

June/July 2007

Ashford VOICE

here comes summer!

inside:

- Stanhope becomes a reality
- Election special
- Things to do this summer
- Competitions



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council contacts

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Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL

Open: 9am – 5pm Monday to Thursday
9am – 4.30pm Friday

Tel: 01233 331111
Minicom: 01233 330744
Fax: 01233 645654

Lines Open:
8.30am – 5.30pm Monday to Thursday
8.30am – 5.00pm Friday

Out of Hours/Emergency: 01233 629911

24 Hour Payment Line: 01233 330625

Benefit Fraud Hotline: 0800 0262456

Tenterden Office

6/7 The Fairings,
Tenterden, Kent TN30 6QX

Open: 9am – 5pm Monday to Thursday
9am – 4.30pm Friday
(Closed for Lunch 1pm – 2pm)

Tel: 01580 764066

The Ashford Gateway Centre

14 Park Mall, Ashford, Kent TN24 8RY

Tel: 08458 247247
Minicom: 08458 247905
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Ashford Voice

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2007-2008
Promoting Sustainable
Communities Through
the Planning Process

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welcome



Welcome to Ashford Voice

Welcome to the latest edition of Ashford Voice packed with news, information and things to do.

The local elections were held last month - you can find out who your local councillor is and information about council meetings in our helpful election special section.

Summer's on its way which means festival season here in Ashford. Check out the leaflet inside Ashford Voice for details of the Summer Sounds events this July. From folk to jazz and rock to classical there's something to suit everyone's musical tastes.

July 8 sees the worlds biggest sporting event come to the borough when the Tour de France races through our streets. Check out the events being organised in Ashford and Tenterden to celebrate the event and make a date to get a roadside seat to watch the spectacle go by.

Summer brings out the best the borough has to offer and the What's On section has lots of things to see and do in June and July. In fact, there's so much, we couldn't fit everything in this edition so check out www.ashford.gov.uk/events for the very latest information on great days out.



You can contact us by email at: voice@ashford.gov.uk write to us at the Civic Centre or call: **01233 330209**

Caroline Owen
Editor

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Ashford Voice has been designed and produced by Lightwave Design, Ashford



Tel: 01233 504910 www.lightwavedesign.co.uk

Printed by: Headley Brothers Ltd, Ashford

Tel: 01233 623131 www.headley.co.uk

Stanhope Dream Becomes Reality



David Hill addresses the community with Dave Hill, of Moat Housing

Seven years of hard work to secure a bright future for Stanhope has culminated in the signing of an historic Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract.

The community recently gathered to celebrate after Ashford Borough Council agreed a £200 million, 30-year deal that will unlock Government funding to transform the Sixties-built estate in South Ashford.

The Stanhope PFI is the most significant project the council has ever undertaken and is a first for a district local authority.

Under the terms of the contract the council has handed the management of Stanhope over to the Chrysalis consortium, who will undertake a massive regeneration project over the next five years. This will include replacing seven remaining blocks of flats with more than 400 new homes for rent, shared ownership or sale on the open market together with the demolition of the old shopping centre, the creation of a new commercial centre and new and improved community facilities

Council staff, representatives from Chrysalis and Stanhope residents came together to toast the occasion at a celebration event. Pupils from Lyndon Grove and Beaver Green schools released balloons to herald a new dawn for the estate. The offices of housing association Moat, which will now run the council's housing stock on the estate, were officially opened.

The council was awarded PFI credits by the Government in 2000 but restarted the tendering process for private sector partners in 2005 after losing confidence in a previous consortium. Chrysalis was appointed in July 2006 and the contracts closed in nine months – believed to be another record.

Tracey Kerly, the council's head of housing added: "We were bold enough to pull out of the process with the previous consortium at a critical time because we did not think the proposals emerging were right for the people of Stanhope.

"It gave us the opportunity to have another look at what we and the community wanted to achieve from the PFI, which in turn gave new bidders a massive steer about what was expected.

"We have engaged in extensive Government talks to secure funding and detailed negotiations with our PFI partners to ensure the right decisions are made in the interests of the community and throughout the process we ensured thorough consultation with the people of Stanhope."

Council chief executive David Hill said: "The signing of this contract is an historic event that will benefit thousands and heralds a new dawn for Stanhope.

"Quality new housing designed to meet the community's needs, a more safe and secure environment and major investment will create a new identity for Stanhope and shake off its negative image.

"The PFI regeneration will transform the estate into a thriving, healthy, safe and sustainable community where residents will enjoy a good quality of life."

"We have strived to ensure the project is deliverable, affordable and reflects the aspirations of the community. Reaching this stage is a very significant achievement for the council."



Children Release balloons to celebrate

Moat Chief Executive John Barker, Ashford Head of Housing Tracey Kerly and Ashford Chief Executive David Hill cut the celebration cake at the community celebration even



Scenes like this will be a thing of the past



Ashford Sets Shining Example

Ashford Borough Council has been awarded Beacon status for promoting sustainable communities through the planning process. The Council is only one of four local authorities nationally to be given this award.

The Beacon scheme, sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government, highlights best practice in local government. Ashford Borough Council was one of only 48 local authorities in the country to receive recognition.

Beacon status is granted to those authorities who can demonstrate a clear vision, excellent services and a willingness to innovate within a theme. Awards are made by government ministers based on recommendations made by an independent advisory panel.

Ashford Borough Council was rewarded for their long track record of design workshops on important sites; the community based approach to masterplanning Ashford's growth and steps now being taken towards delivery of projects that will help to create new, quality places that local people have helped to design.

This is the second Beacon status award the Council has received following the Asset Management Award received in 2005/06.

Richard Alderton, Head of Planning and Development said: *"This is fantastic news for the Council and the borough. It is never going to be easy planning to double the size of a town and deliver the highest quality places we possibly can but by working together with all sections of the community we have shown what we can achieve. This award is for everyone involved in that process"*.

For more information on the Beacon award visit www.beacons.idea.gov.uk



Cllr Marriot Richard Alderton and Lois Jarrett with Beacon Award



Learning Campus plans approved

Plans for the multi-million pound Ashford Learning Campus have been approved by council planners.

The landmark building in Victoria Road is on course to open its door to 14,000 students in September 2009.

The campus is being developed by South Kent College working with the Learning & Skills Council for Kent and Medway, South East England Development Agency and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Rosie Pye, Director of Corporate Projects said; *"We look forward to delivering excellent facilities in a state of the art building in the heart of Ashford."*

Acting Director for Ashford's Future Abigail Raymond said; *"This is a vital development for the future of Ashford. A high skills based will underpin our prosperity and the Learning Campus will play a crucial role in ensuring the borough has a work force with the right skills."*

Additional Phase for Eureka Park



Approval has been given for an additional phase and local facilities to compliment the existing development already at Eureka Park.

Herald will provide an additional 35,000 sq ft of office accommodation on three floors. The spectacular glass building offers flexible office floors and provides excellent views of the park.

The local centre will include a children's day nursery, family pub restaurant, local shopping facilities and a medical centre.

Eureka Park is one of the South East's most important new business parks, and is set to become a major business location for local and national offices

and research & development occupiers. Eureka Park has been designed to offer high specification buildings, excellent car parking ratios, picturesque views and a variety of excellent local amenities including a multiplex cinema, gym, restaurants and hotels.

Levels of interest in the units have been high and it is estimated that new and expanding businesses will move to the park, creating a number of new job opportunities for local residents.

Andrew Osborne, Economic Development Manager for Ashford Borough Council said: *"When complete, Eureka Park could have a workday population of up to 7,000 people, many of whom will want to use local shops and facilities. The proposals put forward will be an integral part of a successful and vibrant Eureka Park"*.

Eureka Park already has 300,000 sq ft of built premises housing Brakes, Coty and Inca. The Park has planning consent for 1.25million sq ft on 96 acres.

For more information on Eureka Park visit www.eurekapark.co.uk



Ashford International Hotel, owned by hotel chain QHotels is spending £7.5m upgrading all rooms, business and leisure facilities.

The first phase of the refurbishment, already underway, concentrates on getting all 179 guestrooms up to the company's four-star standard. Air conditioning, wi-fi access, LCD televisions and laptop safes will also be added.

Ashford International Hotel boasts the largest conference facilities in Kent, with 12 meeting rooms and these will be extended further when three new meeting rooms are added.

Other improvements include extending the leisure facilities to three times their current size, to create a health, fitness and spa zone and renovated the bar and restaurant area.

General Manager of Ashford International, Deirdre Billing said: *"We are delighted to be contributing to a booming Ashford, there is so much going development happening in the town. This is really exciting times for Ashford and we are happy to be part of it."*

Things to do and places to go...

Must See's this June and July:



The Great St Rumwold Raft Race on the Royal Military Canal, Bonnington on Sunday 10 June. - Construct your own raft or hire one on the day – what better way to enjoy a fine June day. The race has been running for the last five years in aid of St Rumwold's Church and the Fireman's Benevolent Fund. The Aldington Fireman always bring their engine down to the canal and enter an amazing (and often winning) 6 man raft. It's the best kind of family event. Quite a few people get wet – picnics are eaten all down the canal – and there are simple fun things for children to do plus a beer tent and barbecue. **For more information call 01233 720496**

Willesborough Windmill Find out how we used to get the flour to make our daily bread. This windmill has recently been able to put the sweeps (sails) back on the mill and is well worth a visit.

For more information visit www.willesboroughwindmill.co.uk or call 01233 661866

Appledore Open Gardens Sunday 10 June & **Smarden Garden Weekend** Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 - Have you ever wanted take a peek at some of the borough's loveliest private gardens? Well, now you can as eight local gardens in both villages throw their gates open.

Call 01233 770425 for more information about Smarden and 01233 758500 for Appledore.

Hamstreet Country Fayre Saturday, June 9 and **Hamstreet Festival of Transport & Machinery**, Sunday June 10- Yes, you really can watch rounds of the British Lawnmower Racing Association championship and loads more besides at these two events on Marsh Road.

Call 07711721703 for more information or check out the What's On section of Ashford Voice.



Godinton House & Gardens – history and tranquillity on your doorstep

Over 600 years of history is waiting to be discovered at this ancient house and June is an exceptional time to do so as fabulous delphiniums and roses come into bloom.

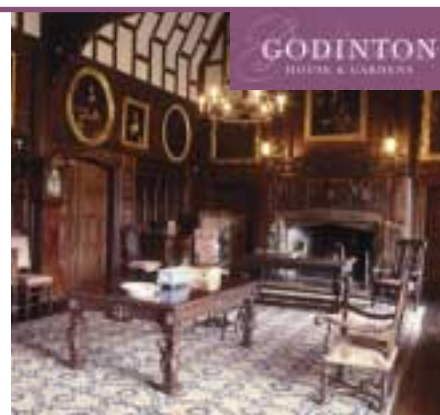
Each room has a different style. Wander through the stunning Great Hall, Library, Chinese Room, and White Room climb the magnificently carved staircase which leads to the Great Chamber and Gallery and see all the rooms reveal their own secrets and wonders, as the house is explored and explained by one of their excellent, enthusiastic guides.

Surrounded by the great boundary yew hedge, are twelve acres of tranquil gardens. Terraced lawns, topiary, large lily pond, newly designed rose garden, the Italian garden with its statuary and gentle fountain make a perfect place to sit on a warm day. A large walled kitchen garden is home to a spectacular collection of delphiniums provided by the local Delphinium Society, fruit trees have been planted on the walls and there are beds of cutting flowers and vegetables laid out in front of a new Victorian style greenhouse

The House and tea rooms are open from early April to early October with the garden opening late March and closing late October. Many special events are held at the house throughout the year.

To find out more visit www.godinton-house-gardens.co.uk or call 01233 620773 you can find their latest events in the What's On section of Ashford Voice.

This summer you have the chance to visit Godinton House for free and enjoy a cream tea as Ashford Voice has been given and family ticket to give away.



Win a great family day out at Godinton House and Garden

Just answer the following question:
How old is Godinton House?

- A: 200 yrs
- B: 400 yrs
- C: 600 yrs



Return to: Godinton House Competition, Ashford Voice, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL.
Entries must be received by 18 June 2007.
Prize is non-exchangeable and non-transferable.

Name
.....
Address
.....
.....
.....
Postcode
.....
Tel No.
.....
Email
.....

Tick if you wish to receive further information from Ashford Borough Council and partners involved in the plans for Ashford's future

Keeps the Kid amused with **Rare Breeds & Wild Animals!**

Go wild at Port Lympne
Wild Animal Park



With gorillas, tigers, rhinos, lions and many more rare and endangered animals you're sure of a great day out. You don't just have to be interested in the animals to enjoy Port Lympne. As well as the 400 acre animal park you can soak up the atmosphere of the historic mansion set in 15 acres of landscaped gardens.

For more information visit
www.portlympne.co.uk

Fun, adventure & discovery
at the Rare Breeds Centre
in Woodchurch



Whatever the weather or time of year, there's so much to see and do at the Rare Breeds Centre with its unique mix of fun, excitement and countryside adventure, set in 120 acres of unspoilt countryside. For more information checkout their website
www.rarebreeds.org.uk or call 01233 861 493

Summer's on its way and here in Ashford there's loads to see and do during the holidays.

Support your local tourist attractions

Nostalgic railways, windmills, vineyards, beautiful gardens and historic houses are just some of the things on your doorstep and with beautiful countryside, hop gardens, oast houses and picture postcard villages there's almost no need to leave the borough.

Why not pop into the Tourist Information Centre in Ashford where you can find a host of ideas for summer fun. Find them at 18 The Churchyard, Ashford, Kent TN23 1QG 01233 629165 email tourism@ashford.gov.uk

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Call us now for more information

Training you want at a price you can afford!

It's Father's Day on Sunday June 17 and what better way to celebrate than treating him to lunch at one of Ashford's top restaurants. (And wouldn't it be great if you didn't have to pay)

Well, thanks to Utopia Wine Bar and Restaurant you can.

The popular Bank Street restaurant has given Voice a special Father's Day lunch for four people to give away to a deserving Dad and his family on Saturday June 16.

At Utopia you can have a relaxing drink, dine in the bar or restaurant and be certain of a warm welcome and excellent food and a wine list to die for.

Whether it's a morning snack of sandwiches and pastries, lunch, somewhere to relax in the afternoon with a coffee and the newspaper, cocktails or evening wining and dining Utopia is the place to go.

Utopia, Lower Bank Street, Ashford 01233 636060 www.utopia-restaurant.co.uk

Treat your Dad to lunch this Father's Day

Win your Dad this special
Father's Day lunch

Just answer the following question:

This year what day is Father's Day?

- A: June 16
- B: June 17
- C: June 18



Return to: Father's Day Competition, Ashford Voice, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL.
Entries must be received by 13 June 2007.
Winners will be informed by telephone. Prize is non-exchangeable and non-transferable.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Postcode

Tel No.

Email

Tick if you wish to receive further information from Ashford Borough Council and partners involved in the plans for Ashford's future

Working to improve the **cultural life** of the borough

When someone says the word 'culture' many of us think of historic buildings, great literature and art. But at Ashford Borough Council it means much more and the Cultural and Projects Services team are working hard to ensure that culture is at the heart of our growing borough.

Head of cultural services is Mark Carty who explains; "Culture plays a critical role in shaping the place where we live and is about our way of life and what we value as well as how we spend our leisure time."

"Culture and sport have enormous potential to bring communities together, creating prosperity and opportunity. They have an essential role to play in enriching the quality of our lives and enhancing our public places and have a critical role in creating sustainable communities."

Cultural projects manager Christina Fuller describes the part the team plays to help meet local people's cultural needs. "Our role is to enable and deliver a broad range of services and cultural opportunities, often in partnership. Our work covers obvious cultural areas such as the arts, sport, festivals and events but also includes preserving and enhancing the borough's heritage and tourism, nature conservation and the development of parks and open spaces. But behind this is the strategic and grass roots work we deliver on planning community services such as children's play, leisure centres, and supporting local clubs, events and parish Councils."

A number of high quality local sports facilities have been built over recent years including the Julie Rose Stadium, Ashford Mini Soccer Centre, Indoor Bowls Centre, the skate & BMX park and Courtside multi-use games facility.

One of the key challenges for Cultural Services and the council's Project Office is providing new services as new, sustainable communities are built as Ashford grows. This will be achieved through joint working with partners, the parish and urban community forums.



Arts projects coordinator

Chris Dixon supports the Summer Sounds and other music and arts festivals and initiatives along with key projects such as the one to transform St Mary's Church, Ashford into an important arts venue as well as an historic place of worship.

Simon Harris, the council's sports development officer is working towards developing sports facilities and programmes. He supports sports clubs helping them to provide new activities, improve standards and increase the number of local people who participate in sport.

SallyAnne Logan and Carol Morton have already helped provide a number of youth initiatives including Ashford's skate park, new play areas, the successful Ashford Youth Forum other neighbourhood forums and will continue to improve opportunities and facilities for young people.

Sarah Barber and colleagues Terry Jones and Tracey Mckeen

are responsible for the council's tourism strategy including the running of two Tourist Information Centres, as well as the day-to-day management of designated nature conservation sites such as the Warren and Hothfield Common and the proposed Willesborough Dykes wetland park.

As the borough grows the voluntary and community sector, which provides invaluable support to thousands of local people, will have to expand to meet the population's needs.

Kim Harlow the council's voluntary sector manager works closely with local groups and public sector colleagues to help build the sector's strength and capacity to provide much needed services.

Regeneration projects coordinator Michelle Byrne manages the Council's Community Grants Fund, which has funded an impressive range of voluntary and community led projects over the last nine years. The grant fund will continue to provide much needed support for local organisations and to date has funded a range of successful projects from community halls and play areas to sports clubs and arts projects. She is happy to provide help and advice to community groups applying to the grant fund and to advise on other grant funds available.



Copyright: John Milton

Looking to the future

The council has a new **Cultural Strategy for 2007 to 2011** which champions the whole spectrum of cultural and creative interests in the borough and highlights ways in which the community can work together to improve the quality of our cultural life

Top Priorities outlined in the strategy include:

- Helping to deliver more for young people
- Concluding the feasibility for a community arts centre at St Mary's Church, Ashford and promoting Ashford's arts and festivals programmes
- Securing external funding for a water sports-based sports leisure and tourism development at the Julie Rose Stadium/Conningbrook
- Exploring the feasibility of an Ashford/Kent event arena
- Agree a plan to provide public access into Willesborough Dykes wetland park
- Support the voluntary and community sector and help them secure appropriate premises
- Support Parish Councils in greatest need of new services and facilities
- Help plan and deliver new community services within new housing developments that try to combine all services under one roof
- Consult with urban forums and local people to establish, where there is a strong consensus, to provide new parishes in Ashford's urban areas
- To look for new sources of funding to complete the un-remodelled area within the Stour Centre.

Mark Carty commented; "A thriving cultural environment stimulates social wellbeing, creates job and contributes to a successful and healthy and vibrant community. It also enables local people and visitors to enjoy a range of activities and opportunities."

"We have made very good progress against the priorities and service commitments set out in our original Cultural Strategy 2002 –2007. The council has celebrated many achievements over the past four years."

"This new strategy will place culture at the heart of local life and sustainable development in the borough."

Copies of the strategy can be found on www.ashford.gov.uk



what's happening in and around your area



The biggest annual sporting event in the world travels through the borough on Sunday July 8 as it makes its 203km journey from London to Canterbury.

Thousands of visitors are expected to join local people to line the route to see around 100 top class cyclists speed past and with the carnival-style procession which precedes the race promised to be bigger and better than ever, the event should be a great day out for families as well as die hard cycling fans.

The race enters the borough just before Tenterden, which host a coveted sprint section, makes its way along the A28 to Ashford, round part of the ring road past the Ashford Designer Outlet through Kingsnorth to Mersham and Sellindge.

Arrive early, stay all day

That's the message from Ashford and Tenterden with both towns planning events to celebrate the Tour de France.

The streets of Ashford are expected to be alive with the sights, sounds and tastes of the Continent with a European Food Fair and a fun-packed day of family entertainment.

Tenterden businesses have got together to make the day a real success, joining in the fun by dressing up and having themed window displays. The High Street will be festooned with bunting made by children from the local primary school and there will be stalls and street entertainers. While on the recreation ground the fun includes:

- 'Kent Circus School Workshop' where children can learn how to spin plates, juggle, ride a unicycle, walk a tight rope and much more.

■ 'thinkbikes.com' action display team.

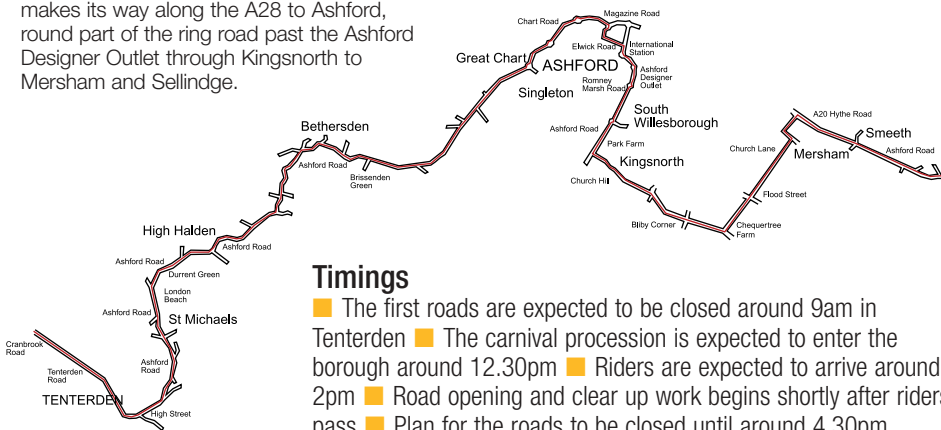
A group of professional stunt riders who will provide a unique form of entertainment, promoting their sport and skills.

- Comedy, drama and dance performances, a fashion show and performances from local bands into the evening.

High Halden has been chosen by race organisers to be Kent's only French hospitality village. The village green will be transformed with marquees and large viewing screen and will play host to around 300 VIPs.

Events are also planned in villages along the route while pubs and homes also look set to celebrate the race going past their doors.

For the more information about the Tour de France and latest events news visit:
www.tourdefrancelondon.com
www.kent.gov.uk or www.ashford.go.uk



Timings

- The first roads are expected to be closed around 9am in Tenterden
- The carnival procession is expected to enter the borough around 12.30pm
- Riders are expected to arrive around 2pm
- Road opening and clear up work begins shortly after riders pass
- Plan for the roads to be closed until around 4.30pm.

Car Parking

To help you enjoy the Tour de France Ashford Borough Council is suspending parking charges on the day.

All council car parks in Ashford with the exception of Elwick Road will be accessible. Vicarage Lane will be designated for Blue Badge holders only and North Park in Tannery Lane will be available for overspill parking.

In Tenterden all council car parks will be affected by road closures and drivers will not be able to enter or leave them from approximately 9am. The local Lyons Club are providing a temporary car park off Smallhythe Road with proceeds going to charity and Kent and East Sussex Railway are planning a Park and Ride scheme into the town.

The Route

- C256 Cranbrook Road, Biddenden to A 28 Tenterden
- A28 through Tenterden, St Michael's, High Halden, Bethersden to the Great Chart bypass
- The Street, Great Chart,
- A 28 Chart Road into the town centre
- A292 New Street
- Forge Lane and Elwick Road
- A2042 Beaver Road and Romney Marsh Road
- Ashford Road Kingsnorth
- C186 Church Hill
- C616 Chequertree Road
- C177 Flood Street, Church Road, Bower Road and The Street Mersham
- A20 Hythe Road to Sellindge

Road Closures

Kent Highways Services would like to remind residents and businesses that the route and all roads joining the route will be affected by road closures and parking on the route is prohibited. Any cars found parked on the route will be towed away. If you live or run a business in a road due to be closed you should have been contacted by explaining the process. For more information about road closure contact Kent Highways Services on 08458 247 800



7th & 8th JULY : PROLOGUE & STAGE 1



No smoking please

Ashford Borough Council is stealing a march on new smoking laws by designating all its workplaces smoke free a month before the deadline.

Smoking will be outlawed in all enclosed public buildings and workplaces on 1 July including pubs, restaurants and shopping centres.

Ashford Borough Council is playing a key role in working with businesses to help them implement the new law with the minimum of disruption to their businesses.

Chief Executive David Hill said: "We will ultimately be responsible for ensuring that businesses and the public comply with the law on 1 July so we are setting an example by going smoke free from 31 May."

The smoking room at Ashford Civic Centre is to be decommissioned and converted to a e-learning and training room. A five-metre smoke-free zone will be enforced around Council buildings with new ash bins provided.

Mr Hill added: "We are demonstrating our commitment to supporting staff who wish to stop smoking by encouraging them to attend NHS smoking cessation sessions at the Stour Centre over the next three months."

The smoke free initiative is described as the biggest change of health legislation in the last 50 years. It will bring England in line with Scotland and the Republic of Ireland, who have already implemented smokefree legislation. Northern Ireland and Wales will become smoke free in April 2007.

The Council's environmental health team has been sending out information packs to businesses on how they might be affected, with details about smoking shelters and other useful advice. For more information businesses should email envhealth@ashford.gov.uk or phone 01233 330517.

For more information on the smoke free legislation visit: www.smokefreeengland.co.uk or call 0800 169 1697. To find out how the NHS can help you stop smoking call 0800 849 4444.



Ashford Borough Council to the rescue in earthquake drama

Ashford may have escaped the worst of the freak earthquake which caused havoc in Folkestone at the end of April but its effects were experienced first hand by borough council officers.

Ashford Borough Council was approached for help by neighbours Shepway District Council within hours of the quake after being deluged with calls from members of the public. Emergency planning procedures swung into action with the council's facilities officer dispatched to Folkestone with a van full of 50 temporary beds and sleeping bags to be used at a shelter set up by the Salvation Army for displaced householders.

Meanwhile a team of building control officers were assigned to help out as some 50 buildings were rendered dangerously unsafe by the tremors.

They were still there on the Monday, working with Shepway's building control officers as well as fire and police crews to try to make buildings and roads as safe as possible.

Fighting the Fraudsters

With a number of recent successful prosecutions Ashford Borough Council continues its fight against benefit cheats.

Almost £100,000 of benefit fraud has been detected by the council over the last financial year, resulting in action against some 40 individuals.

Earlier this year Ashford Borough Council secured a custodial sentence against benefits fraudster David McCloud, 36, of Austin Road, who dishonestly claimed benefits totalling more than £21,000 between 2002 and 2005. He was jailed for eight months.

Peter Purcell, Ashford Borough Council revenues and benefits manager, said: "Many people see benefit fraud as a victimless crime but that is far from the truth. Every penny dishonestly or illegally claimed from Ashford Borough Council comes directly from the public purse."

"It's money which we would much rather be spending on improving our services to the public. By robbing the system benefit cheats are robbing their families, friends, neighbours, colleagues and every Council Tax payer in the borough."

Nowadays your chances of being caught are higher than they have ever been with councils able to access data from other agencies such as the Department for Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs.

Fraudulent claimants can be given an official caution, issued with administration fees and can end up in jail.

If suspects refuse to cooperate or attend interviews the council can seek a warrant for their arrest and they can be held in custody before being brought to court.

If you are aware of a benefit cheat you can call the Ashford Borough Council hotline on 08000 262456 giving as many details as possible or phone the council direct on 01233 330453.

Don't play the joker and ignore benefit fraud

It's your money being stolen

If you know or suspect someone is claiming Housing or Council Tax benefit they are not entitled to, please let us know.

Call us now. Call free. Call in confidence.

The number to call is 0800 026 2456



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BOROUGH COUNCIL

jun.

If you have an event you would like featured in our What's On listings call **01233 330209** or email **voice@ashford.gov.uk** and we will do our best to include it. Events for the August/September edition of Voice must be received by **June 29th**

You can find more places to go and things to do by checking out the Events Calendar on the Ashford Borough Council website www.ashford.gov.uk/events you can also add your events to the website using a simple online form.



Tues 29 May to Friday 1 June

Children's Fun Week Kent & East Sussex Railway Make & play activities
087 060 060 74

Sat 2

Ashford Poets at Starbucks
Come and read your own poetry or short story **01797 363828**

Coffee Morning at St.Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Parish Church. Coffee, tea, homemade cakes and produce. Come along for a chat. Every Saturday until 8 September 10 am to 11.30 am
01233 732615

Gordon Giltrap in Concert Smarden Charter Hall, Smarden 7.30p. Tickets £10, Under 16's £5 **01233 770628**

Sun 3

Canterbury Ramblers Join Canterbury Ramblers for a 6 mile walk departing from Hastingleigh village hall at 10am **01227 361902**

Tues 5 to Thurs 7

Artists Days Capture the Railway on Canvas' Competition £5. Kent & East Sussex Railway, Tenterden **08706006074**

Sat 9

Kent Police Male Voice Choir
St Peter and St Paul's Church Appledore 7.30pm **01233 758250**

Juan Martin Flamenco guitar virtuoso brings the Equator world music series to a close St Mary's Church, Ashford 7.30pm **01233 629165**

Hamstreet Country Fayre

Fun day for all the family with plenty to see and do including round 6 of the British Lawnmower Racing Association championship Marsh Road (opposite Mountain Farm), Hamstreet 11 am to 5 pm **07711721703**

Sat 9 & Sun 10

A Day Out with Thomas Come and meet Thomas and friends at Kent & East Sussex Railway. Advanced booking only. **0870 6006074**

Sun 10

Hamstreet Festival of Transport & Machinery Classic and kit cars, steam engines, motorcycles, farm machinery and lawnmower racing. Marsh Road (opposite Mountain Farm), Hamstreet 11 am to 5 pm **07711721703**

Appledore Open Gardens Eight local gardens open their to gates to the public from 10.30am to 5.30pm Admission to all gardens £5 Lunches and teas available **01233 758500**

Tues 12

Folk at the Vine Folk music and songs at The Vine Inn, Tenterden. 8pm. **01233 626805**

Chilham Castle Gardens Gardens open 10am-3pm. £4 Adults £3 Concessions Under 5's go free. For private group tours please contact **01795 470450**

Sat 16

Great Chart School Summer Fete Stalls, attractions, barbecue, Hoxton Close, Singleton, 1.30pm

Heritage Walk A tour of Ashford's historic buildings. Ashford Library 10.30am. Age group 7 to 12. **01233 664410**

Brabourne and Smeeth Summer Fete Annual summer fete and craft fair. Lots of fun with games, competitions, music, beer tent and much more. 2pm – 5pm Brabourne and Smeeth Village Hall **01303 813152**

Summer Fayre St Mary's Church, Willesborough Stalls & refreshments 10 am to 2 pm **01233 620588**

Sat 16 & Sun 17

Flower Festival St Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Hamstreet Rd, Ruckinge Flower displays theme musical delights. Lunches, teas, coffee, cakes and produce 10 am to 5.30 pm **01233 732615**

Ruckinge Flower Festival Flower displays, musical delights, lunches, teas, coffee, cakes and produce. 10am – 5.30pm Ruckinge Parish Church **01233 732615**

Basketry at Yonseas Farm Try your hand at basket weaving with willow using

traditional and contemporary techniques. History, cultivation and preparation of materials will also be covered. 10am – 4.30pm Adult £80 **01233 820461**

A Day Out with Thomas Come and meet Thomas and friends at Kent & East Sussex Railway. Advanced booking only. **0870 6006074**

Wed 20

Night time walk in Hamstreet Woods Witness moth trapping and bats on this 1.5 mile walk led by Stephen Etherington of English Nature **07767321053**

Thurs 21 to Sat 23

A Midsummer Night's Dream A wonderful entertainment for all at Egerton Players first Shakespearian production, and their first open air play 7.30 – 11pm The Woodland Garden, Egerton House, Egerton House Road, Egerton **01233 756592**

Fri 22 to July 1

Stour Music Festival Festival of early music set in Boughton Aluph Church, Box Office **01227 378188**

Sat 23 & Sun 24

Smarden Garden Weekend Visit eight local gardens, plus village history trail, vintage cars and homemade teas 1pm -6pm **01233 770425**

Strawberry Express Kent & East Sussex Railway, Tenterden **087 060 060 74**

Local Theatre Listings

SINDEN THEATRE, TENTERDEN

June 15 - Chandeliers Present 'Just The Ticket' The story of a traffic warden husband intent on upsetting everyone.

June 22 - An Evening With Ann Widdecombe In aid of MacMillan Cancer Relief including wine and canapés.

June 30 - The Bootleg Shadows Summer Holiday Tour- The Bootleg Shadows return after last year's highly successful show.

July 14 - The ELO Experience The Electric Light Orchestra comes to the

THE MARLOWE, CANTERBURY

For what's on at the Marlowe call **01227 787787** or visit www.marlowetheatre.com

Sinden to perform their unique music, in the form of one of the greatest tribute bands ever!

July 21 - Cat On A Hot Tin Roof

Presented by The Staplehurst Dramatic Society and written by Tennessee Williams.

For full listings, times, tickets, prices and booking call **01580 763826** or visit www.sindentheatre.biz

SMALLHYTHE PLACE, TENTERDEN

June 16 - Love and Ellen Terry

Ellen Terry's amazing success as an actress and troubled relationships in a career spanning over 50 years.

THE GULBENKIAN, CANTERBURY

For what's on at the Gulbenkian call **01227 769075** or visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian

June 23 - The Sixth Wife Katherine Parr witnessed the dazzling reign of Henry VIII. A witty and fast moving play.

July 7 - The Quite Peculiar and Irresistible Charm of Ellen Terry A set of short plays about the English actress.

July 14 & 15 - Ellen - 'Too Human To Be Divine' Ellen Terry: brought to life by Eileen Page in Ellen's own home.

July 16 - 29 - The Taming of the Shrew Open air Shakespearian theatre.

For full listings, times, tickets, prices and booking call **0870 2404068** or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/southeasternevents

THE LEAS CLIFF HALL, FOLKESTONE

For what's on at the Leas Cliff Hall call **01303 228600** or visit www.leascliffhall.co.uk

your council your voice

Following the May 2007 Local Elections Ashford Borough Council has a Conservative majority administration.

The political composition of the council is:-

Conservative	28 seats
Liberal Democrat	8 seats
Ashford Independent	4 seats
Labour	2 seats
Independent	1 seat

Councillors are elected to represent people living in geographical areas known as 'wards'. In the Ashford district there are one or two councillors in each ward. Although councillors receive an allowance for their work and expenses, it is essentially a voluntary job involving a heavy caseload helping local people resolve problems and many hours in meetings taking decisions that affect us all.

Under the constitution an Executive comprising the Leader of the Council and other cabinet members, known as portfolio holders, is responsible for the day-to-day running of the council. Each Portfolio Holder's responsibilities are aligned to the council's service areas. At the time of going to print the Executive is expected to be as follows:

**The Leader of the Council -
Cllr. Paul Clokie
Conservative member
for Tenterden East**



As Leader of the Council Cllr Clokie has overall responsibility for strategic policy, the corporate plan, budgets, emergency planning and staff performance. He is also responsible for providing political leadership and communicating the council's values, visions and objectives to staff, residents, business people and partners. He also leads the development of local, regional, national and European policies and strategic partnerships.

**Cllr. Neil Bell -
Conservative member
for Biddenden**



Cllr Bell is responsible for community safety, environmental policies and strategic development, street cleaning, refuse collection and waste management.

**Cllr Peter Wood -
Conservative member
for Saxon Shore**



Cllr Wood is responsible for housing services, ICT, customer services, and communications including consultation.

**Cllr Gerry Clarkson -
Conservative member
for Charing**



Cllr Clarkson's responsibilities include co-ordinating community development, leisure, sports, tourism, the arts and community centres.



**ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Deputy Leader -
Cllr. Paul Bartlett
Conservative member
for Weal East**



As Deputy Leader of the Council Cllr Bartlett is the portfolio holder responsible for coordinating best value, financial and legal services, corporate resources, performance management, personnel, audit, corporate land use, asset management and expenditure.

**Cllr. John Kemp -
Conservative member
for Kennington**



Cllr Kemp is responsible for planning and development which includes co-ordinating growth development, community planning and initiatives and economic development. He also has responsibilities for the partnerships the council is involved with.



Local elections

your council
your

Aylesford Green (Ashford)

Cllr. Brian Norris Liberal Democrat
43 Osbourne Road
Willesborough
Ashford, Kent
TN24 0EF



Downs West

Cllr. Neil Wallace Conservative
White House Court
The Street, Westwell
Kent TN25 4LQ
(01233) 712966 (eve)



North Willesborough (Ashford)

Cllr. Bob Davidson Liberal Democrat
11 Sandilands, Willesborough
Ashford, Kent TN24 ORD
(01233) 642324
robert.davidson11@ntlworld.com

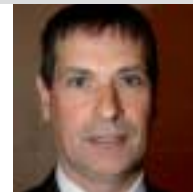
Beaver (Ashford)

Cllr. Brendan Naughton Labour
Mossgrove Cottage
Hillbrow Road
Ashford, Kent
TN23 4QN



Godinton (Ashford)

Cllr. Peter Feacey Conservative
40 Viburnum Close
Ashford, Kent TN23 3LB
Tel: (01233) 641919 Fax: 01233 632447
peterfeacey@talktalk.net



North Willesborough (Ashford)

Cllr. George Koowaree Liberal Democrat
28 Tadworth Road
Ashford, Kent TN24 9LA
(01233) 634760
sergek@koowaree.fsnet.co.uk

Beaver (Ashford)

Cllr. Allen Wells Labour and Cooperative
3 Elm Place, Beaver Lane
Ashford, Kent
TN23 5PB
(01233) 631306



Godinton (Ashford)

Cllr. Bernard Heyes Conservative
7 Kings Avenue
Ashford, Kent
TN23 1LU
(01233) 634257



Park Farm North

Cllr. Tina Heyes Conservative
16 Primrose Drive
Park Farm
Ashford
Kent TN23 3NP

Biddenden

Cllr. Neil Bell Conservative
Brass Tacks, Benenden Road, Biddenden
Kent TN27 8BY
Tel: (01580) 291400 Fax: 07970 517273
neilbell@solutionprovider.co.uk



Great Chart With Singleton North

Cllr. Jessamy Blanford Conservative
25 Westfields
Pluckley
Kent
TN27 0PW



Park Farm South

Cllr. Jim Wedgbury Conservative
27 Primrose Drive, Park Farm
Ashford, Kent TN23 3NP
(01233) 503272
jimwedgbury@aol.com

Bockhanger (Ashford)

Cllr. Michael Claughton Conservative
Wisden, 29 Maidstone Road
Ashford
Kent
TN24 8UA



Highfield (Ashford)

Cllr. Susan Heaton Liberal Democrat
35 Luckhurst Road
Willesborough
Ashford, Kent
TN24 0UL



Rolvenden & Tenterden West

Cllr. Mrs Jill Hutchinson Conservative
Duckling Cottage, 36 Maythan Road
Rolvenden Layne, Cranbrook Kent TN11
(01580) 241171
jillypug@hutch1.freemove.co.uk

Boughton Aluph & Eastwell

Cllr. Mrs Rita Hawes Liberal Democrat
6 Malthouse Cottages, Pilgrims Way
Boughton Aluph, Kent
TN25 4EX
(01233) 627117



Isle of Oxney

Cllr. Michael Burgess Conservative
7 Lloyds Green, Wittersham
Kent TN30 7NX
(01797) 270447 (tel & fax)
mburgess@uwclub.net



Saxon Shore

Cllr. Richard Hony Conservative
Rose Cottage
Tamley Lane
Hastingleigh
Kent TN25 5HW

Bybrook (Ashford)

Cllr. Mrs Marion Martin Conservative
36 Christchurch Road, Ashford, Kent
TN23 7XD
(01233) 628811
marionmartin168@btinternet



Kennington (Ashford)

Cllr. John Kemp Conservative
90 Lower Vicarage Road, Kennington
Ashford, Kent TN24 9 AP
(01233) 624162
kempkempjfk@aol.com



Saxon Shore

Cllr. Peter Wood Conservative
Copperhurst, Knoll Hill
Aldington, Kent TN25 7BZ
(01233) 721631 (tel & fax)
peter.wood@ashford.gov.uk

Charing

Cllr. Gerry Clarkson Conservative
Charing House, 21 Station Road
Charing, Kent
TN27 0JA
(01233) 714609



Little Burton Farm (Ashford)

Cllr. Norman Ayres Conservative
11 James Allchin Gardens
Kennington, Ashford
Kent TN24 9SD
(01233) 620767



Singleton South

Cllr. Amanda Hodgkinson Conservative
29 Longacre Road
Singleton
Ashford
Kent TN23 5FR

Downs North

Cllr. Mrs Jane Marriott Conservative
New Forest Farm, New Forest Lane
Old Wives Lees, Chilham, Kent
CT4 8BG
(01227) 730912 jane.marriott@ashford.gov.uk



Norman (Ashford)

Cllr. David Bradberry Liberal Democrat
1 Providence Street
Ashford
Kent
TN23 7TW



South Willesborough (Ashford)

Cllr. David Smith Independent
Lysander
Royds Road
Ashford
Kent TN24 0DP



d) Democrat		St Michaels Cllr. John Link Conservative 1 Barnfield, Ox Lane, St Michaels Tenterden, Kent TN30 6NH (01580) 763253 (day) 01580 765329 (eve)		Washford Cllr. John Holland Ashford Independent 25 The Limes, Ashford, Kent TN23 3NX (01233) 612744 j.holland103@ntlworld.com	
d) Democrat		Stanhope (Ashford) Cllr. Palma Laughton Ashford Independent 51 Leaveland Close Ashford Kent TN23 5SL		Weald Central Cllr. Clair Bell Conservative Brass Tacks Benenden Road, Biddenden Kent TN27 8BY	
ative		Stour (Ashford) Cllr. Mathew French Conservative 34 Henley Fields, St Michaels Tenterden, Kent TN30 6EL (01580) 765103 (eve) matt_cricketlwb@btinternet.com		Weald Central Cllr. Robert Taylor Conservative Mark Haven, Ashford Road High Halden, Kent TN26 3LY (01233) 850994 robert.taylor@ashford.gov.uk	
ative		Stour (Ashford) Cllr. William Howard Conservative Woodcote, Kingsford Street Mersham Kent TN25 6PE		Weald East Cllr. Paul Bartlett Conservative 2 Old Rectory Close, Mersham Ashford, Kent TN25 6LZ 0207 4676505 (day) (01233) 500668 (fax) paulbartlett@ransleygreyhounds.com	
t ative 7 4NP		Tenterden North Cllr. Paul Clokie Conservative The Briars, High Street Tenterden, Kent TN30 6JB (01580) 763124 paul.clokie@ashford.gov.uk		Weald North Cllr. Hugh Ellison Conservative Littlefield, Pluckley Road Smarden Kent TN27 8NL	
ative		Tenterden South Cllr. Peter Goddard Conservative 4 Barnfield, St Michaels Tenterden, Kent TN30 6NH (01580) 764917		Weald South Cllr. Peter Davison Ashford Independent Birchett, Birchett Lane Hamstreet, Kent TN26 2ED (01233) 732280 peter.davison22@btinternet.com	
ative		Victoria (Ashford) Cllr. Robert Cowley Liberal Democrat 48 Herbert Road, Willesborough Ashford, Kent TN24 0DL (01233) 633491 (tel & fax) swanage1234@yahoo.co.uk		Weald South Cllr. Aline Hicks Conservative Fairfield Maggie Hall Road Stubbs Cross Ashford, Kent TN26 1HG	
ative		Victoria (Ashford) Cllr. Robert Packham Liberal Democrat 5 Yew Close, Godinton Park Ashford, Kent TN23 3JZ (01233) 611089 rpackham@talk21.com		Wye Cllr. Jack Woodford Ashford Independent Hall Farm Brabourne Road Brook, Kent TN25 5PP	
d) ndent					



Having **your say**

Ashford Borough Council has a Constitution which sets out how the council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.

The Forward Plan contains details of Key Decisions to be taken by the Executive over a four month rolling programme, together with a list of the documents submitted to them for consideration.

The public has always had the right to attend meetings of the council and its committees to listen to the debate. A public participation scheme is in place to enhance people's ability to contribute to the democratic process.

Under the Constitution you have a number of rights when dealing with Ashford Borough Council.

You have the right to:-

- Contact your local councillor about any matters of concern
- Obtain a copy of the council's constitution
- Attend meetings of the council and its committees except where, for example, personal or confidential matters are being discussed
- Petition to request a referendum on a mayoral form of executive
- Participate in Council, Executive and Committee meetings by presenting petitions, asking questions and making general comments
- Contribute to investigations by the overview and scrutiny committees
- Find out from the Executive's forward plan what major decisions are to be discussed by the Executive or decided by the Executive or council officers and when;
- Attend meetings of the Executive, except where confidential or exempt information may be disclosed
- See report papers and any records of decisions made by the Council and Executive unless it is considered that confidential or exempt information may be disclosed
- Complain to the council about provisions of any of its services through its complaints procedure
- Complain to the local government ombudsman if you think the council has not followed its procedures properly
- Complain to the Standards Board for England if you have evidence which you think shows that a councillor has not followed the council's code of conduct
- Inspect the council's accounts and make your views known

You can find further information on the Constitution, committee meetings, the Scheme of Public Participation, the Forward Plan, the council's complaints procedure and much more on the council's website www.ashford.gov.uk or you can call the council on 01233 331111 and ask for Members

Decision Making

The full Council is the ultimate decision-making forum and must endorse all major decisions but most of the work is done in smaller committees of elected members which meet regularly.

Major policy decisions are taken or recommended to full Council by the Executive Committee, which is made up of the Council Leader and a Cabinet.

The Executive is elected every year by members of the Full Council and each member of the Executive has their own special responsibility, or Portfolio.

The Executive has to make decisions which are in line with the council's overall policies and budget. If it wishes to make a decision which is outside the budget or policy framework then it must be referred to the Full Council to decide.

Asking a question at a meeting

You are able to address, comment, ask questions or submit a petition at meetings of the Executive, the council and its committees (excluding the Planning Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees as they have their own arrangements for consulting with the public) prior to the passing of a resolution to exclude the public.

If you wish to ask a question or submit a petition you must give written notice to the Member Services section by 10am on the day of the meeting.

At the meeting you must sit in the public area and will be invited to speak by the chairman at the appropriate time at the meeting. Your address, comments or question must relate to an item on the meeting agenda and will be limited to three minutes. You will not be allowed to enter into any debate.

Forthcoming Full Council, Executive and other council meetings

Meetings are usually held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre in Tannery Lane, Ashford and start at 7pm.

June 2007

Wednesday 6th	Audit Committee
Thursday 7th	Joint Consultative Committee
Tuesday 12th	Overview & Scrutiny (Resources and Best Value) Committee
Wednesday 13th	Policy Advisory Group - Resources and Best Value
Tuesday 19th	Overview & Scrutiny (Other Issues) Committee
Thursday 21st	Executive
Friday 22nd	Transport Forum
Tuesday 26th	Audit Committee
Wednesday 27th	Planning Committee

July 2007

Tuesday 3rd	Overview & Scrutiny (Resources and Best Value) Committee
Wednesday 4th	Nature Conservation Forum (Committee Room 2)
Tuesday 10th	Overview & Scrutiny (Other Issues) Committee
Wednesday 11th	Parish Forum
Thursday 12th	Standards Committee
Wednesday 18th	Planning Committee
Thursday 19th	Executive
Thursday 26th	Council
Tuesday 31st	Overview & Scrutiny (Resources and Best Value) Committee

For more information about council meetings and the procedures covering Planning and Overview and Scrutiny committees visit www.ashford.gov.uk or call the council on 01233 331111 and ask for Members Services.

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Sun 24 Delphinium Day

Visit the walled garden to see the stunning display of Godinton's delphiniums. The Delphinium Society will be on hand to answer questions, with plants for sale 2 pm to 5.30 pm, Adult £3, Child (under 16) free **01233 643854**

Sun 24 June to Sun 1 July Delphinium Week

A week of Delphiniums, to include late night opening, evening walks and a fascinating talk on this statuesque and beautiful plant Godinton House, Godinton Lane, Ashford **01233 643854**

Tues 26 Summer Walk

With Viv Hunt, Godinton's Head Gardener and Keith Mexter, lecturer at Hadlow College. Enjoy an informed walk on a beautiful summer's evening, followed by a glass of wine and questions. Please book. 6.30 – 8.00 pm Adult £12.50 **01233 643854**

Friday 29

Health & Beauty Extravaganza, Highworth Grammar School, Ashford Tickets available from school or at door **01233 632792**

Tues 26 to Thurs 28 Sat 30 June to Sun 1 July

Kent & East Sussex Railway Victorian Experience Come in period costume and recreate the Victorian era. Travel back to the period of the origins of the K&ESR Adults £11 Child (under 16) £6 OAP £10 **087 060 060 74**

Sun 1

Victorian Experience Kent & East Sussex Railway, Tenterden **087 060 060 74**

Kent Wig Walk Sponsored walk raising funds for the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity 10.30am Appledore **01622 688656**

Sun 24 June to Sun 1 July Delphinium Week Including late night opening, evening walks and a fascinating talk on this statuesque and beautiful plant Godinton House, Godinton Lane, Ashford **01233 643854**

Fri 6 & Sat 7

Wye Fayre Three stages showing 60 new and established musical acts together with food, real ale, a wooded village and alternative therapists Withersdane Hall, Wye

Summer Tasks Workshop

With Keith Mexter, lecturer at Hadlow College and Viv Hunt, Godinton's Head Gardener, to include summer pruning, herbaceous borders, glasswork and seasonal plants. Please book. Godinton House, Godinton Lane, Ashford, Kent 9.30am to 12.30pm Adults £35 **01233 643854**

Fri 6 to Sunday 8

Ashford Jazz Festival Ashford town centre, St Mary's Church and oranges Bar (for full details see leaflet)

Sat 7

Ashford Poets at Starbucks Come and read your own poetry or short story. **01797 363828**

Coffee Morning at St.Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Parish Church Coffee, tea, homemade cakes and produce. Come along for a chat. Every Saturday until 8 September 10am – 11.30am

Sun 8

Tour de France The world's most famous cycle race comes to Ashford. (see page 10 for further information)

Tues 10

Folk at the Vine Folk music and songs at The Vine Inn, Tenterden. 8pm **01233 626805**

Chilham Castle Gardens Gardens open 10am – 3pm. £4 Adults £3 Concessions Under 5's free. For private group tours please contact **01795 470450**

Sat 14

Folk and Country Day folk music, morris dancing and much more 10am - 4pm Ashford town centre

Theatre in the Garden – Treasure Island Set in the days of sail ships and pirates. Treasure Island tells the adventure of Jim Hawkins and his search for buried Treasure. Enjoy the show and your picnic in the gardens. Please book. Godinton House, Godinton Lane, Ashford, Kent 6.30 - 8.30 pm Adults £12 Child £6 **01233 643854**

Sun 15

Ashford Carnival Day The annual spectacle winds its way from Stanhope to North Park, Tannery Lane. 10am - 4pm.

Sat 21 & Sun 22

Ashford Festival in the Park Now in its third year this family festival offers music, dance and much more 2pm - 11pm North Park, Tannery Lane

Fri 27 to Sun 12 August Sculpture Exhibition in the Garden Enjoy modern sculpture as you walk in the beautiful gardens of Godinton. Godinton House, Godinton Lane, Ashford, Kent Adult £3 Child free **01233 643854**

Sat 28

Horrible History for Kids Visits and talks on the terribly smelly Tannery, the Execution of Horrid Heretics; the Violent Sneaky Smugglers; the Local Rotten Romans; and much more. Age Groups 7-12 10.30 am outside the Library, Church Road, Ashford

Sun 29

Red Cross Day All proceeds from this day will be donated to the Red Cross Godinton House, Godinton Lane, Ashford, Kent 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm Adult £3 Child free **01233 643854**

Create Music Festival Create returns for its 12th year with Ashford-based bands, DJs and acoustic artists playing across three stages **Noon – 8pm**



Ashford Rocks Gig Guide

Fri June 1

Kujata, BOSSK, SOAC (Sons of Alpha Centuri)

Fri June 15

Sizen, Left for Dead, The Sketch

Sat June 23

Blondee – A tribute to Blondie

Sat June 30

Re-Gener8 Festival - Canterbury Kingskin, Curb, Awkward, Scrap Metal, Vampyres Kiss, Sikhona, City Lights, The Loud Howlers.

Fri July 6

My Life in the Making SPIT LIKE THIS

Fri July 27

Kent Heats of the Global Battle of the Bands **visit www.gbob.com for details and to enter**

Farmers'/Community Markets

Egerton

Fri, 2pm-4.30pm, Egerton Millennium Village Hall **01233 756286**

Rolvenden

Thurs, 10am-12 noon, St Mary's Church & Village Hall **01797 252248**

Wittersham

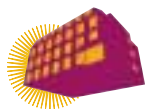
Tues, 9am-11am, The Village Hall **01797 270689 01797 270122**

Wye

1st & 3rd Sat of every month, 9am-noon, Village Green **01233 813303**



All Listed Gigs are @ Homelands (Ashford Town FC) Doors open 7.30pm Admission £5 except June 30th @ the Gulbenkian Theatre £5 in advance £7 on the door: www.ashfordrocks.com



Ashford School of Art and Design

End of year show set to be a stunner!

The Ashford School of Art & Design holds its end of year exhibition at the Henwood Campus in Ashford in June.

Called 'Three Degrees', the exhibition showcases stunning works of art produced by 35 students who are due to be awarded their degrees this summer. The exhibition will feature fine art, visual design and advertising, fashion and textiles. The students come from all backgrounds, age and experience and this leads to an inspirational range of work to see.

South Kent College is affiliated to the University of Kent, who validate the degrees. This partnership led to ASAD topping the first

national student poll for the best graduate experience in the country. Nicholas Holbrook-Sutcliffe, Head of School said: "Because of its size the Henwood campus allows students to develop ambitious work in a variety of media, from paint to plaster. The exhibition is the culmination of the year's work in fine art, fashion and multimedia and I am astounded by the level of commitment and professionalism that our students have shown in this undertaking. The work is diverse and exciting and demonstrates how the way in which art is viewed and experienced can be enriched by contemporary artists co-operating successfully in this way. I am very proud of all my students and my staff."

Instead of student workspaces, the Henwood building will be transformed into an exhibition venue for the show which is free and open to the public from 16 - 22 June. A private viewing will be held on Friday June 15th between 6pm and 9pm.



Open Studio

Local artist Liz Garnett is throwing her studio open to the public this summer. Splitting her time between commercial and art photography she is a seasoned exhibitor. The majority of her fine art images are abstract or semi-abstract with inspiration drawn from architecture, shapes and patterns. She is currently focusing on creating vibrant flower images with a strong graphic content.

You could redecorate your home using wallpaper or tiles with one of Liz's photographs or choose from coasters, placemats, linen bags and T-Shirt. Liz also produces a range of cards which will be available from her studio.

Liz is an active member of Ashford Visual Artists and is keen to promote art and photography.

Her studio at 6 Mounbatten Way, Brabourne Leas will be open as part of the South East Open Studios 2007 on 9 & 10 June 11am to 6pm, 11 & 18 June 9.30am to 2.30pm and 23 & 24 June 11am to 6pm.

You can find out more about her work by visiting her website www.lizgarnett.com You can find out more about South East Open Studios 2007 at www.seos-art.org

Summer Sounds

July is festival season in Ashford and once again there's something for everyone in the Summer Sounds programme.

Friday 6 July and Saturday July Ashford Jazz Festival Oranges Bar, St Mary's Church and the town centre.

Wye Fayre Withersdane Hall, Wye

Saturday 14 July Folk and country day Town centre

Sunday 15 July Ashford Carnival Day Kingsnorth Road to North Park, Tannery Lane.

Saturday 21 July and Sunday 22 July Ashford Festival in the Park North Park, Tannery Lane.

Sunday 29 July Create Music Festival Victoria Park.

Full information of the Summer Sounds events can be found in the leaflet attached in the centre pages of this edition of Ashford Voice. You can also visit www.ashfordpresents.co.uk



This annual festival held in picturesque All Saints Church in Boughton Aluph presents ten concerts of early music over two weekends from June 22 to July 1.

This year's festival opens with a concert of Bach and Vivaldi violin concertos performed by acclaimed violinist Giuliano Carmignola directing the Academy of Ancient Music. Other highlights include a concert to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the death of Nicholas Ludford given by The Cardinal's Musick directed by Andrew Carwood.

Opening the second weekend I Fagiolini make a welcome return to the festival with a programme of music by Monteverdi.

As well as the early evening concerts there are candle-lit late night performances including medieval songs from Gothic Voices, harpsichordist Matthew Halls and Stour Music Clerks performing some of Henry Purcell's greatest church music. The festival concludes on Sunday July 1 at 3pm with a performance of Handel's Alexander's feast given by

Programme

Fri	June 22	7.30pm 10pm	Academy of Ancient Music Gothic Voices
Sat	June 23	7.30pm 10pm	The Cardinal's Musick Mark Tucker (tenor) & Paula Chateaufneuf (Chitarrone)
Sun	June 24	3pm	Florilegium
Wed	June 27	6pm & 8pm	New Kent Opera Children's Music Theatre
Fri	June 29	7.30pm 10pm	I Fagiolini Matthew Halls
Sat	June 30	7.30pm	Emma Kirkby & The London Handel Players
		10pm	Stour Music Clerks
Sun	July 1	3pm	Stour Festival Choir & Orchestra

Call 01233 812740 for a brochure or the box office on 01227 378188 or email boxoffice@canterbury.gov.uk

the Stour Festival Choir and Orchestra conducted by Mark Deller. There is a midweek programme for children which includes dramatised performances of The Selfish Giant, The Mulberry Bush and Ferdinand The Bull with music by Alan Ridout.

Enjoy a drink before or after the concerts in the festival marquee or stay and have supper before returning to the candle-lit late night concerts. Teas are also served after the afternoon concerts.

Skate park celebration event

Ashford's refurbished skate park will be celebrated at the end of July and named after Ryan Clements a regular user of the skate park and a keen skateboarder who tragically drowned last year.

The summer event will serve as a celebration of all the hard work put in by young people to get the park improvements, also to raise awareness of the facility for the general public.

Plans include skateboarding and BMX sessions with prizes for best tricks; graffiti workshops; music from local DJs as well as food and other activities throughout the day. Everyone is welcome but only park users will be allowed inside the park during session times.

The £110K refurbishment has expanded the skate park, providing new and refurbished ramps and other equipment, new seating and landscaping and a new graffiti wall.

Supported by Ashford Borough Council and Sk8side officers, skate park users formed the Ashford Skate Park Foundation and successfully bid for funds for the project from Kent County Council's Youth Capital Fund and Ashford Borough Council.

SallyAnne Logan, the council's cultural and youth projects leader said: *"The users should be congratulated for the work they have put into this project – it has really paid off. It just shows there are young people in Ashford who want to make a positive contribution to their community and can help make things happen if given the opportunity."*

The naming of the skate park was decided by Ryan's family and friends in conjunction with the Ashford Skate Park Foundation.

The skate park, the borough's most popular youth facility, is located next to the Stour Centre in Tannery Lane opened in autumn 2000 and was extended a year later to include BMX ramps.

It's good to talk...

Keeping young people informed about issues which affect them was the theme of Ashford's recent sixth annual youth conference.

More than 90 youngsters from across the borough attended the event organised by the Ashford Youth Forum Trust and held at the Rare Breeds Centre in Woodchurch.

Students from nine secondary schools and South Kent College discussed how best to relay information to young people and receive feedback.

Representatives from agencies which work with young people including Connexions, Kent Youth Service and voluntary organisations also attended the conference.

Towards the end of the conference delegates also discussed issues that concerned them including transport (high fares, buses finishing too early especially in the rural areas and bus frequency) and safety, including the need for more police on the streets especially in the larger rural areas.

Delegates agreed three major points:

- They still liked the idea of the Youth Forum producing a newsletter delivered to their schools but prefer this being sent to designated representatives of the school council who would ensure each pupil received a copy.
- The most popular form of communicating is by e-mail and web sites. Each school has its own site which pupils regularly use. It was suggested that the soon to be launched 'what matters' youth web site could have links to each school.
- Each school was asked if it would host a Youth Forum meeting with their school council, this would enable young people to 'have a say' and be more in touch with others in Ashford as to what is going on and what projects they can get involved with in conjunction with the Youth Forum

Your can contact the Youth Forum through Carol Morton – Youth Projects Coordinator on 01233 330290 or e-mail carol.morton@ashford.gov.uk

South Willesborough youth facilities



A groundbreaking community youth centre in South Willesborough will take a further step to becoming a reality this summer as proposals for the new facility at the Swan Centre site is set to go before planners.

Initial plans were drawn up by Ashford Borough Council, in partnership with Kent County Council, Ashford YMCA, the Salvation Army and the Willesborough Community Forum at the beginning of the year. Throughout the process local youngsters and the wider community have been consulted with the results from a two day consultation event used in planning the services available.

An eye-catching new temporary building made from shipping containers is proposed for an initial five year period. As well as being a place to meet, the facility could provide a café and offer young people access to support, advice, training and social activities.

The project is funded with money from local housing development and it is hoped construction could begin by early 2008.

SallyAnne Logan, the council's cultural and youth projects leader said: *"A youth facility in the area has long been seen as a priority and is especially important with the growing population."*

"Asking the local young people and wider community what they would like to see provided was vitally important to this project as ultimately we want to provide a facility which meets the needs and aspirations of those people, and is in harmony with its surroundings and the wider community."



One man and his dog?

At the end of June local farmer Peter Howard together with Honey his trusty two year old Labrador will be walking from Worcester to Kent to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

The 240 mile walk is expected to take three weeks and keeping Peter company along the way will be fellow farmer John Ballard from Worcestershire with his faithful companion William, a seven year old German Wirehaired Pointer.

The pair are embarking on the mammoth trek in memory of Anne, John's wife and Peter's cousin and as well as supporting cancer research the pair will also be raising money for a Worcester children's hospice. They hope to make it back to Kent in time to celebrate Peter's 60th birthday.

Peter is the son of a farmer who has lived and worked in Ashford all of his life. He married a farmer's daughter, Pamela, who lived just five miles away, having known her since she was five. Peter is very lucky to have three children all living nearby, with three grandchildren who are all backing his efforts. He has always lived an active life, playing hockey for Ashford for 40 years, but now enjoys less energetic country sports.

At Oaklands Farm, Hothfield, which he runs with son Andrew, they raise sheep and grow arable crops and Peter is looking forward to walking through the fields and countryside along the route to see what other farmers are up to.

He explained "All farmers enjoy looking over the hedge to see how the neighbours are doing, now John and I will get to do this on a grand scale."



John has been farming in Worcestershire for 40 years. He will be supported on his walk by his three sons Daniel, Duncan and Roland.

Peter hopes people will sponsor their efforts; "We have both known so many people, family and friends who have died as a result of cancer and whose families have suffered because of that loss. A year ago when Anne sadly passed away I began to think I would like to do something to raise money for a cancer charity and came up with the walk. John readily agreed to join me and also wanted part of his sponsorship to go to the Acorn Hospice in Worcester, a charity she was very fond of."

You could even join them at anytime for an hour or a day's walk.

You can find out more about their walk by visiting www.farmersonfoot.com

You can make a donation online at:

www.justgiving.com/peterhoward,

www.justgiving.com/johnballard-acorns or: www.justgiving.com/johnballard-cancerresearch

or send a cheque or postal order to 17 Tagwell Road, Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire WR9 7BN

Make a difference - become a volunteer

To recognise the important work that volunteers do in Ashford, Ashford Volunteer Centre will be celebrating National Volunteers Week 1 - 7 June.

Voluntary and community organisations from the local area will be helping to run an information stand in County Square shopping centre. Interested shoppers can find out about volunteering and there will be the opportunity to speak to volunteers about their experiences.

Volunteering is very rewarding and everyone can be involved, whether you have a large amount of time available or just an hour a week. Volunteering helps you to meet people you may not normally meet in your day-to-day life and it can improve skills, self confidence and employability. Volunteers help with various activities not because they have to, but because they want to.

Anyone can volunteer; you don't need any special qualifications or experience. Ashford Volunteer Centre can advise you depending on your area of interest and the amount of time you have to spare.

For more information about this event or volunteering in general please contact: Ashford Volunteer Centre - 01233 665535 Volunteer Centre at Ashford Gateway - 01233 208615

Wig Walk



Losing hair through cancer treatment can be devastating - but why not make wearing a wig into a positive experience and support people with cancer by taking part in the Kent Wig Walk in Appledore this July.

Create your own crazy wig, put on your trainers and take a gentle five mile stroll through the countryside on 1 July and raise much needed funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care. It's great way to spend a Sunday and set to be a fun event for the whole family.

The £10 entry fee (£5 for under 16's - under fives free!) pays for your registration and a t-shirt then it's over to you to raise as much sponsorship as you can.

You do need to pre-book your place so give the organisers a call on 01883 832637.





Jo James - Director of Membership Services

Business Awards 2007

Kent Invicta Chamber Business Awards were introduced last year to acknowledge and celebrate

the diversity and excellence of businesses in the Kent Invicta Chamber trading areas of Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone and Malling.

A huge response and a highly successful reception for the awards ensured that they would become an annual event, and the 2007 awards have been equally successful and this year's winners received their awards at a recent prestigious dinner and ceremony held at the Canterbury Cathedral Lodge and Study Centre.

This year's winners were:

Business of the Year:
Howletts & Port Lympne

Most Promising New Business:
CC Works Ltd

Entrepreneur of the Year:
Achieve

Excellence In Customer Service:
Fitzgerald Jewellers



The event was sponsored by Ashford Borough Council, Brachers Solicitors, Canterbury City Council, Kent County Council, Kent Messenger Group, Lloyds TSB, Maidstone Borough Council, O2, University of Kent - Kent Enterprise and SEEDA. The judging panel comprised Clive Morris from Lloyds TSB, Nick Rowell from The Portable Business School, Richard Parsons from Kent Business, Chris Bene from Brachers Solicitors, and Carol Barron from University of Kent - Kent Enterprise.

Business Exhibition

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce's annual business exhibition takes place at the Ashford International Hotel on Tuesday 26 June.

Beginning as a simple business to business networking event it has grown over the years into Kent's largest business event. This year there will be over 120 exhibitors from a huge variety of companies in both size and business category and over 1,000 visitors are expected.

The event offers exhibitors and visitors alike the chance to network with the cream of Kent business.

Promotion and networking is the name of the game. Over the years a huge amount of business has been generated by the exhibition, with contacts made which have proved extremely beneficial with business deals struck that have led to significant company expansion.

There will also be a dedicated exhibition networking lunch, giving even more opportunity for interactive promotion. So make a date in your diary to come and do some great business. Admission is free to visitors doors are open 10am to 5pm.

Contact Kent Invicta Chamber on 01233 503838, or email events@kentinvictachamber.co.uk for further details, or visit our website

Don't forget the smoking ban

The new smoking laws come into effect on July 1 - make sure you are prepared.

This is legislation with some teeth. Fall foul, and you could end up being liable to a fine of £2,500.

Smoking will not be allowed in public places that are "wholly or substantially enclosed". Rooms previously designated for smoking in are now also affected.

It is essential for businesses to familiarise themselves with the responsibilities under the legislation. Employers and employees can be liable for prosecution.

Further details and advice are available on the official "Smoking Ban" website www.smokefreeengland.co.uk.

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce
Ashford Business Point,
Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington,
Ashford. TN24 0LH.
Tel: 01233 503838.
Email: info@kentinvictachamber.co.uk
or visit: www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk



Selling for success?

Most of the people who join the Romney Enterprise Gateway are really nervous about one part of their new business in particular - selling.

That is until they come to one of our effective selling workshops, where they learn that, with a bit of preparation and practice, selling is not so daunting.

Selling is much easier if you stick to the following rules:

Plan your success - do your market research, set yourself targets, don't rush in, be prepared for every meeting and sales call, sales campaigns need to be organised activities, know your product and test your approach before committing to facing new clients.

Sell to the right people - find out who in the organisation is the decision maker and sell only to them. Don't waste time meeting and selling to someone, who does not have the authority to sign an order.



Sell the benefits not the features - people buy things because of the benefits they will be getting from them. For example, I buy organic vegetables - the benefits to me are that I believe that they taste better and they are better for my health.

Find the right sales channel for you - sell through the right outlet for you and your product. Consider retail, mail order, ebay, markets, via agents or to wholesalers. Also, consider export possibilities - we are the gateway to Europe, after all.

Close a sale - don't be afraid to ask the customer to commit to the order. It doesn't have to be aggressive or embarrassing.

Aim for repeat business - it is always easier to get an existing customer to buy from you again than it is to get a brand

new customer. So, make promises you know you can keep, offer good customer service and keep in touch with your customer.

Go on. It's easier than you think.

If you would like any help with going into business for yourself or would like to know more about how the Romney Enterprise Gateway can help you with your business idea please contact us

Romney Enterprise Gateway, Unit 12a Mountfield Road, New Romney, Kent TN28 8LH 01797 369336 email info@romneyenterprisegateway.net or visit www.romneyenterprisegateway.net



Jason Martin - Gateway Director

the future of Ashford

Welcome to another installment of news and stories on the future of Ashford. In this edition we look at transport and future plans which aim to ensure our road network and public transport will have the capacity to cope with the increased demand as Ashford grows.

Ashford already benefits from a strong network of roads and public transport services, including buses, trains and walking and cycle paths. To support Ashford's growth significant improvements to public transport provision will be required to accommodate and limit the growth in traffic as the town grows.

In this issue we look at plans for future public transport improvements, have an update on changes to the Ring Road and news on the capacity improvements at Junction 10.

Sustainable Transport

Andy Phillips is Sustainable Transport Manager for Ashford's Future. Andy's role is to co-ordinate the delivery of sustainable transport to support Ashford's growth.

Andy said: "By maximising the use of public transport, people will have a genuine choice of travel options in and around Ashford and this will reduce the need for a more expensive and environmentally damaging road building programme".

"In order to accommodate this level of growth in a sustainable way, our plans must reduce the need to travel by providing good local facilities such as schools, shops and other community facilities within walking distance of the new development areas".

To support the town's expansion there are a number of improvements proposed in the future. Ashford plans to:

- Ensure new developments have well connected walking routes to good local facilities reducing the need to travel by car.
- Improve and extend bus services to serve the new development areas via a Quality Bus Partnership between local authorities and bus operators.
- Introduce three new Park and Ride schemes on the edge of town providing express services to the town centre, stations and Designer Outlet Village.
- Introduce a new high quality SMARTLINK bus scheme to serve residential and employment sites in and around Ashford.
- Encourage 'safer routes to school' and 'walking buses' and improve school transport to reduce the effects of the school run, improve health and social interaction.
- Improve conditions for walking and cycling in the town centre by 'breaking the barrier' of the Ring Road and creating a series of high quality streets and squares.

For more information visit www.ashfordbestplaced.co.uk



M20 Junction 10

Work on a £4.9 million scheme to tackle congestion at Junction 10 of the M20 started in mid September 2006. In preparation for new development in the area extra lane space is being provided for traffic joining and leaving the M20 motorway at the junction.

The bridges across the motorway are being modified to provide three lanes of traffic at the roundabout, local approach roads are being widened and a new footbridge is being built across the motorway. Work is due to be completed this summer.

For more information on the scheme visit the www.highways.gov.uk

Ashford's Future Appointment

Abby Raymond has been appointed as interim head of Ashford's Future following Martin Bacon's departure in April.

Abby was previously Regeneration Manager at Kent County Council and has been directly involved with Ashford's Future for nine months therefore she is well placed to work with the team to achieve its objectives over the next few months.

The Ashford's Future Delivery Board is considering the future management of the growth agenda for Ashford and are currently reviewing organisational arrangements to provide a stronger focus on delivery.

The Ashford's Future Delivery Board and the partner organisations concerned will reach an initial decision on this by July. Until that time no long term decision will be taken about filling the post of Managing Director of Ashford's Future Core Team.

Breaking Boundaries

In January this year work started on a pioneering scheme to transform the 1970's Ring Road around Ashford town centre into a series of two-way quality streets.

The scheme is an important one for Ashford, by removing the constraints of the current Ring Road it will allow the town centre to grow and will make it more accessible and attractive.

Once completed it will provide a better balance between the needs of pedestrians and motor traffic, improve the environment and create a vibrant town centre, ready to attract new business.

The Kent County Council scheme - a national first and the largest of its type in the country - will stop fast-moving traffic around the existing Ring Road and will replace it with a nicer environment using the new 'shared space' philosophy with areas for traffic, pedestrians and cyclists together with reduced speed limits.

'Shared space' involves a full sharing of the road space by pedestrians and vehicles with traffic reduced to 20 mph or less.

Public squares will be introduced at several of the main intersections around the road and specially commissioned art works will feature in appropriate places including a central public area.

The initial work involving conversion of the Ring Road to two-way working should be completed soon. The main contract for a new Elwick Street will start in October and work is expected to be completed by March 2008.

This will involve quality paving and landscaping to the existing Elwick Road and Bank Street with a new square at the bottom of Bank Street. A programme of arts projects to support the scheme, funded by the Arts Council, starts this summer.

Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways Keith Ferrin said: "This exciting scheme is a national first. When it's finished, Ashford will have a new look and the road system will be opened up for everyone's benefit. "There will be disruption for motorists during the changeover, but we are doing all we can to keep this to a minimum."

For further details, go online to www.kent.gov.uk/highways



Exciting Times Ahead for Ashford

That was the opinion of various experts at Mipim, the world's biggest property and development exhibition held in Cannes. The event attracted around 26,000 delegates from around the world.

This year Ashford had its own dedicated area of the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) stand.

The centrepiece of the Ashford stand was a model showing what the town will look like in the future. The model, which was produced and paid for by SEEDA, highlighted a number of key sites set for development such as Elwick Road, Dover Place, Tannery Lane and the new Ashford Learning Campus.

The Ashford presence at the event was strengthened by the launch of the new inward investment brochure and www.ashfordbestplace.co.uk

This new promotional material will enable Ashford's Future and its partners to successfully engage with leading developers, agents and funders to sell Ashford.

David Hill, Chief Executive of Ashford Borough Council said: "This is the beginning of a new phase in Ashford's growth, as we are moving from planning to delivery stage. This event has enabled us to promote Ashford to the investment market and to try and attract significant private sector partner interest in developing Ashford."



safe in their hands

You will remember that in my last article I spoke about opportunities for you to get involved with determining priorities for your neighbourhood through PACT Meetings (Partners & Communities Together).

I realise that with the pace of life and personal commitments not everyone has the time to attend these meetings. Because of this our Neighbourhood Officers are happy to hold impromptu street briefings where they will be able to update you on policing issues that affect your neighbourhood.

This is a great opportunity for us to have direct contact with you and allow you to tell us what is happening locally from your perspective. These briefings will be held near your doorstep and I would like to encourage you to get involved in this exciting initiative. Your thoughts are essential ingredients in dealing with any problems which may be associated with your area.

I would also like to hear from you on issues of antisocial behaviour as this affects our quality of life and can sometimes be the precursor to more serious criminal offences being committed.

Please give the Community Safety Unit a call on 01233 660747 or email on csu@ashford.gov.uk to obtain further details on a briefing for your area.

Stuart Kehily District Commander



To find your local officer visit www.kent.police.co.uk or contact the Community Safety Unit on 01233 660747

Are You Someone...

SPECIAL?

If so, you could make a difference to your community by joining Kent Police as a Special Constable.

The Special Constabulary is a part time volunteer reserve for the police service. They have the same powers and authority as their full time colleagues and their duties can be as varied as the area they cover.

You could be dealing with community issues, or policing public events – Ashford Specials will be making a significant contribution to the policing of the Tour de France on Sunday 8 July. You could be responding to calls for help from the public, or your police colleagues – or helping to maintain public order in the event of a disturbance.

After assessment and selection, recruits attend an initial course of training at Kent Police College, Maidstone, involving sessions on police procedure, law and officer safety training, which lasts approximately 3 months.



Following this you join the area you will be based in where there is continuation training on Monday evenings, but you are also expected to get out on patrol, under the supervision of an experienced Special, or a regular officer, honing your skills and knowledge in the most demanding of all training environments – the real world!

On the whole the borough of Ashford is a safe place to live work and play and as a Special Constable, you can help keep it that way.

For information contact PC Simon Ashford on 01233 896346.

You can also call Kent Police free on 0500 78 77 00, email specials.recruitment@kent.pnn.police.uk or visit: www.kent.police.uk and click on the 'work for the police' section.

Don't be antisocial this summer

While we all welcome the lighter evenings and warm weather of summer it can create an unfortunate increase in antisocial behaviour.

Leaving doors and windows open means we are all more likely to be affected by the sounds and smells of the outside world and while most of us are considerate neighbours when planning summer activities such as garden parties, bonfires and barbecues, a minority are less responsible and create a nuisance.

Problems with ball games, dogs barking, alcohol misuse, noise, loutish behaviour and youths gathering in the streets until late at night are all more likely to increase in the summer months too.

Ashford Borough Council's community safety officer David Lloyd said: "If you are experiencing problems of antisocial behaviour it is important to inform the Community Safety Unit so we can take steps to identify and eliminate seasonal antisocial behaviour problems and improve residents' quality of life."

There are a number of ways to report anti social behaviour. You can make an appointment and visit their weekly clinic every Thursday from 10am to noon at the Community Safety Unit. Alternatively you can email csu@ashford.gov.uk, call 01233 660747 or write to the Anti Social Behaviour Officer.

Safety First

Ashford's first Safety in Action week takes place from Monday June 25 to Saturday June 30.

Hosted by the Community Safety Unit, there will be a week of safety workshops for year six pupils leaving primary school this summer and starting secondary educations in September.

Topic covered will include railway safety, fire prevention, safe bus and coach travel, the dangers of drugs and alcohol, criminal damage and first aid.

The half-day workshops will be held at Ashford Territorial Army centre and will be delivered by representatives of Railtrack, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Kent Police, Kent County Council, Grey Zebra and St John Ambulance.

Youngsters will be faced with various imaginary scenarios and taught how to identify and deal with hazards and dangers. Every primary school in the borough is taking part.

David Lloyd, Ashford Borough Council's community safety manager, said: "The Safety in Action workshop format has been tried and tested throughout west Kent for a number of years and we are delighted to start it up in Ashford."

"The transition from primary to secondary school is an exciting time for children but brings with it new challenges. For many it will be the first time they travel to school alone. They will be at an age when they start taking on responsibilities in the home and might be facing peer pressure to experiment with drugs and alcohol."

"The workshops will be run by experts and I'm sure will be invaluable to the children as well as enjoyable."

Community safety unit



The Community Safety Unit based in the old police station in Tufton Street, Ashford can help and give advice on tackling issues of anti social behaviour, nuisance crime, crime reduction initiatives and can put you in contact with your neighbourhood police officer, police community safety officer and community warden.

The Community Safety Unit, The Annexe, Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent TN23 1BT. Tel: 01233 660747 email csu@ashford.gov.uk



Open Day at Ashford Fire Station

Make a note in your calendar to pop along to Ashford Fire Station on Saturday June 30 for their annual open day.

Between 11am and 4pm there will be a chance to meet your local fire crews, look over the station's fire trucks, see the very latest fire fighting and rescue techniques and pick up plenty of fire safety tips.

Other agencies will also be there handing out information and advice including Kent Police and the local Community Safety Unit.

Station Manager Lee Rose explained; "We hope to make this a community event as well as a fire service day with dancing and martial arts demonstrations from the local Ghurka community, rail safety advice and drugs awareness information and lots more.

"You will be able to see how we cut people free from a car crash, how quickly fires can spread throughout the home with our burning room demonstration and our chip pan fire demonstration is always dramatic.

"As well as all the helpful information the day sets out to be fun for all the family so we hope people will come along and enjoy themselves."

Ashford Fire Station is on the Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford.

Use it - don't **abuse** it!

Sadly every year Kent Fire and Rescue Service has to deal with hoax calls that cost the service a small fortune and divert resources from where they are really needed. While young people are more likely to make a hoax call adults can be just as irresponsible.

If you dial 999 and make a hoax call you may be committing more than one offence. If caught you can get a £5,000 fine, six months in prison, or both!

Ashford Station Manager Lee Rose explains: "Making a hoax call is not only illegal - it is also dangerous. Fire crews sent out in response to a hoax call cannot attend a real emergency. Following up these calls puts lives and property at extra risk. It also wastes the fire service money as it costs £300 every time a fire appliance leaves the station."

"Hoax calls may be seen as a 'prank' but the



results can be very serious. All hoax calls are reported to BT's Malicious Calls Bureau and the police and fire services work together to track down the culprits, using recordings of the call as evidence. A number of people have been successfully prosecuted in this way."

Remember - the Fire Service knows the phone number you called from, and has a recording of your voice!

Because more hoax calls are being made from pre-pay mobile phones, Kent Fire & Rescue Service is working with mobile phone service providers to make sure these hoaxers pay the price. After a few precautionary checks mobile phones used to make hoax calls can now be deactivated, by the service provider call centre at the touch of a button. Your hoax call could turn out to be the most expensive call you ever make.

For more information contact the Ashford District Fire Safety Office based at Ashford Fire Station on 01233 646809



Kent Fire & Rescue Service

Summertime



is **Barbecue** Time!

Follow these simple tips from Kent Fire and Rescue and make sure your barbecues are safe and fun.

- Ensure your barbecue is in good working order
- Make sure the barbecue is on a flat surface away from sheds, fences and foliage
- Use only enough sufficient charcoal to cover the base
- Only use recognised firelighters or starter fuel, and only use on cold coals
- **NEVER USE PETROL**
- Keep children and games well away
- Never leave your barbecue unattended
- Empty ashes onto bare garden soil - never put straight into a bin

Take Care in the Countryside

Every year fire is responsible for the destruction of thousands of acres of countryside and wildlife habitats.

A cigarette butt thrown from a passing vehicle can mean the loss of whole fields of standing crops and glass bottles left lying in grass or woodland can cause fires of huge proportions. These fires could all be avoided if we all just took a little extra care.





Ever thought of playing **darts**?

skilled and enthusiastic coaches; you never know you may become the next Phil Taylor! Don't worry if you are under 12, the club would still like to hear from you.

The academy even has a royal supporter having received a letter of encouragement and support from Prince Charles, a keen supporter of darts being played in pubs.

The club meets on Saturday mornings from 11am to 1pm and is open to anyone who wants to play and learn. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information please contact Jackie Apps on 01233 629880, or email ashforddartsacademy@ntlworld.com. You can also contact Clive Guest at the Locomotive Pub on 620714. For more information about the Save our Darts campaign visit www.saveourdarts.com



A recent survey commissioned by the online bookmaker Blue Square has revealed that the game of darts may soon disappear completely from our local pubs.

Ashford is doing its bit to ensure the game doesn't die out with the Ashford Darts Academy.

If you are over 12 and would like to learn how to play darts, or simply improve your game then this is the sports club for you. Based at The Locomotive on Beaver Road, the club will give you the opportunity to work with



Friday 5 Series

Ashford Tri Club hosts a series of 5km races in Victoria Park, Ashford, over the summer months.



The series began last month and will take place at 7pm on Friday 1 June, Friday 6 July, and Friday 3 August. Entry is open to adults and juniors over 13 at all levels from complete beginners to experienced athletes for the 2 lap race held under SEAA rules.

A cash prize for the course record will be up for grabs for the competitive runners, while medals will be presented to all finishes!

Ashford Tri Club is a small, friendly triathlon club with membership open to all. The club offers training sessions in all three disciplines (swimming, cycling and running). The club caters for beginners and experienced triathletes alike, no matter what your distance – Sprint to Ironman. As a club they compete not only in triathlons, but duathlons, running races, cross-country, cycle time trials to name a few.

For more information about the 5k series, entry forms or to find out more about the club visit www.ashfordtriclub.co.uk



257 not out!



It's hard to believe but Cricket has been played at Tenterden since 1750 and 2007 promises to be another year to remember.

They finished last season with their 1st XI champions of their division the 2nd XI were promoted in the Kent Cricket League and in addition the club was awarded Clubmark accreditation from the ECB.

Chairman Alastair Hudd said "Tenterden CC is excited and proud to be implementing the ECB's grass roots strategy in the Ashford District. Clubmark accreditation allows us to work closely with local primary and secondary schools and we have in-curriculum coaching during PE lessons and after-school clubs planned this summer.

"Clubmark also recognises the great facilities at Tenterden CC. We have ECB international

standard net facilities with a bowling machine, one of the best playing surfaces in the county and a newly refurbished pavilion. This is in addition to the beautiful views the club has to offer. There really is no better place to be this summer than playing or watching cricket here in Tenterden.

Tenterden CC is always open to new members and visitors during the season, catering for all age ranges from 8 to 80 at present.

There are three Saturday, two Sunday, one midweek (Wednesday), U12 and U14 teams and the club is looking to start a ladies/girls section. Tenterden CC looks forward to welcoming more new members in 2007.

For further info contact Alastair Hudd on 07793 122292 email aphudd@aol.com or visit www.tenterdenc.co.uk

Race for Life Coming to Ashford

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life comes to Ashford for the very first time in June

The Julie Rose Stadium plays host to the popular event on Sunday June 24 and organisers are hoping to bring together over 1500 women to raise over £100,000 for cancer research.

Kent organiser Natalie Etienne says: "We are really excited to be able to bring the race to Ashford for the first time and hope local women will take the opportunity to enter what is an inspiring and important event."

For more information or to enter visit www.raceforlife.org or call 08705 134 314





in the garden it's...

blooming lovely!

June is the start of the season when all the big, over-the-top summer flowers make their first appearance. The weather is improving in leaps and bounds so now's the time to plant out those tender plants.

July is peak flowering time for most gardens when bedding plants are blooming fit to bust and containers and hanging baskets are in full swing.

jun.

Summer is finally here, your garden reaches its peak and all that hard work pays off. Perennials and shrubs cover the ground smothering out weeds while salads and summer vegetables reach a crescendo. The lawn won't be growing quite so fast as the weather gets hotter and drier – so get the essentials out of the way and then sit down and enjoy the view.

Water and deadhead plants regularly ■ mow and feed the lawn ■ propagate shrubs and roses, dig up tulip and hyacinth bulbs and store ■ tidy up perennials after flowering ■ sow biennials for autumn colour ■ sow lettuce, rocket, spring onion, radish, oriental leaves including pak choi and Chinese cabbage, main crop carrots, peas, swedes, sweetcorn, French and runner beans, courgettes, squashes and pumpkins ■ watch out for Lily Beetle, blackspot, powdery mildew and rust on roses, containers drying out, cabbage white butterflies laying eggs on brassicas and potato blight on potatoes and tomatoes.

jul.

If you don't have a good show of flowers this month then you are not really trying. But summer holidays are looming and if you are planning to leave your garden for a week or two make sure the lawn is cut and the beds weeded before you leave and enlist family and friends to water while you are away.

Raise the cutting height of your mower blades ■ avoid watering the lawn ■ prune and deadhead ■ plant autumn flowering bulbs ■ sow main crop carrots, early peas, kohlrabi, turnips, lettuce, radishes, endive, chicory, oriental leaves including Chinese cabbage and pak choi, winter radishes and spring cabbages ■ water and feed containers and hanging baskets, and keep newly planted trees, shrubs, perennials and rock plants watered in dry spells.

Tips on easier gardening from



A new leaflet offering advice on easier gardening has been published by Thrive, the national charity which researches, educates and promotes gardening for people with a disability.

The leaflet, 'Tips for Easier Gardening', provides practical instructions, hints and tips on improving access to the garden and is aimed at helping older and disabled people to continue to enjoy gardening. It also gives advice on tools and techniques and offers a list of suggested easy-care plants.

Ten of the top tips for easier gardening from Thrive include:

- Raise the soil level or use raised beds to improve access
- Use old carpet (face down) to create level routes across a vegetable garden
- Avoid fast-growing plants which will require frequent pruning
- Use ground cover plants to cut down on weeding
- Remove or reduce areas of the garden which require frequent maintenance, such as lawns
- Use mulches of bark, plastic or gravel to help suppress weed growth and conserve moisture in the soil
- Grow vegetables on a small scale for less effort – for example in containers
- Replace hedges with fences for easier maintenance
- Find the lightest tools with the widest handles as they are easiest to grip
- Vary your gardening tasks to vary body movements.

Nicola Carruthers, Chief Executive of Thrive, says "Thrive's new leaflet offers a range of simple and effective solutions which can help people adjust their garden to suit their needs. Whether it's raised beds or easy-care plants, just a few small changes can make all the difference. Gardening is an activity which everyone can enjoy and we hope this leaflet will help to get this message across."

To obtain a free copy of the leaflet call Thrive on 0118 988 5888, email info@thrive.org.uk or write to Thrive, The Geoffrey Udall Centre, Beech Hill, Reading, RG7 2AT.

Competition winners Last editions competition winners

Port Lympne Family Ticket:
Daniella Sherwood, Kempes Corner,
Boughton Aluph.

Sudoku:
Michelle Greenaway, Siskin Close,
Kennington.

	1	6	8	3				2
					4	7		
9	3							
	6		1					
8								4
					2		5	
							8	7
		2	3					
7				2	6	3	4	

Win £100 Prize Sudoku June/July '07

Fill in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each smaller 3x3 block contains all the numbers from 1 to 9. Once you have completed the puzzle, fill in your details on the coupon and post to Ashford Voice for a chance to win £100!

Return to: Sudoku Competition, Ashford Voice, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL **Closing Date: June 25th 2007**

Tick if you wish to receive further information from Ashford Borough Council and partners involved in the plans for Ashford's future

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It brings together lots of different public services in one central, high street location.

We have lots of Daily Services at the Gateway, including:

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- Occupational Therapy Centre – with a customized kitchen and bathroom for initial assessments
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- Volunteer Centre
- Free Internet Access
- Wireless Internet Access – come in and use your laptop
- Meeting Room Facilities – rooms for hire with latest technology
- Ashford Borough Council – General Enquiries and payment kiosk
- Housing Advice
- Bus Passes
- Visitor Parking Permits

Don't Forget...

We also have a timetable of weekly surgeries. Visit our website, www.ashfordgateway.co.uk or call in for the latest details.



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