

60 Second Interview - Sue Ferguson

Excerpt from Ashford Voice - Your Community - September 2012



This month, we catch up with chiropodist and podiatrist, website editor and charity champion, Sue Ferguson.

Sue, 56, and her osteopath and acupuncturist husband Bill have been practising in Tenterden

for more than 20 years, and is also a committee member at the Tenterden Chamber of Commerce.

How do you serve the

people of Tenterden in the Borough of Ashford?

As well as my full time work, I edit the Tenterden Town website

www.tenterdentown.co.uk. It is a huge job, and started out just taking a few hours a week but, as with many voluntary jobs, it developed into something significantly more - I can quite easily spend about 40 hours a week updating.

For many years, the website just consisted of a handful of static pages. It is now has more than 500 dynamic pages, many of which need regular updating, and include a news section, a forum for local people to express views, a very well used Tenterden Events Diary www.tenterdentown.co.uk/events and an exciting new Tenterden Archive project we have started.

In 2010, the Rural Towns Partnership paid to update the Tenterden website for the benefit of the whole community, and I like to think they are proud of what the Chamber of Commerce have achieved. Over the last 12 months 262,756 website visitors have downloaded more than four million pages from the website, which shows how incredibly popular it is.

How did you get started in your field?

I've been interested in IT, computers and websites for years, it's such a change from my 'real' job. About 15 years ago, I took a couple of Adult Education basic



Sue Ferguson, Tenterden

computing courses and then gradually added to my skills, including an Open University web design course. I've added lots of other jobs to my busy list, including running the Tenterden Facebook www.facebook.com/tenterden and Twitter accounts www.twitter.com/tenterdentown

What about your

charity work?

I have lived in Tenterden for 27 years and for much of that time, I have helped on various charity committees, including the Tenterden Day Centre, and the RNLI. I helped the local Residents Association set up a website in 2003, and for the past 11 years Bill and I have been quizmasters at the annual Pilgrims Hospice quiz,



The Bunting Gang

which is always very popular and raises a lot of money for the Hospice thanks to the very active local committee. As well as giving various talks to charities and groups in Tenterden, I've certainly done my fair share of standing in fields and the high street with collecting tins. I also help out with various Rotary events (Bill my husband is the Rotary press officer) so we are always busy with all sorts of different things

from helping to put up the town Christmas tree to helping to run a particular event.

Also this year I helped the Chamber of Commerce 'bunting gang' – we went out night after night to put up over a mile of Union Jack bunting in Tenterden High Street in celebration of the Jubilee and the Olympics. We had such goodwill from everyone we met while we were carrying lad-

ders, bunting and staple guns up and down the High Street. It was a wonderful time.

Describe a typical working day

Up very early, late to bed. I'm lucky to need only about five hours sleep a night. I start work with patients at 7.30am work

straight through to about 2.30pm, then it's on with my voluntary work updating the Tenterden website.

What is the best part of your job?

Helping patients, and my voluntary work on the Tenterden website. Seeing the website stats go up and up as more and more people look at the website.

And the worst?

Nothing really, it's relatively easy to ignore any negatives!

What has been your biggest success in the last year?

The InCinque Tenterden newsletter www.tenterdentown.co.uk/join which is similar but much smaller than Ashford Voice.

What are your plans for the future?

It would be great to have a Tenterden App, we just need some funding first.

What would you do if you ruled the world?

I wouldn't have time to do that.

What's your biggest pet peeve?

People who dump rubbish in the street and

expect other people to clear it up.

Who do you admire most and why?

Anyone who does voluntary work and spends time helping others.



S.11700

TOWN HALL, TENTERDEN.