celebrations in St Michaels, gained a wooden cover to hide the tree stand, and has a large pot and plant fixed to it. We are exploring ways of using it to display artworks throughout the year. The flowers in the troughs are again maintained by village volunteers.

The Group rose to the occasion of The Centenary of The Great War and turned the area into a fitting and respectful commemoration to those men of our village who gave their lives at this time. We have retained the poppies and will work to make this an annual Remembrance event that includes the fallen of both world wars

The 2018 Tributes in the Park event proved to be another great success. The weather was perfect (if a tad too hot) and 'Tributeers' turned up in their droves for a fantastic afternoon of live entertainment. There was a lot of very positive feedback that made it all worthwhile. Tributes is now an officially recognised community event and is supported by Tenterden Town Council, Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council by way of grants. We also received donations from our Tenterden Ward Councillors, local businesses and an anonymous contribution from a member of the public. The raffle money raised was split equally between The Mayor's Charities, Pilgrims Hospice and Community Group funds. Bucket collections and donations from the ice cream van and burger bar all helped to offset the cost of putting on the event.

The Christmas switch-on followed the usual format of church service, candle-lit procession and childrens party at the village hall with Santa in attendance. This time the High Sheriff of Kent, Mrs Jane Ashton officiated at the switch-on. To brighten up the proceedings at the Point, a street organ was organised to provide festive light and music.



# ST MILDRED'S CHURCH

## Transformation Project (SMTP) | June 2019

### Grant Award

Ashford Borough Council is providing £50,000 to fund design development and to move the project forward. The grant allows the project to instruct architects and conservation and other consultants to liaise with agreement of Historic England and gain their support for the scheme.

### Tenterden Town Council Supports Transformation Project

In January the Council agreed to support the Transformation Project in principle whilst leaving any decisions about financial support until the public presentations later this year. This news was warmly welcomed by the project with Rev Lindsay Hammond saying "This is a clear recognition of the community benefits the Transformation Project will bring and this support gives us great hope going forward"



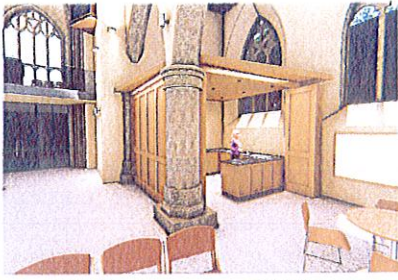
### Transformation Update

Since the town wide consultation last year, when we set out the proposals to create a major worship and community building for the town, we are moving forward towards submitting the scheme to Ashford Borough Council for planning permission and the Church Authority for Faculty/ Listed Building Consent. To ensure the best chance of approval we are discussing the scheme with Historic England and the other conservation organisations such as the Victorian Society, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Ancient Monuments Society. All of these groups have an important voice in the process.

So far they have given us support for

- the removal of the pews and a new floor
- installing a new kitchen,
- moving the organ
- replacing the heating, lighting and audio visual systems
- enlarging the balcony at the west end of the church and





## Town Council appoints project reps

Councillors Sue Ferguson and Mike Carter are the new links between the St Mildred's Transformation Project and the Town Council. They will keep the Town Council informed of progress and be an independent voice for the project in Council discussions. We welcome them to the team and look forward to working with them.

## Contact the SMTP

If you would like more information about the project or would like to help us with fundraising please contact

Karen Edgar

Church Administrator

St Mildred's, Tenterden

Tuesdays /Thursdays -

Office 01580 765414

Wednesdays - 07546 48337

kass.edgar2018@gmail.com



ST. MILDRED  
TENTERDEN

opening up views of the rare double west doors.

- redecorating of the interior.

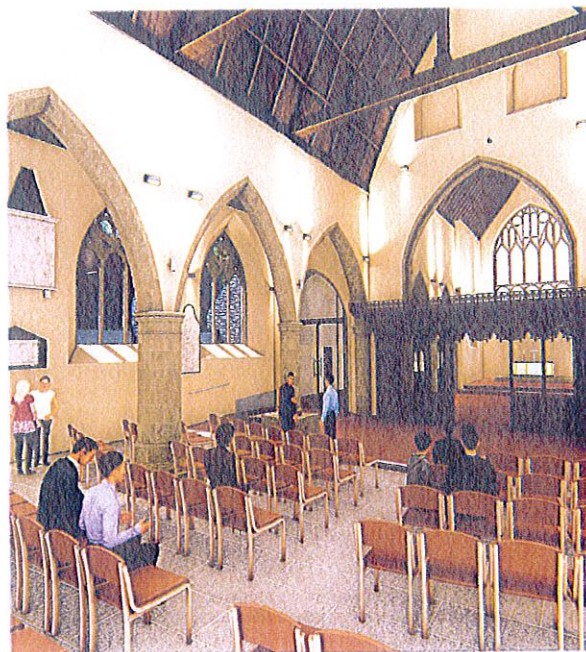
Other works to the fabric of the Church including repairs and restoration of the stained glass windows and to the roof are in the pipeline and will continue independently of the Transformation Project.

Further work now needs to be done on the extension on north side of the church and looking at the proposed new first floor in the current organ chapel.

This work has been delayed through lack of funds but with the generous help of Ashford Borough Council we are moving forward. It is our hope and intention to be able to show the Tenterden Town Council and the whole town an improved scheme which we can be confident of gaining approval for.

## Fund Raising

The Transformation Project including repairs to the fabric of the Church is likely to cost £2.5 to £3m. This is a huge sum but significantly less than the cost of building a new large community facility in the town. We believe that the project represents good value for money and so we have asked the Town Council for £750k from the money received from the sale of the housing land behind the Recreation Centre. Please support this bid by writing to the council and by supporting the project in September when the regeneration projects for the town will all be displayed.



## Tenterden Bowls Club

Tenterden Bowls Club was founded in 1908 and is established on Recreation Ground Road, Tenterden.

Last year the Club was excited by the anticipation of being moved to a new location on the Recreation Ground. However, our hopes have since been dashed as the scheme has now been declared financially unviable.

The Club still hopes to work closely with the Council to achieve financial support to make various improvements. These would include : -

- a. Lowering the surrounding hedge
- b. Clear signage
- c. Re-siting the entrance gate
- d. Improving the changing rooms and the toilet facilities
- e. Enlarging the Club house and insulating it so that it can be used all year round for a variety of functions which can be enjoyed by the local community.

The Club facilities are enjoyed at present by players of different abilities and disabilities and provides a special wheelchair which can be used on the green.

Currently facilities are used by the Parkinson's group and the Blind.

We play a variety of Clubs, at home and away, from April to September.

Bowling provides gentle and enjoyable outdoor exercise and gives the opportunity to make new friends with like interests.

Contact may be made with the Club via the Club Captain, Mr John Link, tel no.

01580 765329 or by the web [www.tenterdenbowls.com](http://www.tenterdenbowls.com)

20 June 2019



## **Tenterden & District Museum**

The museum's key achievement for the past year was to replace the WWI display with a fresh concept 'The 20th Century Room' depicting a typical home in the 1960s.

The two rooms fashioned on the 1960s are designed to stimulate conversation amongst visitors. This has been a huge success with schools and visiting organisations and especially for those caring for people living with dementia. Tenterden Museum staff has all attended formal dementia friends training and the museum is now officially deemed 'Dementia Friendly'.

The museum continues to offer a digital archive of local events and photographs; this data facility is constantly being expanded and is a huge resource for those researching their ancestors.

We are proudly a major tourist venue for Tenterden and our visitor numbers continue to increase.

Our dedicated and committed team of volunteers all look forward to seeing you soon.

Debbie Greaves

Curator.

# TENTERDEN LIONS CLUB



## Report for Town Hall Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Tenterden Lions Club. The community of Tenterden has been served by the Lions Club for the last sixty one years. In the last twelve months alone the club has raised close to £18,000, of which less than twenty percent goes to national and international causes. Over eighty percent is gifted to local causes. The many who have been beneficiaries of the Lions fundraising efforts are the Tenterden Social Hub, local Schools, Pilgrims Hospice, the Ben Hammond Trust and many more including the town's beacon which was installed, last year, in time for the anniversary of the end of WWI.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June this year, the Club celebrated its 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of its founding amongst whose guests was founding member, Lion Roger Champion, who is still an active member. We are proud to be an established part of the Tenterden Community and work tirelessly to serve that same community.

The Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month in the White Lion and membership is currently 24. The Lion's Business year runs from 1st July through to 30th June. The Club continues under the Presidency of Lion Mike Caridia, Lion Keren Groves remains as Club Secretary. Contact details may be found on the Club's web-site.

The Club will be participating, once again in Tractorfest in Biddenden on 17th-18th August and, for the third successive year, the Club will be running 'Pistons & Paws' the Tenterden Lions Classic Vehicle & Dog Show which last year attracted over 260 vehicles and more than a 1000 visitors who enjoyed this truly family day. For over 40 years, during the build-up to Christmas the Club has been undertaking collections for charity by taking Father Christmas out to meet the children around the town and surrounding villages. The Lions Christmas Float will be out and about again this year, plus the Club will be running Santa's Grotto outside Tesco's from the Friday 13th December to Sunday 15th December and Friday 20th December to Sunday 22nd December

On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June, the Club organised its Annual Primary Schools Choir Competition which was won by Wittersham CE Junior School. Later in the autumn, the Club will be out, as usual, planting bulbs in the High Street, Oaks Road and St Michaels which adds to the beauty of Tenterden every Springtime.

The Club are always looking for new members of any age and anyone who is keen to serve our local community is welcome. Please consult our website and follow the contact details or please feel free to turn up at one of our 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday on the month meetings at the White Lion and you'll be very welcome to see what being a Lion involves..

Lion President Mike Caridia

## Tenterden Macular Support Group

The Tenterden Macular Support Group was formed in February 2017 and has grown from an original membership of 8 to a current total of 29 members drawn from Tenterden and surrounding area.

Its aim is to provide those experiencing visual impairment with support and help in dealing with Macular Degeneration and other vision problems.

The Group meets every month, except for August, at the Hub in Tenterden ( formerly the Day Centre ) on the third Tuesday of each month from 11.30 to 1.00 pm.

On the majority of meeting days a speaker attends who will give a specialist presentation covering various elements of the help which is available to those with impaired vision including demonstrations of the very wide range of visual aids which are currently available.

By its very nature the Group has also become a strong social gathering of friends who gain much from exchanging their individual experiences, gaining knowledge, and learning from each other.

Attendance is priced at £3 per member to cover the cost of the room hire and includes refreshments.

The contact details for the present coordinator are as follows :-

Mr Jeremy Taylor

Telephone : - 01797 252002

E-mail : - [jeremy@jeremytaylor.plus.com](mailto:jeremy@jeremytaylor.plus.com)

20 June 2019

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