

ASHFORD FOR YOU

Issue 1 Spring 2018

YOUR BOROUGH, YOUR MAGAZINE

WIN A FAMILY TICKET TO FLIP OUT



ASHFORD

TRAMPOLINE ARENA

BIG PICTURE

An overview of the 'Big 8' developments changing the face of our area

SPOTLIGHT ON

Snowdogs Discover Ashford – exciting art trail coming this autumn

REMEMBERING

The fallen – WW1 commemoration events

Shakespeare's Globe on Tour.

CHILHAM CASTLE

Friday 25 May

7.00pm – *The Merchant of Venice*

Saturday 26 May

2.00pm – *Twelfth Night*

7.00pm – *The Taming of the Shrew*

Sunday 27 May

1.00pm – *Voter's choice*

6.00pm – *Twelfth Night*

Monday 28 May

11.00am – 6.00pm

The Chilham Chase

chilhamchase.com

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE



In association with
Canterbury Festival

The Merchant
of Venice

The Taming
of the Shrew

Twelfth Night



BOOK NOW
shakespearesglobe.com



Welcome

Spring is in the air! I don't know about you but the three months following Christmas always seem so long to me and I look forward to the lighter evenings, the daffodils and tulips beginning to appear and the lambs leaping around our rural countryside.

The borough is changing so quickly, so to keep you all updated and aware of the things happening we've decided to produce *Ashford For You*, a quarterly magazine full of exciting projects and events taking place around us, and focusing on different aspects of life in the area.

The first edition gives you an insight into the Aspire Landscape Management team who have made a difference to how the borough looks, focuses on Tenterden's wonderful wine trail and has news of our very special art trail coming this autumn!

I hope you enjoy the first edition, we value your comments so see page 22 on how to get in touch.

Tracy Kerly

Tracy Kerly
Chief executive, Ashford Borough Council

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Construction underway at Designer Outlet

The much anticipated 100,000 sq ft. extension to McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Ashford has begun.

The centre, which has the world's largest tented retail structure, welcomes over 3.6 million guests every year.

Scheduled to open in autumn 2019, the extension will deliver up to 50 additional

premium brands, a new food piazza, 725 further parking spaces, a new events space and redesigned children's play area.

The expansion will also include the installation of Europe's largest living wall structure and many of the stores in the new phase will be clad in tens of thousands of plants, all stacked vertically.

Nominate local community champions in the Civic Awards

Ashford Borough Council will be hosting a Civic Awards ceremony to find out who today's community 'champions' are, and to make sure that they are acknowledged and get the civic recognition they deserve.

If you know someone whose actions have made a truly positive impact in the community, or to the borough as a whole, then nominate them and they could be heralded at the Ashford Borough Council Civic Awards in July.

Nominations are open until Monday 21 May 2018. For more information, and to download

a nomination application form, visit www.ashford.gov.uk/civicawards or email civicawards@ashford.gov.uk

The Civic Awards are supported by the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Ashford Borough Council and local companies including MJ Allen Castings & Machining, Peter Brett Associates, Chart Hills Resort, Facts & Figures Financial Planners, Hadlow College, HR GO Recruitment, ITL Group, Pillory Barn Creative, Quinn Estates, Red Alert, RIFT Group, Stanhope plc, and Wilkins Kennedy.

County Square's 10th anniversary



County Square has celebrated the 10th anniversary of its new extended shopping centre which underwent a major redevelopment project, almost doubling its original size.

The eagerly awaited opening took place on Thursday 20 March 2008.

In addition to the new extension, the existing centre was refurbished to make the whole complex feel fresh and bright.

On the day County Square welcomed the arrival of Debenhams, Next, New Look, River Island, H&M and a new Waterstones. The centre has continued to introduce new retailers such as JD Sports, Pandora, Select, Yours, Smiggle, The Entertainer and Flutterbyes.

To mark the anniversary Titan the robot returned on Saturday 24 March 2018 to entertain the crowds.

Ashford Police Station to be refurbished

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott (pictured below with Ashford Borough Council Leader Cllr Gerry Clarkson), has agreed to release funds from his investment reserves to make significant improvements to Ashford Police Station.

A structural survey, carried out in early 2017, identified the external concrete cladding needed replacing at a significant cost and a decision on the future of the building needed to be made.

The development work at Tufton Street is expected to take approximately 18 months to complete, subject to relevant planning permission, and during that time there may be disruption to some services available to the public.

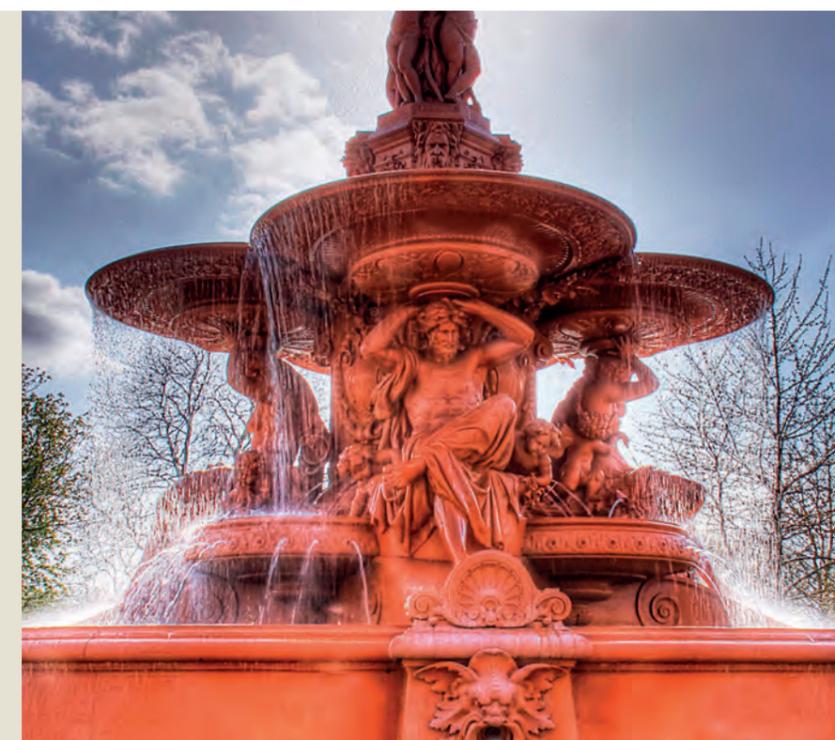


Have your say! Get involved!

Ashford's Victoria Park and Watercress Fields offer a wealth of history, exciting play spaces, interesting ecology, and quiet spaces to relax. But we're looking to make the park an even better place to visit, thanks to support from the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund.

We have secured initial funding to develop a multi million pound restoration project. To help develop the plans, we'd love to hear what you think about the park and what changes you would like to see.

For more information and to sign up to our regular e-news updates visit www.ashford.gov.uk/victoria-park



The Big 8 – the skyline of Ashford is changing

Chances are you've heard of the term 'The Big 8' ... If not, they're major regeneration projects that will create jobs, housing, retail and cultural facilities – and benefit the wider borough as a whole. How? Let us explain...



Elwick Place

Elwick Place is rising above the hoardings. The development, opposite Debenhams, will include a new six-screen Picturehouse Cinema, a 58-room Travelodge hotel, eight new restaurants and cafes, and a new 282 space car park. It is anticipated it will all open this Christmas, 2018. The council owns the land and the rent it receives will help to fund services across the borough.



Ashford College

This is a further and higher education campus for those aged over 16. In September 2017 the new £26m campus opened its doors to 1,000 students and 100 staff. It stands magnificently on the corner of Station Road and Elwick Road and boasts modern facilities that will educate and equip students with the employment skills needed in the future. Work on the next phase starts soon.



Chilmington Green

Chilmington Green will be a brand new community of up to 5,750 quality homes over the next 20 years. The development will also provide around £125m towards local amenities including a secondary school, four primary schools, shops, healthcare, sports and leisure facilities. With tree-lined streets, a spacious layout and a strong local community managing local facilities, it promises to be a place of special character.

Commercial Quarter

Taking shape in Station Road, Phase 1 of the Commercial Quarter sees 80,500 sq ft of office space being created. Why is this important? Being right next to the International Station, and just 38 minutes from London, with rents 73% lower than in the capital, the Commercial Quarter has the potential to become a big draw for businesses.



J10a of the M20

A £104m project that will create a new motorway junction on the M20. J10a will be built around 700 metres east of the existing J10. The argument has long been made that extra road transport capacity is essential to cater for the town's future needs. Junction 10a is another piece of the transport jigsaw that will improve the infrastructure of the town.

International Signalling

Work has recently been completed on a vital £10m project to prepare Ashford International's high-speed platforms for new international trains, including e320 Eurostar trains. With new signalling in place this ensures that direct high-speed international services will continue from Ashford with the new wider fleet of European trains.

Jasmin Vardimon

This is a project that seeks to deliver a creative hub for the internationally renowned Jasmin Vardimon Dance Academy. The company tours nationally and internationally, performing at high profile venues across Europe, Asia and the US. This project, being led by Kent County Council, will enable local audiences to share in the inspiring work of the company and other performers.



Designer Outlet

Work began in January 2018 on the much-anticipated extension to the Designer Outlet. The project will see the site increase from 185,000 sq ft to 285,000 sq ft over the next 18 months and will add 50 premium and luxury brands. McArthurGlen is investing £90m in the project, which already sees over 3.6m visitors every year.



Aspire-ing stuff A Day in the Life of Aspire Landscape Management

In the first of our features on the people and community groups who make up the fabric of Ashford life, we speak to James Laidlaw and David Hartley from Aspire Landscape Management to find out more behind the team who keep the borough looking its best all year round.

New beginning

At the start of October 2016 the council brought the responsibility for grounds maintenance across the borough back in-house under the name Aspire Landscape Management.

The team have been in place for around a year and a half and the reaction from residents to their work has been positive with the public seeing the difference Aspire is making to the borough and how bright, colourful and tidy Ashford's open green spaces are looking.

We met up with grounds maintenance operations manager James Laidlaw and assistant grounds maintenance operations manager David Hartley, who oversee the team together.

So tell me about Aspire

Our job is to provide a high quality grounds maintenance service to make the borough a pleasant and enjoyable place to live, work and visit. We try to enhance Ashford's overall appearance and make the borough more attractive and welcoming for residents, visitors and businesses.



What do you do?

We cover the day-to-day work of grass cutting, mowing, pruning, planting, clearing and litter picking on various spaces owned by the council including open green spaces, parks, floral beds, cemeteries, areas around housing sites, hedges, maintenance of trees, sports pitches and associated footpaths as well as land drainage structures, play area repairs and inspections.

Why did the council bring the service in house?

The council felt that the presentation of the borough was such an important aspect that we needed to manage this ourselves. The in-house service gives us greater flexibility as we are able to move resources where they are needed most, with an ability to respond to changing priorities.

What do the team like about the job?

The majority of the staff are local, so they really like the fact they are improving the borough and creating some civic pride where they live and work. They can really see the transformation and the difference it's making.

Is there a specific piece of work the team are proud of?

We received a lot of positive comments about how the Memorial Gardens has been transformed and the spring and summer bedding was really popular.

We planted approximately 30,000 pansies and 10,000 bulbs for the spring bedding and around 25,000 geraniums in June, and installed 60 planters which added a splash of colour to the town during the summer months.

“Grounds maintenance is a job where you can really make a difference.”

What has the reaction been from the public?

We have had a great reaction from residents to our work. We've received many letters of thanks and people have come up to the team in the street to say what a difference we have made.



Contact details

For more information about the team visit www.aspirelandscapemanagement.co.uk

To report a grounds maintenance issue online visit www.ashford.gov.uk/report

Telephone **01233 331111** or email aspire@ashford.gov.uk



Snowdogs to be unleashed this autumn

This autumn Ashford will become like a scene from *The Snowman*™ and *The Snowdog*, the animated sequel to Raymond Briggs' classic story, *The Snowman*™, as a magical art trail arrives in the borough.

The event will raise Ashford's profile, bring in tourism and raise money for a very worthwhile local charity.

Local and national artists and celebrities will bring at least 30 giant sculptures to life and give them their own personality by creating a unique design for each dog. The sculptures will then be placed around the borough creating a world-class sculpture trail that will encourage everyone to discover Ashford!

For 10 weeks from September to November 2018 the trail will be on display for everyone to enjoy, encouraging a festive feel in the lead up to Christmas and creating a buzz around iconic Ashford locations and public open spaces.

After the 10-week display, each Snowdog sculpture will be auctioned by Pilgrims Hospices to help raise funds for the local charity.

Other places which have held similar events such as Superlambanana's (Liverpool City of Culture, 2008), Books about Town (London, 2014) and Snowdogs by the Sea (Brighton & Hove, 2016) have benefited greatly from providing education and

learning opportunities and promoting community engagement and health and wellbeing.

The Snowdogs Discover Ashford 2018 project is delivered in partnership with Wild in Art; creative producers of spectacular, mass-appeal public art events and Penguin Ventures, part of Penguin Random House.

Visit the website

ASHFORDSNOWDOGS.CO.UK

Follow us on social media

[@ASHFORDSNOWDOGS](https://www.instagram.com/ASHFORDSNOWDOGS) [f](https://www.facebook.com/ASHFORDSNOWDOGS) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/@ASHFORDSNOWDOGS) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ASHFORDSNOWDOGS)



Take a trip back in time in Ashford

From the Roman crossroads settlement of Westhawk Farm and the drovers' routes of the early medieval period, to the high speed national and international railway lines of today, Ashford's history spans several millennia.

Our rich heritage is certainly one to be proud of! With 2,395 listed buildings, 42 scheduled monuments, 43 conservation areas and six registered parks and gardens, Ashford has more heritage assets than any other borough in Kent.

Ashford's town centre is full of hidden gems and interesting historical stories; did you know St Marys' Church is more than 1,000 years old?

With new developments such as Elwick Place and the Commercial Quarter showcasing modern architecture, now's the perfect time to step back in time to rediscover local history. The Ashford Heritage Trail takes visitors on a journey through history as they discover many of Ashford's key sites. See the beautiful Edwardian architecture in North Street, Victoria Park's Grade II listed Hubert Fountain and much more.

The walk starts on the High Street, meanders through the town and finishes at Ashford Borough Museum. The self-guided walk takes around half an hour and is suitable for all ages. The trail map can be downloaded via the council website, or collected from the Tourism Office located in Ashford Gateway Plus.

Keeping a Country Eye on our heritage

With around 20,000 protected sites in Kent, 3,000 of which are in Ashford, it's more important than ever we protect our valuable sites for future generations. But we need you, our residents, to help us do this!

If you're passionate about preserving the past, you might be interested in getting on board with Country Eye, a new app which has been designed to make it easier for people to crack down on those mistreating historical sites in their area.

The app is part of Heritage Watch, a crime prevention organisation supported by Kent Police to help preserve heritage assets.

Country Eye allows users to quickly and easily report heritage crimes in the borough, such as architectural theft, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and metal detecting. The app is free to download and supported by Historic England.

Heritage crime is an offence that targets the historic environment. It includes crimes against natural landmarks, stately homes, churches and cathedrals, castles and ancient battlefields. It also includes crimes against cultural property, historical artifacts and museums.

Download the app via the IOS App Store or the Android Google Play store.

For more information visit www.ashford.gov.uk/history-and-heritage

Tenterden's wine trail

Cheers!

A visit to the Tenterden area's vineyards and breweries is a must. Each one is unique and has something different to offer.

The English wine industry is enjoying a renaissance, thanks in no small part to Kent's top class wine producers.

The county's south facing slopes, chalk soils and increasingly warm climate provide the ideal conditions for grape growing, and are in fact similar to the Champagne region of France.

No surprise then that many leading wine makers are located in the Tenterden area - and it's not just wine. Conditions in this area of the Garden of England are also ideal for growing hops, apples and pears to make delicious beers, ciders and juices.

Growing and vibrant industry

Our borough has a wealth of must-visit vineyards and breweries and the area has really become a hub of activity with a growing and vibrant industry.

Gusbourne Estate and Chapel Down Winery have both opened new state of the art tasting rooms called The Nest and The Wine Sanctuary, respectively. Biddenden Vineyard has launched 'Red Love', Britain's first naturally red apple juice and Woodchurch Estate is now open for tastings by appointment.

Old Dairy Brewery beers continue to receive awards with their Snow Top (silver-CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain), while Simpsons Wine Estate creates world class wine in the North Downs.

English sparkling wine history was made when Pierre-Emmanuel Taittinger, President of Champagne Taittinger, planted the first vines in their new Domaine Evremond Vineyard in Chilham.



Biddenden Vineyards

www.biddendenvineyards.com / 01580 291726
Biddenden Vineyards, Gribble Bridge Lane, Biddenden, Ashford, Kent, TN27 8DF

Chapel Down Winery

www.chapel-down.com / 01580 766111
Chapel Down Winery, Small Hythe, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 7NG

Gusbourne Estate

www.gusbourne.com / 01233 758666
Gusbourne Estate, Kenardington Road, Appledore, Ashford, Kent, TN26 2BE

Hush Heath Estate

www.hushheath.com / 01622 832794
Hush Heath Estate, Five Oak Lane, Junction of Snoad Lane, Staplehurst, Kent, TN12 0HT

Old Dairy Brewery

www.olddairybrewery.com / 01580 763867
Old Dairy Brewery, Station Road, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6HE

The following vineyards are not yet open for visits:

Domaine Evremond

www.domaineevremond.com

Simpsons Wine Estate

www.simpsonswine.com / 01227 832200
The Barns, Church Lane, Barham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6PB

Woodchurch Wines

www.woodchurchwine.co.uk / 07796 693935
Woodchurch Wine Estate, Susan's Hill, Woodchurch, Kent, TN26 3RE



For more information visit

www.visitashfordandtenterden.co.uk

Ashford Remembers: The Centenary of the First World War



Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace: 14-18 (© Mike St Maur Sheil)

Since the start of the First World War centenary in 2014, Ashford, like the rest of the nation, has been remembering and honouring the bravery of those who fought, lived and died during this momentous event.

The town staged the first of its WWI commemorative events on 4 August 2014, when REME held a Dawn-to-Dusk Guard of Honour at Ashford's Mark IV tank to signal 100 years since the outbreak of the war. In November 2017 the town hosted a service of commemoration at the tank to mark the centenary of the Battle of Cambrai. Many projects and events have taken place across the borough too, with parishes and villages exploring their local WWI history.

On 11 November 2018, it will be the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, which signalled the end of the conflict. Ashford will be staging many events throughout this final year of commemorations, focusing on the theme of peace and reconciliation and the sacrifice made by those overseas and on the home front, both nationally and locally.

Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace 14-18

A powerful, outdoor photographic exhibition, curated by renowned photographer Michael St Maur Sheil, which tells of the healed scars of the First World War through our only remaining witness: the fields of battle themselves.

Since its first showing in Paris in 2014, this stunning display has travelled to major cities across nine countries and has been seen by over ten million people, and Ashford is proud to be hosting it in June during its final year of touring. Featuring local Ashford stories from WWI, the exhibition will focus on the peace treaty, mechanisation, and the role of international communities and women during the conflict.

Do not miss the rare opportunity to visit an iconic international exhibition in your own town.

Memorial Gardens, Ashford
2-30 June 2018, free entry

Victoria Cross Paving Stone Ceremony

In August, a commemorative Victoria Cross Paving Stone will be laid in honour of Frederick George Coppins VC. Ashford's only VC recipient to be born in the borough, Frederick grew up in Charing and served with the Royal West Kents and was awarded the Victoria Cross when serving with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles on 9 August 1918. The paving stone will be unveiled in Charing on the 100th anniversary of this action.

Sundial Garden, Charing
9 August 2018, 11am, free entry

Battle's Over: Ashford's Tribute

On Sunday 11 November, on the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, Ashford will be taking part in the national commemorative event, Battle's Over: A Nation's Tribute. Beginning with a remembrance service in Memorial Gardens at 11am, later as darkness falls, Ashford's new civic beacon in North Park will be lit along with others across the country to symbolise the light of hope that emerged from the darkness of war. Ashford will also be mounting a poppy tribute in North Park, similar to the Tower of London, where residents will be able to purchase a remembrance poppy. Please visit our website for information about the poppy scheme.

Various locations and times
11 November 2018

Floral Tributes

Tributes will be placed across the town centre: A 'Silent Soldier' will be placed in Memorial Gardens, planters around the town will be themed red, and a floral Mark IV tank model will be sited at Vicarage Lane, taking inspiration from our own tank at St George's Square.

Throughout 2018

Please refer to our website for the latest event information. There are also many commemorative events being held across the borough, and we encourage you to find out what is happening in your area. If you are planning a WWI event and would like to let us know about your activity, seek advice or enquire about funding opportunities, please visit our website: www.ashford.gov.uk/WWI



Temporary war memorial in Ashford High Street

Memorial Gardens in 1926

War Memorial, Ashford
Published by G. A. Cooper, Maidstone

The arrival of the Ashford Tank in 1919 (© Ashford Borough Museum)

High Street, Ashford
Ashford High Street in 1914

Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace: 14-18 (© Mike St Maur Sheil)

The 'China Crisis'

With China's recent announcement that it won't be importing recycling materials unless strict new quality thresholds are met, it's more important than ever we get on board and recycle as much clean, high quality waste as possible!

According to *The Telegraph*, China processed over 7.3 million tons of plastic waste in 2016.

But not anymore.

country has taken the strong stance not to accept certain recyclable waste such as mixed paper and plastic bottles.

This news has provided the UK with a problem. Currently, many domestic waste management companies simply do not have sufficient plastics disposal capacity.

But in Ashford, we do things differently. We do not send our mixed plastics to China.

So what does Ashford do with its recycled materials?

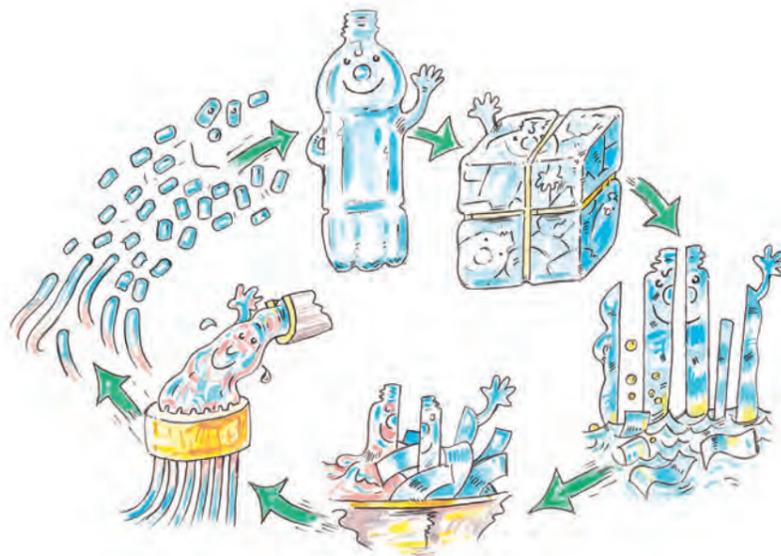
The responsibility for collecting waste lies with Ashford Borough Council and the waste disposal element is down to Kent County Council (KCC). Recyclable materials such as plastics, tins and cartons are sent to a recycling facility in Crayford and a small amount goes to European markets. In addition, KCC does not send any plastics to landfill!

Overall, Kent's landfill waste was less than 3% for 2016/17 - exceeding the government target of 10%. More specifically, 2% of Ashford's waste was sent to landfill - an excellent statistic we are very proud of. The remaining 98% of our waste is recycled, composted, or generated into electricity.

So let's play our part in creating a more eco-friendly planet and hold our spot in the top 10% of DEFRA's best recycling local authorities in England by continuing doing a tremendous job at recycling clean, high quality materials.

For more information and for top tips on recycling visit the council website at www.ashford.gov.uk/recycling.

According to China, much of the waste imported from the UK and other countries is too hazardous to recycle. So, as of next year the



Meet Pete

Fact File

Name: PolyEthylene Terephthalate (PET), also known as Perpetuity Pete

Likes: Being rinsed and recycled

Dislikes: Being abandoned as litter, especially on the beach

Superpower: Perpetuity! The ability to infinitely regenerate himself through recycling

This is Pete - a bottle, with bottle! He's prepared to undergo the recycling process an infinite number of times. His shape may change but he is still our hero Pete.

For Pete to fulfill his duty, it's up to you to dispose of him properly by placing him in your GREEN RECYCLING bin. Do not abandon him as litter or let him slowly rot away as this could take 450 years or more! He would not be best pleased.



What's On

Here are just a few highlights from the many events occurring in our borough this spring/summer...

May

Sunday 20 May, 1.00-6.00pm
NGS Open Day at Godinton House & Gardens
 Supporting the work of the National Garden Scheme. Tearoom open, house tours.

Godinton House, Godinton Lane, Ashford

Admission: £10 house and gardens, £5 gardens only (children free, except on some event days)

25 - 27 May
Shakespeare's Globe at Chilham Castle

As part of Shakespeare's Globe's tour around the world, don't miss your chance to see open air productions of *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Taming of the Shrew*. Presented over five performances, on Sunday the choice of play will be put back into the hands of the most powerful members of the house: the audience.

The Merchant of Venice, Friday 25 May, 7.00pm; *Twelfth Night*, Saturday 26 May 2.00pm; *The Taming of the Shrew*, 7.00pm and voters choice Sunday 1.00pm and 6.00pm. For ticket details visit www.shakespearesglobe.com.

Chilham Castle, Chilham, Canterbury CT4 8DB

26 May, 7.30-9.30pm
My Dog's Got No Nose at Smallhythe Place

My Dog's Got No Nose takes us on a journey through the events surrounding a stand-up comedian's first ever performance.

Smallhythe Place, Smallhythe, Tenterden

Admission: £14 (Suitable for ages 16+)

Thursday 31 May, 7.45-10.30pm
(doors open 7pm)
David Starkey – Henry VIII: The First Brexiteer?

English constitutional historian and presenter David Starkey presents this insightful talk on Henry VIII and history repeating itself.

Revelation St Mary's, St Mary the Virgin, The Churchyard, Ashford

Admission: £17/£20 (door) Under 16's: £15/£17 (must be accompanied by an adult)

June

Friday 1 June, 7.30-9.45pm
The Taming of the Shrew at Smallhythe Place
 Convoluted relationships, mischief, and transformation, East 15 Acting School, established over 50 years ago out of the work of Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop at the Theatre Royal in Stratford East, bring the Bard to the boards with this timeless comedy.

Smallhythe Place, Smallhythe, Tenterden

Admission: £10 Adults, £7 Concession (students/children)



Starts Sunday 3 June and runs throughout the month
Fields of Battle - Lands of Peace 14-18

A unique portrait of the First World War battlefields, this powerful outdoor photographic exhibition, by Michael St Maur Sheil, tells of the healed scars of the First World War through our only remaining living witness: the fields of battle themselves.

More details will be confirmed nearer to the date and will be available on our tourism website.

Saturday 2 June, 7.45-10.30pm (doors 7pm)
RPR (Ritchie, Parrish, Ritchie)

They rocked the folk/roots music scene as the rhythm section of Tanglefoot, now Rob Ritchie, Al Parrish and Steve Ritchie, along with percussionist/singer/songwriter Beaker Granger, have re-connected as RPR.

Revelation St Mary's, St Mary the Virgin, The Churchyard, Ashford

Admission: £17/£21 (door), Under 16's: £10/£14 (door) (must be accompanied by an adult)

Sunday 3 June
Teddy Bears Picnic at Willesborough Windmill
 Bring your brave bear to abseil down the Mill. Enjoy the bouncy castle and have your face painted. Lots of excitement for all the family with a Master of Ceremonies to keep the fun moving along. BBQ in the courtyard.

Willesborough Windmill, Mill Lane, Willesborough, Ashford

Admission charges apply

Friday 8 June, 7.45-10.30pm (doors 7pm)
Home Service

The reunion of this classic band came about after the discovery of some previously unheard live recordings in early 2011 that had languished in the back of a wardrobe for the last 25 years.

Revelation St Mary's, St Mary the Virgin, The Churchyard, Ashford

Admission: £23/£26 (door) Under 16's: £16/£18 (door) (must be accompanied by an adult)

Friday 15 to 24 June, 1.00-6.00pm
Delphinium Week at Godinton House

Delphinium Week at Godinton House & Gardens is not to be missed. Join them for a celebration of the fabulous Delphinium collection in Godinton's walled garden.

Godinton House, Godinton Lane, Ashford

Admission: £10 house and gardens, £5 gardens only (children free, except on some event days)

Friday 22 June to Sunday 1 July
Stour Music Festival

The Stour Music Festival will once again take place in the glorious mediaeval Pilgrim church of All Saints', Boughton Aluph near Ashford.

Boughton Aluph, Nr Ashford

Programme of events available from April.

July

Sunday 1 July, 10am-4pm
Darling Buds Classic Car Show

Now in its 23rd year the popular Darling Buds Classic Car Show will take place on 1 July 2018.

Darling Buds Farm, Buss Farm, Bethersden

Admission: £15 per car (including all occupants)

16 - 22 July
Create Platform

Experience some unique artist led spin-off events under the banner of Create Platform: a week-long series of events that build to the main Create Music Festival. Please keep up to date with all Platform events at www.createfestival.co.uk

Ashford Town Centre, full programme of events available from April

Saturday 21 July, 11.30am-9.00pm
Create Music Festival

Create Music Festival is one of the South East's biggest and long established free music festivals, taking place every July in the beautiful surrounds of Ashford's Victoria Park. The festival now features four music stages with a packed line-up of local original acts spanning from rock and pop to folk and dance. The festival also features a mix of food markets, bars, outdoor theatre, arts and crafts, and pyrotechnics. There really is something for everyone at this free family festival!

Victoria Park, Ashford

Admission: FREE



Saturday 21 July to Sunday 12 August, 1.00-6.00pm

Sculpture in the gardens at Godinton House & Gardens

Don't miss the annual exhibition of contemporary work by artists of the South East. The exhibition is hosted by Godinton House & Gardens and runs between 21 July and 12 August, a must for contemporary art lovers.

Godinton House, Godinton Lane, Ashford

Admission: £10 house and gardens, £5 gardens only (children free, except on some event days)

Sunday 22 July, 11.00am-2.30pm
Mr Harper's Spectaculum

Experience the magic and wonder of a Victorian extravaganza at Mr Harper's Spectaculum, a family fun day to celebrate the birthday of Mr Harper, the man who kindly gifted the Hubert Fountain to Victoria Park. There will be traditional games, roaming performers, fairground rides and arts and crafts (and fancy dress is positively encouraged!).

Victoria Park, Ashford

Admission FREE

Thursday 26 to Sunday 29 July, 11.00am-5.00pm
Big Cat Sanctuary Open Days 2018

The Big Cat Sanctuary is once again holding its annual Open Days to support welfare, breeding, conservation and education programmes.

Big Cat Sanctuary, Headcorn Rd, Smarden, Ashford,

Admission: £19.80

(free for children aged 3 and under)

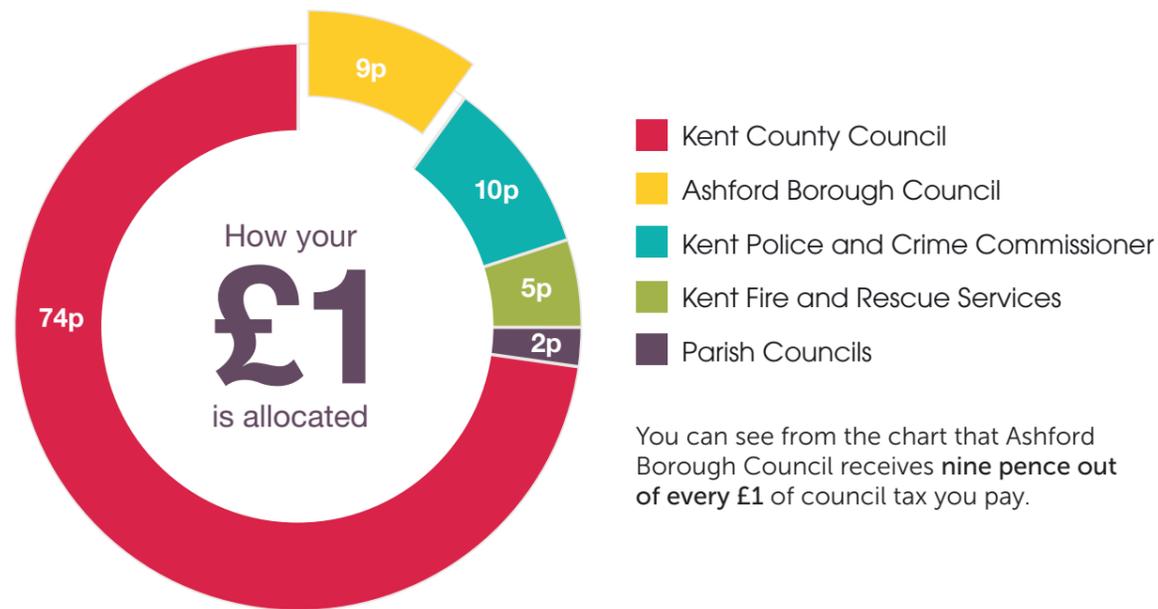
Get more information on these events and see what else is on:

For events around the borough: www.visitashfordandtenterden.co.uk/find-events/

For Create festival events: www.createfestival.co.uk

For events at Revelation St Mary's: www.revelationashford.co.uk
 (tickets can also be purchased from the Tourist Information Centre at Ashford Gateway Plus)

Your council tax explained



- Kent County Council
- Ashford Borough Council
- Kent Police and Crime Commissioner
- Kent Fire and Rescue Services
- Parish Councils

You can see from the chart that Ashford Borough Council receives nine pence out of every £1 of council tax you pay.

Council tax is a local tax you pay to fund the services provided by Ashford Borough Council, Kent County Council, the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and Kent Fire and Rescue Services. If you live in an area with a parish or town council an element of what you pay will go also to the parish.

The amount you pay is determined by the value of your property (though this is currently based on its value in 1991).

Who receives my council tax?

You pay all of the money to Ashford Borough Council but then it is distributed as shown in the chart above.

Ashford has raised its element of council tax just three times in the last seven years. Even if all other local councils in Kent froze their council tax this year, Ashford's would still be the lowest.

If you live in a Band D property, the amount that you will pay Ashford Borough Council over the whole of the 2018-19 financial year will be £157.50. So you can see we provide your services for a fraction over £3 per week – this has increased by £3.50 (for a Band D property) this year. Please note this is based on the Ashford element of council tax only and will be adjusted to reflect your property band.

These are just some of our services:

- Promoting and supporting the delivery of 'The Big 8' – projects critical to the future economic growth of the borough (see pages 6-7)
- Recycling and refuse collections
- Leisure facilities, play areas, parks and open spaces
- Affordable housing and other housing advice/support
- Rent, business rates and tax collection
- Our website, telephone and face-to-face services
- Electoral services, including voter registration

- Planning applications and advice on building regulations
- Youth and arts services
- Preserving trees, grass cutting and street cleansing, preventing flytipping and graffiti
- Grants, funding for community projects, support for the voluntary and community sector
- Licensing, street trading, hackney carriage licences (taxis)
- Food hygiene inspections
- Managing borough council-owned car parks

The easiest way to pay your council tax is by direct debit. You can pay on the first of each month and spread the cost over 10 months from April. To set up a direct debit:
 Visit www.ashford.gov.uk/pay
 Phone 01233 330227



Tenterden Town Council

Tenterden has a town council and details of its activities and services can be obtained from tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk and copies of its latest newsletter and annual report can be downloaded from that website, collected from the Town Hall at 24 High Street, Tenterden or requested by calling 01580 762271.

WIN a FAMILY TICKET TO FLIP OUT ASHFORD PRIZE AND HOW TO ENTER

We have 10 sets of family tickets to give away to readers. Each ticket covers two adults and two children and usually costs £40. The closing date for entries is Thursday 31 May 2018. Only one entry allowed per person. The draw will take place on 1 June and winners will be notified in writing. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. For full terms and conditions please visit www.ashford.gov.uk/ashford-for-you

To enter your name in our prize draw either:

- * Email the editorial team at media@ashford.gov.uk – put Flip Out Competition Entry in the subject heading and include your full name, postal address and email. Please include a contact phone number.
- * 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 Flip Out Competition Entry on the card.

We will contact each winner to request consent to provide your contact details to Flip Out Ashford to enable you to claim your prize.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST...

Why not join our mailing list to stay up-to-date with news and events and receive an electronic copy of our magazine? Just email media@ashford.gov.uk with the message: Please add me to the mailing list to receive an electronic copy of Ashford For You magazine and associated articles.

To mark the launch of your new magazine we have a flippin' great competition for you to enter. We have teamed up with Flip Out Ashford to offer 10 family tickets for one of the biggest and best indoor trampoline arenas in the south east.



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.



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, please:

Email: media@ashford.gov.uk (subject line NEWS) or
Write to: Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL

Feeling social?

Tweet @AshfordCouncil on twitter
 Like Ashford Borough Council on Facebook
 Watch Ashford Borough Council on You Tube

Customer Services

Email: customer.care@ashford.gov.uk
Write to: Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL
Call: 01233 331111
All our face-to-face enquiries are by appointment only at the Civic Centre, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 3.45pm.
Find your borough councillor: www.ashford.gov.uk/councillors

County Council services and other useful information

Kent County Council

Website: www.kent.gov.uk
24 hour helpline: 03000 247 247
Environment & waste: 03000 247 600
Highways and transport (roadworks, potholes and street lighting): 03000 41 81 81
Kent libraries: 03000 413131
Social care & health: 03000 416161
Ashford Community Safety Unit: 01233 330891
Leisure & Tourism: Stour Centre: 01233 663503 **Julie Rose Stadium:** 01233 613131
Kingsnorth Recreation Centre: 01233 503846 **Pitchside & Courtside:** 01233 896511

Other useful phone numbers

Environment Agency floodline: 0345 988 1188
Reporting fraud: 0800 854 440

INSPIRING Your Wardrobe

County Square Shopping Centre

...where you'll find up-to-the-minute fashion, homeware and more, from over 50 stores.

We're right in the middle of Ashford's Town Centre.



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next

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Open 7 days a week

ASHFORD, HOW ARE **YOU?**

With the right support and motivation, you can make small changes to improve your health right away and double your chances of staying healthy as you get older. As an Ashford resident you can find out how at the One You Shop.

Available FREE at your One You shop:

Stop smoking support | Healthy weight advice for both adults and children | On-the-spot blood pressure checks | Weigh-in service plus support | Advice on a range of lifestyle issues.

Now OPEN at Unit 7 Park Mall, Ashford:

Tuesday - Friday	9am - 5pm
Saturday	9am - 1pm
Sunday, Monday	Closed

www.oneyoukent.org.uk

BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY
ONE YOU