

Update

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News Update

u3a National Festival

The u3a National Festival will be held at York University on 1st – 3rd July; tickets and accommodation can be booked via the u3a national website. Click [here](#) for more information.

u3a Summer School

The 2026 Summer School organised by the u3a South East Region will be held once again at the University of Chichester over 4 days 7–10th September. Details of the courses and events over the 4 days will be available on the website from 2nd April – bookings open on 8th May. This event is always popular so please book early if you wish to go click [here](#) for more information.

Christmas lunch

A reminder that our u3a Christmas lunch has been booked for Monday 7 December at The Pig and Sty. Make a note in your diaries – booking details in the autumn.

Thursday 16 July

Chris O'Donoghue: *Behind the Scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show*

Drawing on his experience of designing and building medal-winning gardens at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Chris gives an insight into how the show gardens are created. He will talk us through the process, with over 90 high quality photos showing his and other gardens at the famous flower show.



Thursday 17 September

Peter Benson: *Tales of a Film Prop Man.*

Experience the glamour and excitement of the film industry through the eyes of Pete Benson, an unexpected hero who stumbled into a career as a film prop man with no prior experience. *Tales Of A Film Prop Man* is a humorous and heartwarming book that follows Pete's journey as he navigates the unpredictable world of movie sets, famous actors, exotic locations, all while balancing the demands of supporting a young family.



From the Chair

The AGM on 21st May was significant. Sally White's excellent minutes were circulated in late May, but I would like to add a few comments. The election of officers and members of the Committee has resulted in all posts being filled. This is marvellous news as it secures our immediate future.

I am delighted to welcome Roy Isworth to the Committee as our new Vice-Chair. Having been vacant for a year, the post could not have been filled by a more suitable person. Roy has a long record of service to Tenterden in many forms as Chairman of the Residents' Association, Chairman of the Cricket Club, Town Councillor, Chair of the Social Hub and currently Chairman of the Mildred Trust.

Our Treasurer Rosalind Johnson was re-elected, but in accordance with her desire to retire in September we have been very fortunate to elect her future successor to the Committee. James Smith is a qualified accountant who will then take over. Rosalind has filled the post of Treasurer for seven or more years. Thank you Rosalind and welcome James!

John Coe is the other new member of the Committee. Having recently moved to Tenterden, he has already shown an interest in helping the organisation.

The other change of importance is that Rennie Halstead is standing down from the Committee, but he has generously offered to remain as Communications Officer for another year. Rennie's previous work as Chair and his current role have made a great contribution.

From a slightly parlous situation one year ago, with the present members of the Committee including our efficient Secretary, John Russell, we are now in a considerably better position.

John Nicholls

Membership

Membership lapses at the end of June. If you haven't renewed your membership please contact John Badcock – membership@tenterdenu3a.org

Group news

Strictly Singles



Strictly Singles have organised the usual activities including 10 pin bowling, film club, lunches and walks and we look forward to trips to London

Amongst other activities we will be going to Leeds Castle Music on 11 July. Fingers crossed for a sunny evening of music, fun and Spitfires flying overhead.

Dabblers Too

We have been quietly painting away and produced some lovely work, though our members are very shy when it comes to putting it 'out there' Having said that, two members have taken part in the local Weald of Kent Art Society exhibition, held in The Woolpack Barn, which closes on Sunday.

Here are a couple of examples of our work..



Oysters- Lesley Coombs



Lion - Amanda Court

Walking Tennis

We have received information about Walking Tennis from Headcorn Tennis Club. The L.T.A. describe Walking Tennis as a slower-paced version of the traditional game, and a great way for seniors to keep both their body and mind active, while also enjoying the social side of being part of a tennis community.

Headcorn Tennis Club have a limited number of places available for this pilot initiative which is offered free of charge.

If you would like more information please contact Rennie on info@tenterdenu3a.org.

Bowls

We have recently been invited by Biddenden Bowling Club to play at their facilities. This invitation is extended to existing players and to those who have never played but fancy having a go. The Club has suggested we come along and 'have a go' on the afternoon of Thursday 7 May. On this occasion, please contact Sally on info@tenterdenu3a.org if you would like to take up this opportunity. If there is enough interest, we will form a Bowling Group, and make use of their facilities, in a similar way as the u3a Golf Club play at Tenterden.