

ASHFORD YOU

Issue 21 | Summer 2023

YOUR BOROUGH, YOUR MAGAZINE

UNFRAMED

Mural festival is a showstopper

BIG GREEN WEEK

HM KING CHARLES III CORONATION

WIN

- Bumper bundle of prizes worth more than £600 at County Square
- Two baby scan packages

GET YOURSELF AN 'OUTSTANDING' EDUCATION



Following a recent Ofsted inspection, Ashford College and the wider EKC Group were found to be Outstanding! Here are some of the reasons we achieved it, and why you should come to Ashford College.

Outstanding Education

Expert lecturers with industry experience will keep you engaged and give you all the knowledge, skills and practical aspects needed to have a fantastic career.

"Teachers are highly experienced and qualified in their subjects. They use their expertise to present information and demonstrate skills clearly."

Ofsted report, 2023

Outstanding Inclusive Learning

Welcoming learners of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities, Ashford College's main aim is to make quality education available to everyone.

"...learners and apprentices establish new friendship groups, learn about diversity, develop empathy with others and expand their knowledge of how to keep physically and mentally healthy."

Ofsted report, 2023

Outstanding Experience

Our student experience and support teams ensure learners have a fantastic time at college, organising trips and events, or just being there to listen. Also, many of our students benefit from free meals and travel bursaries to ensure there are no barriers to learning.

"Learners and apprentices are rightly positive about the help and support they receive from staff and student mentors that helps them achieve, grow in confidence and develop their character."

Ofsted report, 2023

Begin your own Outstanding learning journey.
Search ashford.ac.uk today.



Welcome to the summer edition of *Ashford For You*, an issue with a strong sense of celebration and excitement as we report on local festivities to mark the Coronation of King Charles III and also marvel at the creative inventiveness

of the amazing artists who brought Ashford Town Centre streets to life during the hugely successful UNFRAMED mural festival.

UNFRAMED delighted residents and visitors alike and created a real 'feelgood' factor which I believe helped generate a good deal of pride in our town. There's also news of a major step forward in the Ashford International Studios project that holds so much promise for creating jobs and careers for local people, wider community benefits, new homes and much more.

We focus on summer events and things to enjoy outdoors across the borough, including a report on how the Victoria Park and Watercross Fields revitalisation project is really shaping shape.

We take a closer look at how the council is responding to economic pressures, making budget savings while maintaining vital public services. One of the possible solutions to making ends meet is a move out of the Civic Centre into nearby council-owned offices which could help generate considerable annual savings. More on this in a future edition.

Finally, congratulations to the East Kent Group (who run Ashford College) on receiving an 'Outstanding' rating from Ofsted. They also met the standard to be awarded 'Outstanding' in every aspect of the assessment, becoming the first General Further Education provider in the country to do so under a new Ofsted framework.

Tracey Kerly

Tracey Kerly
Chief executive, Ashford Borough Council

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Please note: For current information on the Civic Centre opening hours and face-to-face appointments please visit: www.ashford.gov.uk/contact-us/get-in-touch-another-way



Contents

News	4-6
Tenterden tourism award winner, Ashford International Studios update and more	
Council making ends meet	7
Budget savings and possible Civic Centre move	
Wellbeing in focus	8-9
Putting people first	
Community Toilet Scheme	10
Update on town centre facilities	
Youth clubs and organisations	11
Challock Youth Club	
UNFRAMED hits the streets	12-13
Mural festival is a big draw	
Environment in focus	14-16
Big Green Week and recycling in the spotlight	
Coronation in photos	17
Roundup of celebrations	
What's On	18-19
Summer events plus Victoria Park news	
Parking latest	20
Benefits of season tickets and more	
Spotlight on fostering	21
How you can make a difference to a young life	
Competitions	21-22
Win Bump2Baby prizes and a great County Square bundle	

Get in touch!

To comment on this magazine, to tell us what you'd like to see more of and maybe to submit an article of your own:

Email: media@ashford.gov.uk (subject line NEWS) or

Write to: Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL

nextdoor AshfordBoroughCouncil
 [ashfordboroughcouncil](https://www.youtube.com/ashfordboroughcouncil) @Ashfordbc ashfordcouncil

Customer Services

Email: customer.care@ashford.gov.uk or call: 01233 331111 or write to us at the above address.

Find your borough councillor: www.ashford.gov.uk/councillors

£11.3m investment in warmer homes

A bold plan to transform more than 700 of the council's most energy-inefficient homes will go ahead after a successful application for Government funding of £5.1m.

The money from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2 is bolstered by a £6.2m contribution from the council. The £11.3m investment will ensure that the majority of homes in our social housing stock are upgraded to an EPC 'C' rating – that's a total of 727 properties.

The funding is coming from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

Our 'fabric first' approach to deliver big improvements to the shell of each building will provide the most cost-effective and least intrusive methods of raising their thermal efficiency.

The improvements can include cavity wall insulation, external wall insulation, new windows and doors, under floor insulation where applicable and solar panels. The improvements installed at each home will depend on the survey carried out. The council is working with E.ON Green Funding Solutions to install the improvements to tenants' homes

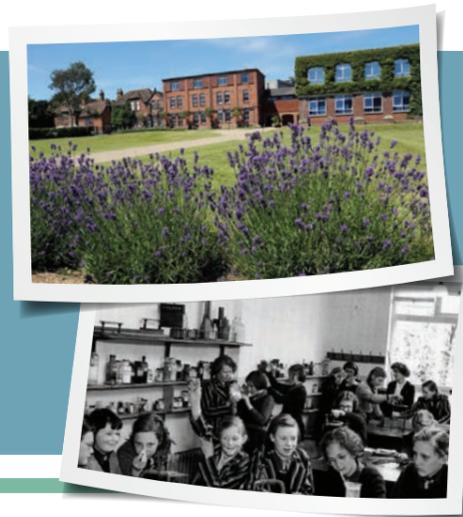
The benefits for tenants of having this work done include helping to reduce energy demand and help lower energy bills; reduce your carbon footprint making your home more environmentally friendly; and they'll provide a warmer and more comfortable home for tenants to enjoy.



125 years of Ashford School

Seven monarchs, a site move, two world wars, a change of ownership, a merger, coeducation and 125 years later, Ashford School finds itself celebrating its quasiquintennial. The next year is an opportunity to celebrate the life of the school past, present and future, with a range of events, from balls to summer lunches, to an open Vivaldi gala concert.

Visit www.ashfordschool.co.uk/about-us/inspiring-minds-for-125-years



Stodmarsh mitigation measures

Since July 2020, due to the deterioration of Stodmarsh Lakes, certain planning applications located within the Stour catchment area, have been put 'on hold'.

It is a site, near Canterbury, which is of national and international importance for a range of water dependent habitats and wildlife that relies upon them.

The council has been working on identifying suitable land in the borough for strategic wetlands, which can generate off-site nutrient mitigation. There are two projects ongoing and a planning application for one of the sites has recently been submitted.

Flower power

Ashford Flower Club was founded in 1957, the club was renamed the Ashford Floral Art Society in 1981 and more recently Ashford Flower Club. Over the years we have supported many charities, various fundraising activities take place at our floral demonstrations, our programme often includes visits to places of interest. In 2019 the club celebrated its Diamond Anniversary. The club meets every fourth Wednesday of the month at Godinton Village Hall, Loudon Way, Ashford TN23 3JJ.



Chuffed to bits!

A Kent & East Sussex Railway volunteer has won the prestigious VisitEngland Tourism Superstar Award 2023 following a public vote.

Chief Stationmaster Geoff Colvin steamed to victory during English Tourism Week after received 33% of the vote ahead of nine finalists from attractions across England. The prize is awarded to an individual who goes the extra mile to create exceptional visitor experiences. Geoff is the first person from a heritage railway to win the award in its 11-year history.

Having joined the volunteer team at the start of the pandemic, Geoff quickly proved to be both dedicated and inspirational. Promoted to Chief Stationmaster last year, he is one of the friendly faces who greets passengers and helps everyone to create wonderful memories of their days out.

Geoff said: "I'm honoured to be the first person from a heritage railway to win - a real recognition of how the preservation movement has grown to be a vital part of local tourism, bringing value to the communities it serves and to those who give their time."

K&ESR General Manager Robin Coombes said: "Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our railway and we couldn't be more proud of Geoff. This is also recognition for the contributions of the many volunteers who selflessly give their time to the railway to keep its history alive." Visit www.kesr.org.uk



Find a voice

Ashford charity Find A Voice has been supporting children and adults with communication difficulties for 27 years. We offer support including loaning communication aids free of charge, supporting schools with outreach sessions, individual lessons at our centre, helping people with communicating using Makaton, Ipads, Switch Toys and group sessions working on life skills.

Our centre works with clients to achieve AQA qualifications and assist them with volunteering placements for future employment opportunities. We help parents and carers with guidance and signposting and support adults and children who may have autism/ADHD, Downs Syndrome, early onset dementia, oral cancer, stroke survivors, dyspraxia, dyslexia, PTSD, Mutism or be survivors of accidents.

If you know someone that may benefit from our services or would like to donate to our charity, visit www.findavoice.org.uk. If you are a business keen to sponsor our events or donate a service, it would be great to hear from you. Due to demand, Find A Voice is looking for a new home in Ashford. We have rented our current property for many years but we need a bigger home to expand.



Gas safety checks

Council tenants are reminded that they need to allow us to gain access to carry out vital annual servicing of their domestic gas heating systems. Where tenants fail to allow access, we will take court action to gain access.

We arrange for gas servicing to be undertaken between April and October each year, which is outside the traditional heating season. We do this so it is most convenient for tenants but it also means that more gas engineers are available for breakdowns in the winter.

As a landlord with 5,000 properties, we are legally obliged to undertake an annual gas safety inspection.

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Ashford International Studios gathers pace

Exciting plans for a film studios-led £250m investment and regeneration project on the site of the derelict Newtown Works railway site continues.

A leading global studio operator is in discussions with the Ashford International Development Company (AIDC), who are overseeing its delivery, which promises to be one of the most important economic drivers for the borough.

The council's Cabinet has agreed in principle a £50m loan for AIDC to bring the scheme forward, to be repaid on completion of the works from the sale proceeds or through a long-term lease to an operator. Enabling works are ongoing over the past year since the successful bid by the council for £14.7m in Levelling Up Funding from Government. Visit www.ashfordinternationalstudios.com



Exploring a Civic Centre move...

Council looking at the possibility of relocating as part of wider budget saving ideas



1 Newsletter milestone

It's fantastic to see that more than 1,000 residents are now signed up to our e-newsletter. It's the easiest and quickest way to get the latest news from us and around the borough, direct to your email inbox. Visit www.ashford.gov.uk/newsletter or simply scan the QR code.



Competition winners

More than 650 entries were received for our competitions in the last issue. The winners of the four KESR family passes are Gabrielle Bleidorn, Hannah Morris, Joanne Bradley and Peter Merritt. The winners of the three joint Garden Season tickets provided by Godinton House & Gardens are Alan Griffiths, Angela Dalmon and Gemma Doubtfire, and the three winners of the House & Garden tickets are Andrea Watson, Catherine Toone-Jackson and Sara Hewitt. See page 21/22 for our latest competitions.



Houses in Multiple Occupation

Are you the landlord of a house in multiple occupation? Do you hold a valid licence? Do you need help from the council to ensure you are operating legally?

A house in multiple occupation (HMO) is a property (house or flat) rented out by at least three people who are not from one household (for an example a family) but share amenities such as a bathroom or kitchen. Since 2018 there has been a legal requirement for a HMO occupied by five or more tenants to be licensed to operate. This also applies to resident landlords who provide rented accommodation in their homes to four other people who are not part of their family.

The council aims to ensure that all licensed HMOs are managed in a proper manner so tenants can live in safe conditions. A licence to operate costs £802 and lasts for five years. Failure to have a licence can lead to a prosecution, which carries hefty fines. A successful prosecution could lead to the landlord having to pay back up to 12 months' rent. Visit www.ashford.gov.uk or email PrivateSectorHousing@ashford.gov.uk

Council under scrutiny

If you are interested in scrutinising the work of the council here's how to get involved...

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee looks at council decisions and requires us to be open and accountable. The committee may look at any matter affecting the borough or its residents. It is made up of 12 councillors, reflecting the political balance of the authority. You can get involved by:

- Sharing your views in writing with the committee.
- Suggesting topics for future reviews; do you have a pressing issue that is affecting your local community which you think could be looked into? Scrutiny is not a forum to raise individual complaints, as we have a separate procedure for that.
- Attending a meeting, in person or watch the meeting virtually online.

If you feel there is an issue affecting residents that the committee should look at, email overviewandscrutiny@ashford.gov.uk or call 01233 330394. If you want to speak at a meeting, contact our Member Services team on 01233 330491.

The council, like many other public sector organisations, is facing some significant budget challenges over the coming years. We need to find the right balance between making savings and still ensuring we continue to deliver services to the residents and businesses of Ashford.

We will keep residents up to date as more details emerge, but for now, it is very much business as usual

In the spring the council outlined a number of high-level savings plans as part of our budget. Several ideas have been initially explored and some are currently being developed further to understand what savings they could bring us - one idea being potentially relocating from the Civic Centre building to nearby International House.

Changing environment

Moving from the Civic Centre could contribute significant savings. Post pandemic, many organisations

are working in different ways, and the Civic Centre is not as well used, with the ability for some staff to work from home.

It also has poor insulation and costs a lot to use and maintain. There are also some facilities which either need serious investment or completely replacing in the coming years, which adds to the overall costs of running the building.

We will of course keep residents up to date as more details emerge, but for now, it is very much business as usual.



Further updates on our potential move will be provided our website www.ashford.gov.uk

How are you today?

We always tend to look after others that are closest to us, but what about you and how are you feeling at the moment? Here's a selection of services in the borough that puts your wellbeing first if you're in need of a boost.



One You Shop

We worked with Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust and Kent County Council to open the first One You shop within the UK. It provides support and lifestyle advice with small changes that can make huge improvements to your personal wellbeing. www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/one-you-kent/one-you-shop

Where is it? Unit 25 Park Mall Shopping Centre, Park Mall, TN24 8RY



The Beehive

The Beehive is an award-winning women's second-hand clothing boutique and café in the heart of Ashford. But it is much more than that. They also work with local services to give away clothing and support to women who need it. www.beehiveashford.com

Where is it? 1-3 North Street, TN24 8JN

Repton Community Trust

Aims to provide excellent resources and opportunities, empowering people to connect and build. Their team can help take new projects forward and put the heart in your community. Did you know they opened the first community fridge in Kent? Find out more and discover their People's Pantry – a community led service to reduce food insecurity and food waste in Ashford. www.reptonct.uk

Where is it?

Repton Connect Community Centre, TN23 3RX



Made in Ashford's The Craftship

A new creative hub that compliments the existing offering from the hugely popular Made in Ashford team. Part of Craftship Enterprise CIC, the hub runs regular workshops that are suitable for all ages. Many of the workshops operate on a pay as you feel basis allowing families to have access to creativity in our community, regardless of their financial situation. www.madeinashford.com/collections/workshops

Where is it? Opposite Made in Ashford, Park Mall, TN24 8RY



Off the Rail

A clothes bank scheme for men and women every Thursday between 11.30-1pm, which provides free clothing, sleeping bags and bedding to those who really need it in our borough. It's part of Ignite Ashford who offer a safe, welcoming, fun and caring place for people. They also offer a free hot meal, pudding and drinks to anyone who walks through their door. Relying entirely on donations, currently they feed, clothe and support 40-50 people each week and that number is growing. www.facebook.com/igniteashford

Where is it? St Mary's Church, Ashford Town Centre, TN23 1QG



EC30

Not only does EC30 offer a food bank and Old School Larder, a great coffee shop and charity shop for Tenterden residents, they also have spaces and services dedicated to helping improve your wellbeing. Come and see about taking the first steps to being able to live your best life. www.ec30.co.uk

Where is it? Recreation Ground Road, TN30 6RA



Uprising

A charity that supports the wellbeing of young people and communities that are facing significant challenges. The team runs numerous, coordinated projects around Ashford which work towards this transformation. www.uprisinguk.org.uk

www.uprisinguk.org.uk

The Well

A donation-based community café and community fridge in the heart of Willesborough which also caters to young people who are keen to volunteer. The Well is one of several wellbeing initiatives from Willesborough Baptist Church. Other schemes include Love Willesborough and also Renew Wellbeing which runs every Tuesday from 2-4pm and is a safe place where you can have a hot drink and meet other people. www.facebook.com/thewellatwbc

Where is it? Willesborough Baptist Church, Hythe Road, TN24 0QR



The Riverside Centre

Ran by volunteers from The Gateway Church, the centre is a multi-purpose venue providing a safe space for people to rebuild, connect and grow. Services include a community café and schemes such as FreeStore for anyone that needs clothing and shoes. They also run low-cost ESOL classes, host free baby and toddler groups and provide free fun days during school holidays. All schemes are open to everyone. www.facebook.com/gatewaychurchashford

Where is it? Clockhouse, TN23 4YN



Ashford Together

ASHFORD TOGETHER

Formed from the success of Ashford Churches Winter Night Shelter, this group aims to bring people together with ideas and resources to make your life and wellbeing better. Family, Food & Fun is one of the team's current projects, which provides a holiday club for families where primary school aged children (5-11) can come and enjoy a community meal, crafts and a lot of fun. www.ashfordtogether.org.uk/projects/current-projects

Jean Mealham Pop-in Centre

A place where friends and neighbours can socialise and participate in the various activities and special events coordinated by the owner Richard Carley BEM, and his wonderful team. Each Wednesday afternoon doors open for the weekly quiz, raffle and bingo with plenty of refreshments available. The centre reaches out to the community throughout the year by providing help for those needing support and each Friday, welcomes the community for light seasonal meals and a chat. The new outside garden area will be used as a relaxing and calming space with occasional table tennis, crazy golf and gentle ball games. To find out more call Richard on 07798 566849.

Where is it? Lower Road, Woodchurch, TN26 3SQ



Community Toilets

A number of businesses across Ashford Town Centre are part of the Community Toilet Scheme, which provides safe, hygienic and accessible toilet facilities. This means they open their toilets for the public to use. The toilets can be used free of charge, with no obligation to make a purchase in the store the toilet is located.

This scheme is run by Ashford Borough Council and businesses are paid an annual grant for signing up to it. Businesses will be checked by us to ensure they are keeping the facilities clean and accessible. Businesses interested in joining this scheme can request details by emailing communitytoiletscheme@ashford.gov.uk

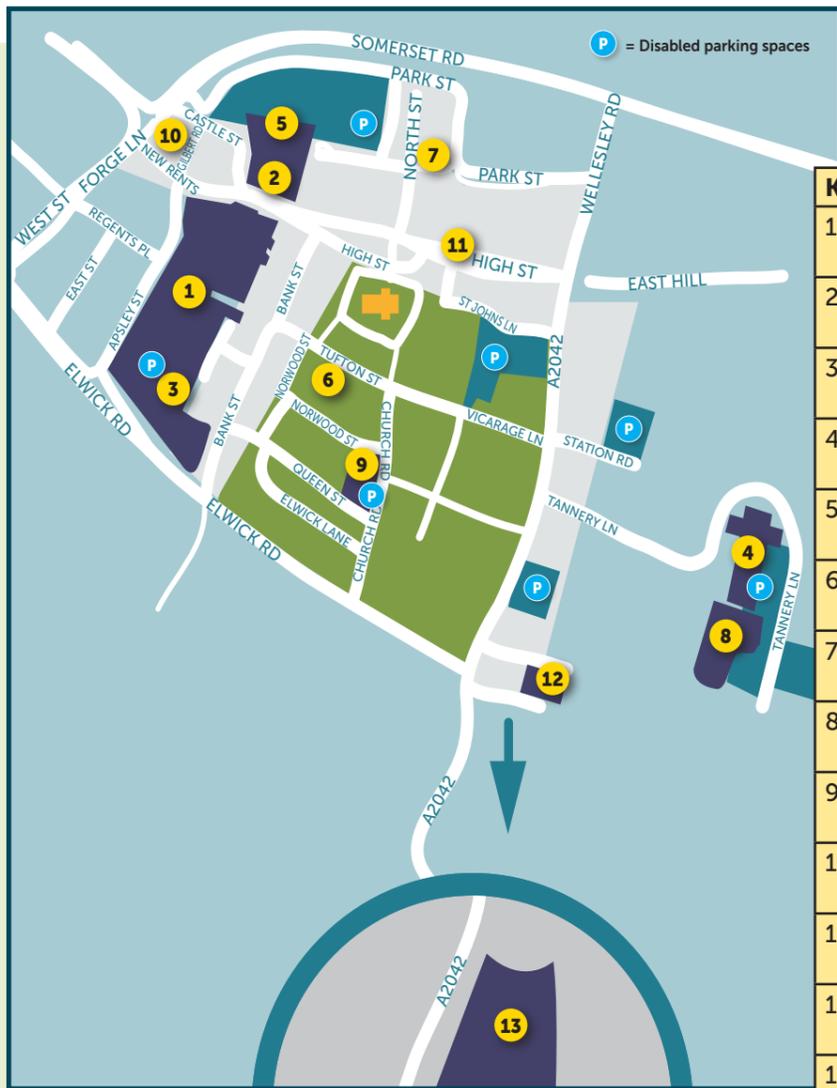
The available toilets can be identified by looking out for the bright yellow sticker (pictured to the right) in

the shop window. They can also be found by referring to the map below.

Those marked with this  symbol represent Changing Places toilets.

Disabled toilets with a changing bench, hoist, privacy screen and space for two carers are the only facilities that qualify as fully accessible Changing Places toilets, which meet the needs of people with complex care. You can find them marked on the map (below).

You can find more information at www.ashford.gov.uk/community-toilet-scheme



Key	Business	Facilities
1	County Square	
2	One You Shop	
3	Muffin Break	
4	Civic Centre	
5	Little Tea Pot	
6	The Phoenix	
7	Pizza Express	
8	Stour Centre	
9	Ashford Gateway Plus	
10	New Rents	
11	McDonald's	
12	The Coachworks	
13	Designer Outlet	

Funtime at Challock Youth Club



Challock Youth Club has received a grant from Kent County Council's Everyday Active Fund which is being used to pay for Sports Giants, a company focusing on providing youth sports – and as our photos show, local children are having lots of fun as a result!

The funding runs until July and is paying for the provision of different sports and activities. The club has been running for 17 years and caters for around 80 young people between the ages of 10 to 17.

This popular youth club provides a fun environment for youngsters to enjoy. The club meets monthly and offers sports, arts and crafts, cooking, tuck shop and discos around specific holidays. The aim is to provide a safe place for young people to be where they can get away from electronics and parents and socialise with their peers.

The club meets at Challock Village Hall in Blind Lane, email challockyouthclub@gmail.com



To find out what's going on this summer at other local youth clubs and organisations contact:

Ashford Youth Hub, Mabledon Avenue, Ashford TN24 8BJ. Call 03000 417567 or email AshfordYouth@kent.gov.uk

Sk8side – Tannery Lane by the Stour Centre. Call 01233 642156, visit www.sk8side.co.uk or [Instagram.com/sk8side](https://www.instagram.com/sk8side) or [Facebook.com/sk8sidecic](https://www.facebook.com/sk8sidecic)

Jammer Skates – contact Jamie for events at the Tannery Lane skate park JammerSkates@hotmail.com

For details of Tenterden-based youth clubs see this page on the Tenterden Town Council website:

www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/image/page/Directory%20LIG%20Edition%204.pdf



LEAVE THE WORLD BEHIND AT GODINTON HOUSE & GARDENS

Godinton House & Gardens is Ashford's hidden gem where sheep graze in ancient parkland graced by magnificent trees.

Wander through 12 acres of formal gardens to discover an elegant Italian Garden, a pretty Rose Garden and a Walled Garden filled with flowers, fruit and vegetables.

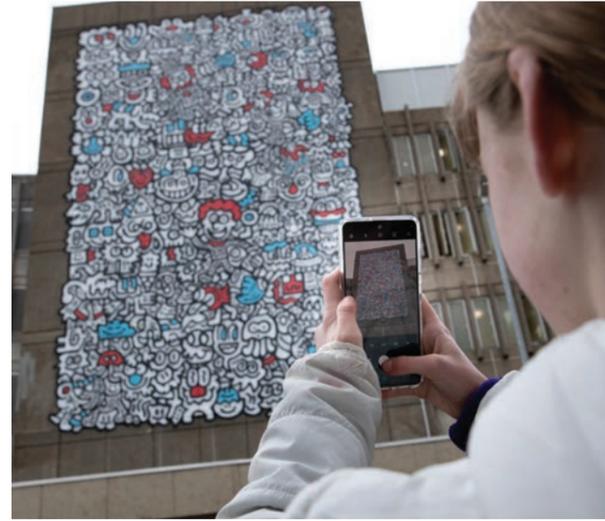
Homemade teas are served in the house, the ticket office is open Tuesday to Sunday selling takeaway refreshments.

Look out for special events, Delphinium Festival, Sculpture in the Garden Exhibition and open-air music and theatre evenings.



Book a visit online at godintonhouse.co.uk





Ashford Mural Festival



Over Easter, Ashford Town Centre became a sea of colour and creativity with **UNFRAMED**, Ashford's first ever mural festival.

Curated by Accent London & The London Mural Company, our 18-stop contemporary street art trail transformed blank walls and building surfaces into high quality mural paintings and bespoke integrated artwork. International and local artists included Mr Doodle, Alex Chinneck, Charley Peters, Curtis Hylton and Danielle Williamson; plus students from Ashford College.

During the festival we held guided tours, craft

workshops for the whole family to enjoy and even a specialist art-inspired film programme at Ashford Picturehouse. The town centre was a buzz of activity and it was amazing to see so many people checking out the amazing artworks!

If you missed out on the festival, the good news is that the murals are staying in situ, so you can download a trail map from loveashford.com and explore them at your own leisure.



Photographs © Ady Kerry

Reuse, Repair, Recycle



We've all got those items lying around the house – an appliance with a non-working part, a coat with a torn sleeve or an item of furniture you no longer need. Time to take them to the tip and buy another?

Did you know 32% of furniture waste (known as bulky waste) collected by councils is re-usable in its current state, and this figure rises to 51% if we consider items requiring slight repair.

In a world of excessive stuff, there must be another way to deal with these broken or unwanted items and redirect it

to be maintained, shared, reused, repaired, refurbished, remanufactured, and, as a last resort, recycled instead.

Our main tips are:

- If a zip goes in your coat, then why not look at getting it fixed?
- If you have an unwanted piece of furniture, why not look at selling it or placing it on one of the free websites, remember one person's waste is another's treasure.
- Donate clothes, toys, and household items to charity.

These acts of reuse help our community, save our precious resources, and reduce waste.



Your good seed for the day

Seeing as we are placed in the middle (ish) of the Garden of England it is no surprise we are a borough of keen gardeners. However, have you ever wondered what we do once we've collected your garden waste, and why we collect it separately?

Below are answers to some of the most common questions we get from our residents.

What can I put in my garden waste bin?

Grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, pruning and small branches, weeds and leaves, dead plants.

What can't I put in my garden waste bin?

Building rubble, household or food waste, paint and liquids, logs and tree stumps, plant pots and polystyrene, turf or soil.

How is garden waste recycled?

Your garden waste is taken to large composting halls, where it undergoes a process called in-vessel composting which gives the optimum conditions for the waste to compost. The nutrient-rich and peat free compost is then used as a soil improver in farming and agriculture.

Do I need a liner?

No, please do not line your garden waste bin, simply place your garden waste loose inside.

Why don't you accept hay/sawdust?

The facility is set up to only process the items accepted. Hay and sawdust break down at different rates to this waste and, therefore, excessive amounts of them would upset the processing system.

Why are vegetable peelings and food grown in my garden not garden waste?

Both food grown in your garden and bought in a shop are classed as food waste. The facility cannot accept them together as they undergo different processing methods. Food waste should be placed in your food waste bin, and is turned into biogas which is fed to the national grid.

Why can't you take small amounts of used animal bedding?

The site cannot accept any animal bedding as this would be contaminated with manure from the animal/s concerned, herbivores or not, which would put the facility in breach of their operating permit by breaching stringent animal by-products legislation laid down by the UK Government.

Garden waste is a fortnightly collection and is an optional paid for service. It operates on a rolling year basis, which means you will renew your service annually exactly one year from the date of joining. You can sign up, renew your subscription, or find out more information on our website at www.ashford.gov.uk/garden-waste

Did you know we have a Repair Café in Ashford?



The Repair Café Ashford is organised by and for residents. They can take almost any item suitable for repair, putting it back together again for reuse, with the aim of reducing waste and maintaining repair skills. Visit them on Wednesdays 1pm-4pm at the Singleton Environment Centre Workshop, email ashfordrepaircafe@outlook.com or find them on Facebook [@RepairCafeAshford](https://www.facebook.com/RepairCafeAshford)

Great Big Green Week



This year's national Great Big Green Week (Saturday 10-Saturday 17 June) is dedicated to community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Ashford is taking part again and will be hosting a variety of events and activities with support from the community. Our launch event takes place in Ashford Town Centre on Saturday 10 June 10am-4pm, so come along to enjoy the fun and find out how you can benefit from sustainable choices.

More information at www.ashford.gov.uk/Great-Big-Green-Week



Enjoying the great outdoors

We have some fantastic outdoor spaces in the borough, with a wealth of walking and cycle routes throughout the towns and surrounding countryside.

If you're out and about and see any of the following, remember you can let us know by using our **Report It** section on our app or on the website found here: www.ashford.gov.uk/report

Overflowing bin – and if there is no alternative litter bin along your route, please take your waste home

Dog fouling – remember you can use any regular litter bin, not just a dog waste bin

Damaged litter bins



We take pride in our borough!

Firstly, a massive thank you to everyone who participates or organises litter picks in our borough. We have seen an increase in the amount of community groups and individuals arranging and taking part in litter picks in recent months.

Remember to let us know if you are arranging one in advance by filling out our form online, so that we can loan you the correct equipment, waste bags and arrange a public location to collect the waste. This ensures our crews can collect it as soon as possible, and avoids it being mistaken for side waste – or fly tipping! More information is available on our website at www.ashford.gov.uk/community-litter-pick

Free journey planner

Kent Connected is a free journey planner with the aim to help you travel smarter, live better. From travelling A to B, for work or looking for an activity with the family, the journey planner provides options for car, train, bus, car sharing, walking and cycling routes, including Explore Kent's scenic routes, giving you more options to enjoy the county. To find out more head to www.kentconnected.org



Ashford Celebrates the King's Coronation



On Saturday 6 May Ashford celebrated the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. We held a screening of the Coronation in Victoria Park from 10am, followed by a community showcase of music and dancing that included the Ashford Concert Band, Ashford Folk and Deon, an up and coming urban pop artist who was seen on the BBC's "I Can See Your Voice" on Christmas Eve 2022. There was fun for all the family with workshops to make coronation wands and crowns, face painting, food vans and even though the weather was a little damp, everyone really got into the community spirit!

We continued our festivities on Sunday 7 May, with a Party at the Piazza in Elwick Place. This was an afternoon

filled with food, drink, kids crafts and live music, plus there was a selfie competition for the best-dressed King or Queen – we're sure you'll agree there were some great entries.



Speaking of competitions, we're delighted to unveil the winners of our Kings and Queens portrait competition below. This saw local school children draw, paint and craft their own vision of a King or Queen and we then had a wonderfully inventive and colourful art display around the town centre on the lead up to and during the Coronation weekend.

It's safe to say that a lot of fun was had by all over the long weekend and it was wonderful to see so many people out celebrating this momentous occasion together.



Photographers © Martin Apps and Brian Marsh

And the winners of the Kings and Queens portrait competition are...



Adam, Age 5, Phoenix Community Primary School

Eric, Year 5, Mersham Primary School

Edward, St Theresas Catholic Primary School

Ethan, Year 3, Phoenix Community Primary School

Azalia, Year 6, Mersham Primary School

Family fun at the Brook Museum



Heritage Hops Festival

Saturday 10 June 2023 12pm – 4pm

Celebrate the history of hop-picking, processing and production in Kent and get a chance to visit our authentic 19th century Oast House, and enjoy a drink in our beautiful courtyard. Includes:

- Live music from Andy Mack and Dune Acoustic
- Tours of the Oast House
- Face painting and collagraph printing for kids
- Hot food and locally sourced beers, ciders, wines and more available for purchase

Entry £5 on the door. Children under 16 free.

Address: Brook Museum, The Street, Brook, Ashford, TN25 5PF

These initiatives form part of the Securing the Future of Brook Museum – Engaging New Audiences Project, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

www.agriculturalmuseumbrook.org.uk/

Medieval Craft Fayre

Saturday 15 July 2023 10am – 3pm

Find out what life was like in the Middle Ages, meet craftspeople from Sandwich Medieval Centre and have a go at some medieval crafts! Includes:

- Demonstration from the Blacksmith
- Workshops exploring Calligraphy
- Medieval art / prints
- Wheat weaving



Wines in the Vines

Saturday 22 July, Biddenden Vineyard, Ashford TN27 8DF

Head to Biddenden Vineyard this July to meet all seven of the Wine Garden of England producers. You will hear from each one about their story, their estates and of course taste their wines. You'll also be served a plate of nibbles and get the chance to meet local cheese producers.

Tickets are £45 per person or £80 for a pair.

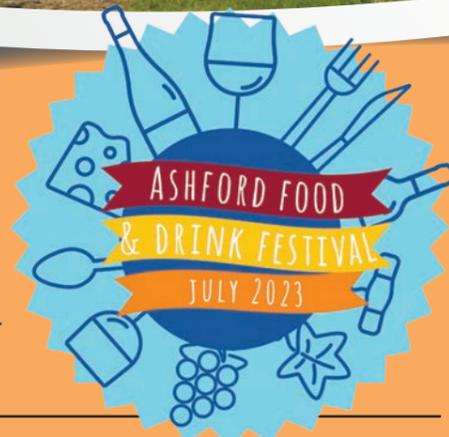
To book visit

www.winegardenofengland.co.uk/events



Ashford Food and Drink Festival

Celebrate food and drink businesses in and around Ashford town centre this July with the Ashford Food and Drink Festival! Showcasing how deliciously wonderful and diverse our businesses are here in Ashford, this is a unique opportunity for the whole family to be immersed in a variety of culinary delights. From wine tasting to pizza making, cocktail shaking to special offers – there's something for everyone to enjoy! For more details visit www.loveashford.com



The Victoria Park Extravaganza



This summer works on the park will reach completion. You'll be able to enjoy the fountain piazza, sensory garden, wetlands and the playground should also be complete.

Join us for a community celebration to mark the launch of these new spaces on Sunday 23 July from 10am to 4pm. All free experiences include fun fair rides, theatrical performances, family craft activities and a family dog show. This event is for the community who have supported us with their patience and positivity during the project.

More events

Saturday 10 June - KSCP's Art in the Park (plant inspired and for families)

Sunday 25 June - Armed Forces Day

Monday 26 June - Sunday 9 July - Santus Circus

Sunday 16 July - Equator Festival - World in a tent

Thursday 3 August - KSCP's River Explorers

Thursday 17 August - KSCP's River Explorers

Saturday 19 August - The Greatest Showman Silent Cinema (evening)

Additional activities during the summer holidays include outdoor art, weekly Forest School sessions, weekly animation activity (for children) and weekly creative writing (for adults).

Further details can be found on www.victoriaparkashford.co.uk



Victoria Park sketchbook

If you're looking for something to occupy the kids then check out the Victoria Park sketchbook, a downloadable resource to explore the park and get creative with.

Visit victoriaparkashford.co.uk/victoria-park-sketchbook

A New Soundtrack for Victoria Park (Da Base Music Centre)

The Victoria Park Project has been working with Da Base Music Centre to provide a programme of workshops for young people aged 12-18 this spring and summer. It includes music writing, sound recording, producing and music video creation. The finished pieces will be available to view on the Victoria Park Project website later this year.



Dino Trail

From the 1 to 29 August, we're inviting you to join us on a Jurassic adventure and take part in our free Dino Trail!

Each stop on the trail features a QR code that, when scanned, reveals an answer to an educational dinosaur question. Visit each location and test your knowledge for a chance to win a prize.

Taking part in the trail is easy. Simply download the LoyalFree app for free and head to the trails section of the app for more information.

So grab your smartphone, and get ready for a roar-some adventure through Ashford. Good luck, explorers.



Easy ways to pay to park

Did you know we offer ways to save money on your parking that are suitable if you use Ashford Borough Council's car parks regularly or if you visit less often?

Frequent car park user?

Season tickets reduce the cost of parking if you frequently visit some of our car parks. They allow one, three, six or 12 months of parking in advance. Season tickets can be used in the following locations:

Ashford: Dover Place Car Park, Edinburgh Road Car Park, Elwick Road Car Park, Flour Mills Car Park, Station Road Car Park, Victoria Road Car Park

Tenterden: Bridewell Lane Car Park and the rear section of Tenterden Leisure Centre Car Park

Depending on the car park prices range from £59 for a month up to £836 for a year.



Use our car parks less frequently?

Car park vouchers are a flexible way to reduce the cost of parking for a day if you use our car parks a bit less frequently.

Our virtual vouchers can be purchased in books of 10, are valid for one year and can be used whenever you wish to park – handy if you only need to park a couple of times a week. Vouchers are offered at two price points;

1. A book of 10 vouchers priced £37.50 can be used in:

Ashford: Edinburgh Road Car Park, Elwick Road Car Park, Dover Place Car Park and Station Road Car Park.

Tenterden: Bridewell Lane Car Park and the car park behind Tenterden Leisure Centre.

2. A book of 10 vouchers priced £32.50 can be used in:

Ashford: Flour Mills Car Park and Victoria Road Car Park.

Find out more: www.ashford.gov.uk/season-tickets-and-car-park-vouchers



A quick and easy way to pay

For an easy way to pay why not use your phone to pay for parking with RingGo? It's quick, secure and you don't have to hunt around for loose change to feed the machine. Once you've downloaded the free RingGo app and registered, you can also park in thousands of RingGo parking areas nationwide.

What are the benefits?

- **No more coins** – you'll never have to worry about carrying change to pay for parking again. Just download the RingGo app!
- **No need to touch the machines or queue for a ticket.**
- **Running late?** Just click the extend button in the RingGo app from wherever you are. There's no need to dash back to your car.

Coming soon – the RingGo logo will be getting a fresh new look.



Find out more: www.ashford.gov.uk/ringgo-cashless-parking



Fostering with Kent

If you are looking for a rewarding journey then consider becoming a foster carer.

Fostering with Kent is a well-paid and extremely rewarding role which offers a new career path and the opportunity to improve the lives of young people in Kent.

Andrew and Sarah, from Ashford, became foster carers with Kent Fostering in 2022.

"Fostering is something that my wife and I have wanted to do for a long time, and we are so glad that we made the decision to do it. It is probably a little cliché, but it does feel like a real privilege to do this job.

"Fostering with Kent, you are extremely well supported. You receive continuous training and have the support of your fostering social worker to guide you throughout the journey.

"We are currently caring for a baby who has been with us for five months, after arriving straight from hospital. We have also formed a positive relationship with her parents, which feels like we are really helping work towards the best outcome."



To find out more about becoming a foster carer, contact the Initial Enquiries Team on 03000 420002 or visit www.kentfostering.co.uk

"Fostering can be intense and you are working with children and situations you never imagined, but knowing we are helping children to be safe and move forward to a better life is the rewarding part."

WIN ultimate 4D / 5D baby scan packages!

Bump2Baby Scan Premier Ultrasound Clinic has opened in Ashford town centre, offering affordable baby scans to expectant mums. The clinic offers six week scans, gender reveal scans, 2D/3D and 4D and Hi Live scans in high definition.

All scans are completed by NHS experienced sonographers and the clinic is fully insured and regulated by the Care Quality Commission, giving peace of mind to mums (and dads) to be.

Bump2Baby Scan Ashford is offering early scans from only £49 (normally £69) and is giving mums a One Year Bump to Baby photography package FREE worth £199 with every scan. Limited to one per customer, the package includes Maternity/Newborn/Little Sitters and Cake Smash shoots free (worth £199) with their parent company, multi award-winning Baby Art Studios Kent.

Visit www.bump2babyscan.com or call 01233 220311. Bump2Baby Scan

Ashford will donate £1 for every scan to the William Harvey Maternity Day Unit and offer a Blue Light Discount to emergency workers.

Bump2Baby has teamed up with Ashford For You to provide two lucky readers with the chance to win an ultimate 4D / 5D premier growth scan packages, worth £135 each!

The prize includes a 20 minute ultrasound scan, using warm gel. You will see and hear your baby's heartbeat and receive a wellbeing check, giving estimated foetal weight... plus gender reveal if requested! You will see your little bundle of joy in 4D & 5D and receive six colour images, all digital copies with two video clips. Plus a baby's heartbeat Teddy Bear to treasure forever.



PLUS as an extra bonus, another 20 readers entering this competition receive a £20 gift voucher towards any gender reveal or ultimate 4D package.

To enter email competition@ashford.gov.uk putting Bump2Baby Scan in the subject heading and include your name, postal address, phone number and email. Or send a postcard / sealed envelope with your full contacts details to Ashford For You competition, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL. Write Bump2Baby Scan on the card. See our terms & conditions at the bottom of p22 overleaf...

COUNTY SQUARE SHOPPING CENTRE, ASHFORD IS GIVING AWAY THIS AMAZING PRIZE BUNDLE WORTH OVER £600 TO ONE LUCKY WINNER!



WIN A PRIZE BUNDLE WORTH OVER £600



Prizes from: **A. Simmonds**, Add Glow, **Ashford News**, Body Shop, **Claire's**, Costa Coffee, **F. Hinds**, Hays Travel, **Homeplus Furniture**, Iconic Jewellery, **Krini's Kreations**, LA Style, **New Look**, Next, **No.1 Currency**, On Pizza, **Peacocks**, Select Fashion, **Smiggle**, Specsavers, **Superdrug**, The Entertainer, **The Works**, Three, **Timpson**, Warren James, **Waterstones**

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN THIS AMAZING PRIZE...

EMAIL THE EDITORIAL TEAM

at competition@ashford.gov.uk
Put 'County Square Prize Bundle' in the subject heading and include your full name, postal address and email. Please include a contact phone number.

OR

SEND A POSTCARD OR SEALED ENVELOPE

with your name, address, email and contact phone number to: Ashford For You magazine, Communications, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL.

Write 'County Square Prize Bundle' entry on the card.

Terms & conditions: 1. The competition is open to UK residents aged 18 years or older except employees of the Promoter, their families, agents or any third party associated with the competition. 2. The closing date of the competition is **12 noon on 5pm on Monday 17 July 2023**. Entries received after this time will not be included. The prizes are non-transferable and non-refundable. There are no cash alternatives. 3. By accepting the prize you also agree to be bound by standard terms and conditions specified by the prize providers. Only one entry per person. Editor's decision is final. Ashford Borough Council is the data controller for the personal information you provide us and this will be used to circulate our magazine and keep you up-to-date on recent news and events. Collecting and processing of your personal data is being conducted relying upon the legal basis of consent. You have the right to remove your consent at any time by sending 'unsubscribe' to media@ashford.gov.uk. The option to unsubscribe will be offered each time we contact you. We will not share your information with any third parties unless we are required or permitted to do so by law. Your information will be held for as long as we produce a residents' magazine and you stay subscribed. For more information about your data protection rights see our data protection pages at www.ashford.gov.uk or contact the Data Protection Officer, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL.

KEEP ASHFORD TALKING

ARE YOU a YOUNG PERSON EXPERIENCING CONFLICT WITHIN a SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY SETTING?
ARE YOU EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS OVER ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, NOISE OR BOUNDARY ISSUES?
ARE there intergenerational issues in YOUR family that are causing endless arguments and stress?

The Ashford Mediation Service (AMS) is a **free service** available to all residents experiencing conflict. We don't 'take sides', we work with all parties in dispute to help both 'sides' reach a solution that works for everyone. Tackling conflict at an early stage prevents the breakdown in relationships and reduces issues with mental health and wellbeing, homelessness, and crime. Our Keep Ashford Talking project now focuses on two specific audiences – 'disaffected' young people within a school or community setting, and families who live in the more deprived neighbourhoods of Ashford. Although programmes exist for young people, the missing link is providing them with the skills to mediate themselves. We will work with schools and youth groups to equip staff, mentors and young people with mediation and negotiation skills. There are a disproportionate number of ASB incidents and disputes in specific areas, so we will work with community leaders to support individuals in resolving their differences. It is with grateful thanks to the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner's Fund that we can expand our services in Ashford.

Take that first step and get in touch today



Call us on **07845 914838** or email info@ashfordmediation.co.uk
Quote reference PCC. Visit www.ashfordmediation.co.uk



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Our Tenant Find for the more experienced landlords Service includes:

- Rental valuation
- Legal advice and information with regards to letting your property
- HHSRS inspection
- Affordability checks
- Drawing up an agreement
- Deposit and Rent in Advance

Dispute Resolution

for continuity of income

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- Inventory / check out
- 24 hour emergency repair support
- Routine property inspections
- Tenancy renewals

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And talk to us TODAY to learn more about financial incentives for private sector landlords...

Call ABC Lettings on **01233 330811** or email abclettings@ashford.gov.uk



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From A-Z in Ashford



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LOOK

Waterstones



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claire's

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THE WORKS **W**

...with over 50 stores, services and cafés,
there's plenty more to enjoy!
See our website for more details.

countysquashoppingcentre.com    

