

ASHFORD FOR YOU

Issue 2 Summer/Autumn 2018

YOUR BOROUGH, YOUR MAGAZINE

WIN A PROSECCO
HIGH TEA

THE LITTLE
TEAPOT

SPECIAL FEATURE

Battle's Over: Ashford remembers

SNOWDOGS

Countdown to the art trail launch

FOCUS ON

Tenterden & District Museum



ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

I'm Matthew Scott, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent

My role includes holding the Chief Constable to account, setting the council tax precept for policing, commissioning services for victims of crime and funding community safety projects.

I also set the policing priorities for the county by consulting with residents like yourself, so I'd be grateful if you could complete this short survey about policing where you live.

Let me know your views by filling out this survey and returning it to me.



Name: _____ First half of your postcode: _____

Gender (male/female/Non-Binary/Trans/Intersex/prefer not to say) Age: _____ Ethnicity: _____

Do you currently work for, or volunteer with, the police? Yes No

Have you been a victim of a crime in Kent in the last year? Yes No

How safe do you feel where you live, on a scale of 1 to 10? _____
(where 1 is 'very unsafe' and 10 is 'very safe')

The PCC is responsible for the Kent Police budget of £333.3million for 2018/19, or roughly £185 per person in the county.

On a scale of 1 to 10, do you think the services you get represent value for that £185? _____
(where 1 is 'very poor value for money' and 10 is 'excellent value for money')

In your view, what one type of crime or anti-social behaviour does your local area have the biggest issue with?

Tell us one thing you think Kent Police does really well: _____

Tell us one thing you think Kent Police could do better: _____

If you would you like to opt-in to receive our monthly e-newsletter, please give your email address here:

Tell us where you heard about this survey: *Ashford For You* magazine

Please cut out and return this form to:

Annual Policing Survey 2018, OPCC, Kent Police HQ,
Sutton Road, Maidstone ME15 9BZ

Or, if you prefer, you can complete this survey online at
www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/consultations

For information about how we use your personal information
please visit www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/privacy



Welcome

We've been delighted to receive such a positive response to the launch issue. We all have busy lives so I'm grateful to the many of you who took the time to tell us what you liked about the magazine, while others suggested ideas for features, and hundreds took part in our competition to win tickets for Flip Out.

This edition is packed with news and fascinating features and I hope we've included many of your ideas. We turn the spotlight on our past – the article on the Tenterden & District Museum showcases what must be one of our area's best kept secrets – while focusing on how Ashford College is shaping the futures of young people for generations to come.

I'm so looking forward to seeing the beautifully decorated Snowdogs Trail coming in September. It's causing great excitement and I'm sure you will love the dogs scattered around the town centre (no feeding them!). We also carry news about preparations for the First World War centenary commemorations, tips on recycling and a guide to great summer days out. Enjoy reading *Ashford For You* and keep sending us your views and ideas.

Tracey Kerly

Tracey Kerly
Chief executive, Ashford Borough Council

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Having your say...

One of the biggest residents' surveys ever carried out in the district looks like it's going to throw up some fascinating results and will help reshape services in our area for years to come.

The postal survey was targeted at 10,000 households randomly chosen to represent a cross-section of the local population. Some 2,165 people replied – a healthy 20% response rate – and the huge amount of data generated will now be carefully analysed over the summer.

This work will involve breaking down the responses by age, ward, housing type and employment status, before a detailed report is prepared in the autumn. The results will be used to influence the council's future priorities and will have a major bearing on the provision of public services.

The survey sought views on everything from council

services and Ashford town centre to recycling and anti-social behaviour. Residents were also encouraged to comment on any aspect of living in the borough and this succeeded in generating a huge response.

Early analysis of the data shows that nearly 83% of those who responded are satisfied with their local area as a place to live, while more than 71% are satisfied with the way Ashford Borough Council runs its services. And while the poll shows that a number of services rate highly (bin collections), people think the council could do better in other areas (littering and affordable housing).

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to respond to the survey. We will listen carefully to what residents are telling us and act on their concerns and priorities. Look out for more details in the next edition.

Speedy connections

Everyone wants to enjoy the benefits of the fastest and most reliable internet speeds available and it can be frustrating when your broadband fails to deliver. So now could be the time to consider a new government scheme.

A full fibre Britain is the vision behind the £67 million Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme. The vouchers can be used by small and medium sized businesses – and the local communities surrounding them – to contribute to the installation cost of a gigabit capable connection.

Businesses can claim up to £3,000 against the cost of connection either individually or as part of a group project. Residents can benefit from the scheme as part of a group



project which includes businesses, and can claim for a voucher of up to a value of £500.

One gigabit is the same as 1,000 megabits so it's a big leap forward in connection speeds that could really benefit you. For full details about whether you are eligible for a voucher and to connect you to a full fibre broadband supplier, go to <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

FLIPPING HUGE RESPONSE TO OUR COMPETITION

It's clear that our readers love to have a flipping good time judging by the huge response to our competition in the launch issue to win 10 family tickets at Ashford's Flip Out trampoline arena. We had more than 220 entries by email and post, so it's a big thank you to everyone who entered.



The 10 lucky winners are: Catherine Nichols, Matthew Cowell, Joanne Lavender, Lisa Copham, Aretha Galloway, Sonya Kimpton de Ville, Lindsey Baxter, Sarah Cowley, Gill Bilsby and Kathryn Rogers. Turn to p21 for our latest competition.

Stone me – Elwick Etchings tell the tale

Ashfordians have proved they are great story tellers by submitting nearly 200 stories for the Elwick Etchings, the innovative scheme to engrave tales about the town into the red granite paving stones to be set into the pavements of the Elwick Place leisure and restaurant complex.

Creative arts company Strange Cargo has gathered the tales after visiting schools, the museum and library, knitting groups, community groups and clubs; distributing thousands of postcards and chatting to passers-by in the streets.

Strange Cargo is spending the summer selecting the chosen entries to be etched into the 100 paving stones for Elwick Place. We'll have to wait to see if they include famous Ashfordians, romantic encounters, spooky goings on, woolly mammoths, black windmills, Elizabeth Taylor, Pokemon or poems about the town.

Strange Cargo say this rich tapestry of information will provide a wonderful trail throughout the development when it opens later in 2018.



Standing together against dementia

The Alzheimer's Society says that one third of people with dementia don't feel part of their community and has introduced a recognition symbol: 'working to become dementia friendly'.

The Kent Dementia Action Alliance (KDAA) believes that everyone needs to be involved and is managing the use of the symbol for local businesses. KDAA worked with local residents and organisations in order to develop a minimum standard for Kent groups.

Ashford Borough Council, which is a member of the Ashford & Canterbury Dementia Action Alliance, reports that the original action plan has been widely fulfilled and additional initiatives around raising dementia awareness undertaken. The council has successfully applied for the 'working to become dementia friendly' symbol.

The council is well placed to encourage and promote 'working to become dementia friendly' to the wider community through the services it delivers and activities that it provides.

Facts and Figures (source: Alzheimer's Society)

There are 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK, with numbers set to rise to over one million by 2025, soaring to two million by 2051.

225,000 people will develop dementia this year – that's one every three minutes.

One in six people over the age of 80 have dementia.

Know your boundaries

Did you know that major changes are on the way ahead of the next local elections in May 2019? A campaign will be launched later this year to explain how this will impact on you.

Following a Local Government Boundary Commission review, the number of councillors rises from 43 to 47, with ward numbers increasing from 35 to 39. Ward boundaries will be redrawn in many cases, with streets falling into new wards and people required to vote at different polling stations.

Many of the changes will tackle 'electoral inequality', where some councillors represent many more – or many fewer – voters than others in neighbouring wards. In addition, two new community councils are being added next May – Kennington and South Willesborough, and Newtown.



The electoral register will be published in December showing all the changes and Ashford Borough Council's comprehensive multi-media campaign will be spreading the word about the changes to come.

Ashford is the only borough in Kent where the number of elected representatives is being increased by the Boundary Commission, reflecting a surge in the number of people living in our economically vibrant and fast-growing borough.

Create Music Festival's plastic pledge



Create Music Festival organisers have proudly committed to reduce plastic waste at this year's free festival in support of Ashford Borough Council's current recycling campaign. Festival organisers pledge to:

- Use paper straws not plastic
- Use wooden stirrers not plastic
- Use PET 100% recyclable bottles and provide recycle bins
- Use compostable bin liners
- Introduce a re-usable cup scheme

The re-usable cup scheme will require a deposit of £1 per cup at the point of visitors purchasing their first drink. The Create Festival 2018 branded cup can then either be retained for the duration of the festival and returned to the bar at the end for a refund – or attendees can choose to keep it as a souvenir in exchange for their £1 deposit!

Other festivals throughout the UK have committed to similar plastic recycling campaigns which have positively impacted on the consumption of plastic and a significant reduction in litter.

“We're looking forward to returning to Create Festival 2018, it's always a pleasure to be part of this event that brings people together to enjoy free music and celebrate their local neighbourhood.”

Ben Russell and the Charmers.



Working together to improve our borough

Victoria Park consultation



- 75% visit regularly (at least once a month)
- Nearly eight out of 10 visitors stay for at least 30 minutes
- The park is really important to the local community and for individuals' quality of life

What's next?

Further consultation on detailed proposals will take place during the Create Festival and Mr Harper's Spectaculum (formerly Mr Harper's Birthday Picnic) on 21 and 22 July, and all are welcome to come along and share their views. We plan to submit our detailed funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund early in 2019 and should hear back later that year.

Find out more

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

Thanks to support from the National Lottery, through the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund, Ashford Borough Council has secured initial funding to develop a £3.7m restoration and improvement project in Victoria Park.

Between February and May this year nearly 1,000 people took part in consultation sessions that were held online, in the park, via telephone interviews and focus groups.

Initial results show that:

- 60% of park visitors live within walking distance
- Most visitors arrive on foot (53%)



Coming soon... the changing face of Ashford's town centre

With a new cinema, places to eat and drink, a craft brewery, hotels, new apartments and major office development all underway, there has never been a more exciting period of change within our town centre.

With many town centres facing decline, Ashford has been able to buck this trend and the number of people visiting the town has increased. With some great heritage to treasure and enjoy in this 'old town', our growing town centre offers exciting new facilities and brings a new dynamism and diversity, so that it can cater for a wide range of tastes.

We have picked up simple lessons about the importance of being bold, being different and being fun. We'll be looking in detail at what you want from the town and this is where your opinions are vitally important. The **town centre consultation** will begin soon, giving you the opportunity to help create an amazing Ashford and our next issue will showcase everything that we learn over the coming months.

Watch out for more details at www.ashford.gov.uk



Get out into the Garden of England...

Ashford and Tenterden and their surrounding villages have a wealth of natural beauty spots waiting to be explored with the family. Here, we've come up with just a few suggestions to help you make the most of our beautiful borough...



Hothfield Heathlands

The Hothfield Heathlands Nature Reserve is an extensive area of heathland, woodland and river edge habitats, rich in wildlife. It's perfect for bug hunting and, if you're lucky, you might spot some of the Highland cattle and Konik ponies who roam this ancient habitat.

Ashford Warren and Hoad's Wood

Situated close to Ashford's bustling town centre, Ashford Warren and Hoad's Wood cover an area of around 38 hectares. A great spot for walking, look out for the many different tree varieties and discover a range of wildlife in and around the beauty spot's ponds and wetlands.

Kings Wood

A must for all visitors, the Kings Wood at Challock is a stunning 1,500 acre ancient woodland and a living arts space. Once the hunting ground of King Henry VIII, it is now the site of an exciting arts project managed by Stour Valley Arts, featuring an array of sculptures which draw on the natural landscape.

The Wye National Nature Reserve

The village of Wye is set against the North Downs, within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, an area which provides breathtaking views across the village and further beyond. A fantastic four mile circular walk links the village, the famous chalk Crown and the ominously named (yet beautiful) Devil's Kneading Trough. You'll get to walk through arable farmland, woodland (look out for rare species of orchid) and grassland and can enjoy a pit-stop in one of the delightful pubs or coffee shops in the centre of the village. Get details on the route via www.explorekent.org.

Conningbrook Lakes

The park is situated on a picturesque stretch of the River Great Stour and boasts a beautiful lakeside setting with views of the North Downs and access to a network of country trails. There are plenty of spots to pause for a picnic and discover the wealth of wildlife on the site. Look out for a range of waterbirds, dragonflies, butterflies, newts and frogs. For those who'd like to get out on the water there are a number of accredited clubs offering activities such as canoeing, kayaking, open water swimming, rowing and triathlons. To find out what activities are available call Ashford Leisure Trust on 01233 613131.



Cycle and Walk

A fun, and free, way to get out into the great outdoors is by foot or bike. With dedicated cycle paths around the borough and miles of rambling routes you can stride across the Downs, meander through the Weald of Kent, and drink in tranquil, rolling landscapes scattered with the county's iconic oast houses and farms. Explore Kent's website has a range of suggestions: www.explorekent.org.

Visit a Garden

There's a reason the county is known as the 'Garden of England' as there are so many beautiful ones to visit. Godinton House has 12 acres of them, including their stunning walled garden, plus lots of activities you can take part in. There are also many private gardens that open through the National Garden Scheme, so visit their website to find out which ones are open near you: www.ngs.org.uk.

Royal Military Canal

Head out to Romney Marsh and you'll discover the historic Royal Military Canal, created in the 1800s under the threat of Napoleonic invasion. This 28 mile stretch of fresh water is home to many forms of wildlife and has a range of walks of varying lengths. The canal runs through the picturesque village of Appledore and there are plenty of pubs around to stop off for a spot of lunch.

On your doorstep

If you live in one of the borough's many villages and hamlets then don't forget to look a little closer to home for inspiration. Your local parish website will have a range of village events and activities including fêtes, carnivals, open days, coffee mornings, workshops and more.

Find out more

The Visitor Information Centre, located at Ashford Gateway, has a range of leaflets and information on activities for all the family, alternatively, its website has a host of information on activities and outdoor events too: www.visitashfordandtenterden.co.uk/see-and-do/active-and-outdoors/

Snowdogs Discover Ashford



All you need to know about *the* art trail hitting Ashford this autumn
12 September - 18 November

Love, loss, life, death. We all have a story to tell about our experiences of life's adventures and it is those experiences that bind us to others, creating relationships and communities along the way.

As the community of Ashford, we have so much to reflect upon, celebrate and look forward to! We are a diverse community in lots of ways, but what brings us together is our ability to live life, love our families and support others in their time of need.

As autumn approaches, we'll be exploring all of these themes around the town in a unique way, through an extraordinary public art trail based on the Snowdog character from *The Snowman™* and *The Snowdog*.

Following a careful selection process, 35 artists have been commissioned to turn their designs into reality, with the finished sculptures descending on key locations around the town for everyone to enjoy – via our streets, parks and public spaces, each Snowdog will get its moment to shine and tell its own individual story.

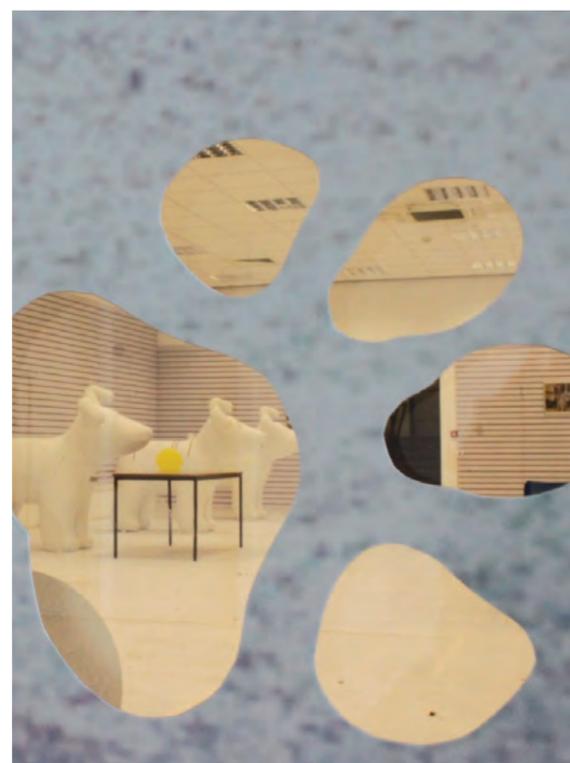
While the trail is a unique and fun way to explore Ashford, it also serves another important purpose; once the 10-week display is complete, each Snowdog will then be auctioned by Pilgrims Hospices to raise funds, enabling them to continue supporting families in our community.

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 and owners of *The Snowman™* and *The Snowdog* brand.

The Snowdog is fun, loyal, compassionate and offers love, unconditionally. This is your invitation to find your Snowdog and support the community you love!

Visit the website
ASHFORDSNOWDOGS.CO.UK

Follow us on social media
[@ASHFORDSNOWDOGS](https://twitter.com/ASHFORDSNOWDOGS)    



Housed within County Square shopping centre, the Snowdog Artist Kennel is creating a buzzing hive of activity, allowing shoppers to get a sneak peek of the Snowdogs being brought to life.



How the sponsors chose their dogs

Choosing the Snowdog designs was no mean feat; 60 incredible, creative and inspiring designs were shortlisted for the sponsors' consideration. With each design a unique representation of different elements of the borough, narrowing the choice down to just 35 was a near impossible task.

However, on 11 May, the local business sponsors gathered together for an evening of deliberation at Revelation Ashford in the town centre. After one final browse, the sponsors were then tasked with picking their Snowdog by placing a sticker on their chosen design.

Alongside an illustration of their design, each artist was given the opportunity to explain the background behind it and what inspired them to reach their final creation.





Above left: *The Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace 14-18* exhibition by renowned international photographer, Michael St Maur Sheil, took place in the Memorial Gardens in June.



Above middle: The Over the Top display, depicting the soldiers who bravely went 'over the top' on 1 July 1916. Above right: The Silent Soldier, a moving tribute installed in the Memorial Gardens by Aspire Landscape Management.



Battle's Over: A Nation's Tribute – Ashford Remembers

We all know the significance of Armistice Day, but this year the borough's commemorations hold extra importance; 11 November 2018 marks 100 years since the end of the First World War.



You might have already noticed a few events around the borough. From the inspirational *Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace 14-18* photographic exhibition which took place in the Memorial Gardens in June to the Over the Top display (based on the famous still from the British documentary film "The Battle of the Somme"), The Silent Soldier by the Ashford War Memorial and all of the beautiful red-themed planting from Aspire Landscape Management (including the stunning floral Mark IV floral tank display in Vicarage Lane), lots has been going on.



Above: The Floral 'Mark IV' tank tribute by Aspire Landscape Management, inspired by Ashford's very own Mark IV in the town centre.

However, there's more to come

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**. As well as a remembrance service in the Memorial Gardens at 11am and the lighting of the new civic beacon once darkness has fallen, Ashford will also be unveiling its pièce de résistance: **a beautiful poppy tribute in North Park**.

Taking inspiration from the hugely popular 'Blood Swept Lands and Sea of Red' poppy installation at the Tower of London in 2014, Ashford's poppies will form a stunning centrepiece during the poignant 'Battle's Over' tribute.

In advance of the event, residents are being offered the opportunity to purchase the sculptured metal poppies and for their poppy to be 'planted' in North Park (next to the

Civic Centre), where a military Guard of Honour will take place overnight on 11 November.

After the event, those that wish to can then collect their poppy to keep as a permanent reminder of this historic occasion.

The poppies will be available to purchase online from September, at a cost of £6 each. A donation from each sale will be made to a specially chosen charity, which will be announced in due course.

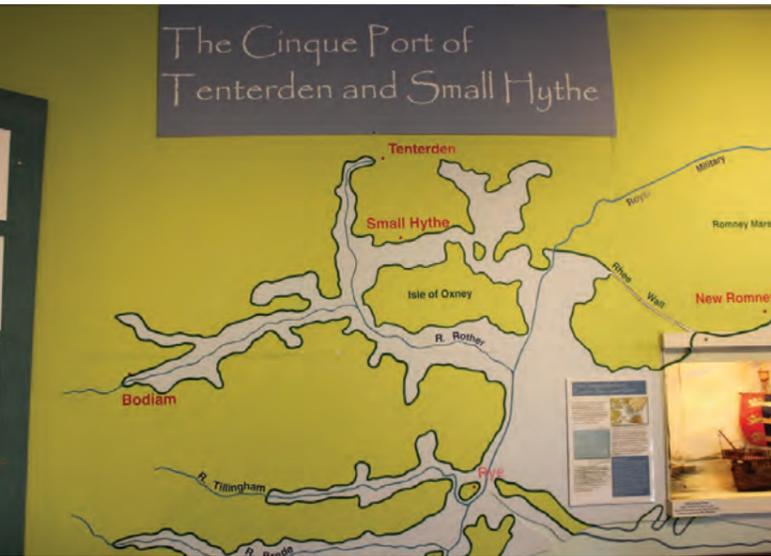
More information about the charity will be available on the web page: www.ashford.gov.uk/ww1

Poppy numbers will be strictly limited, and will be sold on a first come, first served basis – make sure you don't miss out on this rare opportunity to commemorate the Armistice centenary in a truly remarkable way.

Terms and Conditions:

- Poppies cost £6 each and can be bought online from September at: www.ashford.gov.uk/ww1
- A donation from each poppy sold will be made to a specially chosen charity
- Up to five poppies can be purchased in any one transaction, but please be aware that once all the poppies are sold no more will be available – be quick to avoid missing out!
- Proof of purchase will be required on collection
- Time slots for collection will be in the mornings and afternoons between 12-16 November

Time to discover the hidden gem on our doorsteps



What do medieval shipbuilding, motorbikes, vintage fire engines, brewing and a failed American presidential candidate have in common? They are among thousands of fascinating artefacts, curios and exhibits waiting to be discovered at Tenterden & District Museum.

“For anyone keen to know more about Tenterden and the surrounding area the best place to start is Tenterden & District Museum!”

says curator Debbie Greaves, who for 20 years has led the dedicated team of volunteers who run this treasure trove of local history.

The 19th century weatherboard building, which is tucked away just off the high street, was a coach house and stables but now its six rooms over two floors are crammed with exhibits which provide a tantalising glimpse into the area's past.

The museum is open for six months (from Easter to early October) and around 5,000 people visit each year. Around 98% of these don't live locally and Debbie is convinced that more local people would flock through

the doors if they knew more about the treasures that lie within. She also works closely with teachers to ensure that school visits can be tailored to suit the National Curriculum.

And thanks to a recent £40,000 refurbishment, partly funded by Ashford Borough Council, the museum is now even more accessible to wheelchair users with a ramp installed linking ground floor rooms and an interactive digital 360 degree virtual tour of the upstairs displays for those who are unable to climb the stairs.

One of the first displays to greet visitors covers Tenterden's status as a limb of the Cinque Port of Rye. It's difficult to look at the landscape today and comprehend how the River Rother flowed through Smallhythe and that for two centuries sea-going ships were built, repaired and broken up here. Until the silting up of the river blocked its access to the sea in the 16th century, it was one of the most important Royal shipyards in England, with seven Royal ships commissioned over a period of 130 years.

Elsewhere on the ground floor you will find a huge wall-mounted tapestry called The Story of Tenterden created by local schoolchildren in 1974, while on the first floor motorbike enthusiasts will be thrilled to discover photos and artefacts tracing the history of the Tenterden & District Motor Cycle Club, which was formed in 1946, and is still going strong today, with members aged from six to 90 years old.

Add in displays featuring a horse-drawn fire engine, the remains of a Georgian theatre from around 1799 and artefacts tracing the history of hop growing and picking across the Weald and you get a flavour of the eclectic mix of historical delights to be found in a place which itself is one of the last remaining types of industrial buildings that was common in the area in the 19th century.

The museum prides itself on being a focus for research and regularly receives requests for help from US citizens looking to trace family trees – escape from religious intolerance was a factor in the extensive emigration of Wealden families to New England in the 17th century. Four local families were among those who sailed from Sandwich in 1635, including the family of Tenterden mayor Nathaniel Tilden. His descendant Samuel Tilden became Governor of New York and narrowly lost the race for the Presidency in 1865. Using records stored there,



The museum is open every day during July, August and September, 11am to 4.30pm (open Bank Holiday Mondays).

First week of October open from 11am to 4.30pm.

Admission: adults £1.50, over 60s £1, under 18s and students (with valid card) are free.

Call 01580 764310, **email** enquiries@tenterdenmuseum.co.uk or **visit** www.tenterdenmuseum.co.uk.

The museum is also very active on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

the museum assisted the modern day Tilden family with research into its family tree.

This international appeal and profile is reflected in comment books signed by visitors from countries as far afield as Canada, Nepal, North America, Holland, France, Portugal and Belgium.

The museum association, a registered charity, is always looking for new items to be gifted to them and is constantly looking to refresh exhibits, to tap into topical events and to encourage repeat visits from people who have

previously toured the museum. The 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War is commemorated, while an embroidery by Horatia Nelson (Lord Nelson's daughter, who lived in Tenterden for nearly 30 years) was exhibited at one of the museum's frequent special events.

And with an entrance fee that costs little more than a couple of first class postage stamps, Tenterden Museum provides an amazing value for money experience and trip down memory lane for young and old alike... when are you going to visit next?

Sound investment at Ashford College

On the corner of Station Road and Elwick Road proudly stands the £26 million Ashford College campus.

With its distinctive chromatic atrium, the striking looking building is part of a number of developments changing the face of the town centre - alongside the Picturehouse cinema, Chapel Down brewery and new office block in the Commercial Quarter.



The long-awaited campus opened its doors to its first intake of students on 12 September 2017 and is the first of Ashford Borough Council's 'Big 8' projects to be completed.

Raising the bar

One year on from opening, the college has helped raise the bar by improving the educational offer provided for young people in the town.

The 7,135m² campus currently accommodates over 1,000 students and over 100 staff. The College, part of the Hadlow Group, has harnessed strong links with over 1,500 local employers and businesses, supporting improved educational provision within the borough and enhancing the local skills base, while supporting future economic growth and prosperity for residents and businesses.

A wide variety of courses reflecting the demands of the local economy are on offer, including Apprenticeships and Higher Education programmes, as well as support for those not currently in education, employment or training.

Future plans motoring ahead

The completed Phase 1 includes a 4,715m² teaching facility home to the general academic, vocational and creative departments and administrative facilities, while further investment will see the campus grow.

Phase 1a will be a 2,500m² sustainable technologies block, providing general and electrical engineering, motor vehicle and motor sport workshops, and plumbing and electrical facilities – completion is expected late 2019. Phase 2 will be a Higher Education facility, and expected to open in September 2021.

Hitting the right notes

A £280,000 state-of-the-art, 40-channel recording studio has recently been installed and is used by students studying on Music Technology courses. Designed and built to the highest specification in consultation with industry professionals, the facilities include a fantastic-sounding live room, booth and control room and leading-edge equipment.

Ashford For You spoke to one of the students, Alice Teehan, who is studying Ext Diploma in Music Performance and Production, Level 3, to find out how she has found her first year.

Why did you choose to study at the new campus?

I chose to study at Ashford because of the facilities and resources that are used within the course; we have a brand new studio with great features in all three acoustically-treated rooms.

How have you found your first year?

Very enjoyable, the jump from GCSEs to an Extended Diploma was easy to adjust to soon after joining and I'm very happy with my choice of course and place of study.

I'm very much looking forward to my second year.

What is the best thing about the new campus?

The brand new recording studio. Everything about it is fantastic, from the acoustic treatment of the rooms through to the design of the rooms; the equipment and instruments within the studio are also great to work with and I believe that the studio is a great investment for current and future students to learn and put practical skills to good use in.

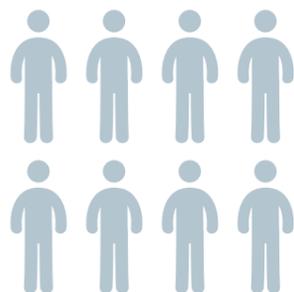
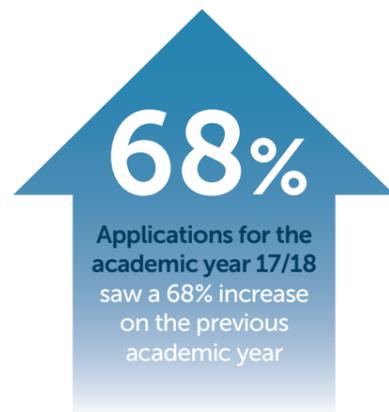
Would you recommend the campus to others?

Yes! The campus itself is easy to get to, the town centre is literally a minute's walk away, the college itself looks and feels very modern, with student break-out areas. The atmosphere is pretty relaxed compared to perhaps being in a secondary school.

The lecturers and college staff are also supportive with the workload, and I also know that Ashford College has facilities to help students with more personal matters like mental health and financial assistance, which are key to help create a supportive environment for all.

"I think that all of this helps to make Ashford College a great place to study."

Ashford College offers a range of courses designed for pupils in Year 11 looking to leave school, as well as those looking to change career or learn new skills. Applications for September 2018 courses are open now – visit www.ashford.ac.uk.



1,457 students currently enrolled (including 101 Apprentices and 81 Higher Education learners).

To ensure your recycling's collected, place your bin out by 7am on collection day.

Go for green

It's hard to know what you can and can't place within your green bin so here are a few top tips...



Please do

- ✓ Squash your recycling to create more room
- ✓ Put excess recycling into clear bags or cardboard boxes before placing next to your bin (don't use black, white, opaque, carrier or charity bags)
- ✓ Remove any film lids and absorbent pads from clear plastic trays (e.g. raw/cooked meats, fruit punnets) and place these within your grey refuse bin. Then place the clear plastic trays into your green recycling bin
- ✓ Empty and rinse out household waste packaging. We don't want any of your recycling sent to landfill because it was spoiled by food

Please do not place the following into your green recycling bin

- ✗ Unemptied and unwashed household waste packaging (e.g. tins, pots, tubs, glass jars, aerosols). Contaminated packaging won't be recycled
- ✗ Black plastic food trays (e.g. from microwave meals). Currently they can't be machine sorted for recycling and should be placed into your grey refuse bin
- ✗ Sanitary waste, such as nappies or wipes (wet/beauty/flushable). These should be placed in your grey refuse bin
- ✗ Textiles can go in clear bags and be placed ON TOP of your recycling bin
- ✗ Garden waste. This should be placed into your brown recycling bin
- ✗ Rubble and hard-core should be taken to your local recycling centre

Don't forget! You can recycle cardboard inner tubes of toilet and kitchen rolls, toothpaste outer cardboard boxes and clean foil (from sandwiches or takeaways).

Did you know?

- ★ Ashford has a recycling rate of 55%, with over half of waste being recycled or composted. We are the best in Kent!
- ★ In the past year residents have recycled:
 - Nearly 3,000 tonnes of glass - the equivalent in weight of 2,187 cars! (Based on a Ford Focus)
 - 5.5m plastic milk containers and 9.8m aluminium cans
 - Enough paper to save 49,000 trees! This number of trees could be used to print 11m newspapers
- ★ Weird items placed inside green recycling bins have included dead animals, window blinds, ovens, tyres, garden gnomes and a leg brace!

For more about what you can and can't recycle visit www.ashford.gov.uk/recycling

Meet the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Jessamy Blanford

What made you decide to become Mayor?

After being deputy Mayor for a year I discovered what a valued position the Mayor of Ashford is and also how focal it is in getting the council involved with local community projects within the borough. I don't believe until you become Mayor you truly realise how much work volunteers do! I hope to keep promoting these good causes.

What are your aims as Mayor?

Well obviously, my number one aim is to support residents as required, but my chosen theme for my Mayoral year is the environment. While Ashford Borough Council is following national policy in providing houses for all, by choosing the environment I hope to reassure people in the borough that we are just as determined to enhance and protect the rural areas and the open spaces. I also hope that with the Year of the Environment occurring in 2019 my work will be carried forward.

What are your chosen charities and why did you select them?

I have chosen the Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) to be one of my chosen charities. For many years they have worked on projects in the Ashford borough and during my time as Mayor I will be identifying specific projects to be undertaken over the next year. Together I hope we will create projects that will enthuse the local people's experience of nature and provide a lasting awareness for our residents.

The second charity I have chosen is the Paula Carr Diabetes Trust, which is a charity dedicated to supporting people who are living with problems caused as a result of their uncontrolled Diabetes. My charity fundraising will focus on assisting the Hypo Hound project in their work both securing and training the dogs for patients within the Ashford borough.

What events in Ashford are you most looking forward to this year?

Handing out Civic Awards to people nominated by the public, the unveiling of the paving stone in Charing to



commemorate the posthumous winning of the Victoria Cross by Fred Coppins, and the Summer Dinner Dance at the London Beach Hotel, which I am particularly looking forward to attending.

I am also looking forward to the Twinning event we host in September. Guests from our Twin towns of Fougères and Bad Münstereifel will be arriving in Ashford to celebrate Kent food and drink. The family Christmas Lunch at Chart Hills Golf Club is also a highlight.

If someone were visiting Ashford for the day what and where would you recommend they go/do?

Well, that all depends on when they come! I would definitely recommend they visit St Mary's Church, the churchyard has been recently refurbished by TCAT, Aspire Landscape Management and the council's Property and Projects team. There's also the beautiful Kings Wood in Challock and we have lots of excellent vineyards and restaurants for people to try. If they're looking for something a bit different, we have the Kent and East Sussex Railway at Tenterden that offers different experiences to suit all ages.

What's On

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

AUGUST

Summer Fun

With different events taking place all over the High Street and Park Mall, Ashford comes alive this summer. From quirky street theatre and live music to family events, check the LoveAshford's website to discover how to make the most of summer in town.

www.loveashford.com

Sunday 5 August, 10am-2pm Ashford Farmers' Market

Pick up a selection of tasty treats from local traders and enjoy tea, coffee, cake or breakfast from one of the street-food stalls. The market takes place on the first Sunday of every month.

Lower High Street, Ashford

Admission: free

Sunday 5 August, 6pm-7.45pm Peter Pan at Smallhythe Place

Immersion Theatre invite you to soar away to Neverland. Filled with music, audience interaction and the chance to meet the characters after the show, this musical promises to have every member of the family entertained... You'll be HOOKED!

Smallhythe Place, Tenterden, Ashford TN30 7NG

Admission: adults £15, children £8 (booking essential)

Saturday 11 August, 7.45pm-10pm A Brief History of Music – Green Matthews

The latest show from musicians Chris Green and Sophie Matthews takes in 600 years of musical history in 90 minutes!

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

Admission: £12/£15 (door) under 16's: £10/£12 (must be accompanied by an adult)

Saturday 25 to Monday 27 August Music and Musicals – Challock Flower Festival

The floral displays are always very imaginative and this year's theme is "Music & Musicals".

St Cosmas and Damian Church, Church Lane, Challock, Ashford TN25 4BS

Admission: free (donations appreciated)

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 September, 10am to 4pm (main battle approximately 2.30pm) Napoleonic Re-enactment Weekend

The Napoleonic Association offer a weekend of living history. The action commences on Saturday with battles and skirmishes.

Hole Park, Benenden Road, Rolvenden TN17 4JA

Admission: adults £7.50, children (5-16) £1

Saturday 15 September, 7.45pm-10.30pm Acoustic Strawbs

Dave Cousins with Tony Hooper co-founded the Strawberry Hill Boys in the 60s. Through folk to the rock band they are today, Dave's epic songs are delivered in his unmistakable style.



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

Admission: £22/26 (door) under 16's: £16/£18 (must be accompanied by an adult)

Sunday 16 September, from 10am (race at 12pm) Mason Mile

Get the kids off the sofa and into the fresh air by tackling the Mason Mile. It challenges you to run a mile in under 10 minutes and kids (under 16) can even get pocket money for participating.

Victoria Park, Jemmett Road, Ashford TN23 4QA

Admission: free

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 September, 10am All aboard for a day out with Thomas!

Meet Thomas and The Fat Controller and take a train ride! Day Out With Thomas™ is an event that gives Thomas fans and their families the chance to meet the classic storybook character.

Kent and East Sussex Railway, Tenterden Town Station, Station Road, Tenterden TN30 6HE

Admission: adults £18, children £13.50, family (2 adults, 2 children) £50 (booking recommended)

Friday 28 September, 10am-1pm Dementia: Ask the Experts Day

Find out about latest research and specialist services at an event organised by Ashford & Canterbury Dementia Action Alliance.

St Mary's Church, Ashford TN23 1QG

Admission: free. For more information email

alisoncarter@noplacelikehome.eu

OCTOBER

Thursday 4 to Sunday 7 October Tenterden Folk Festival 2018

A four day family-friendly festival of folk song, music, dance, crafts and traditions.

Tenterden

Admission: details on the website nearer to the event

www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk

Monday 22 to Friday 26 October, 1pm to 4pm

Autumn Week at Godinton House

Activities for all the family to enjoy, including the garden trail, traditional garden games and children's crafts.

Godinton House, Godinton Lane, Ashford TN23 3BP

Admission: adults £5, children £4

Sunday 28 October, 2pm to 5pm Halloween at The Mill

Come along and have a scary tour of the Mill. There will be face painting, story time, a magician and refreshments.

Willesborough Windmill, Mill Lane, Ashford TN24 0QG

Admission: adults £3.50, children/concessions £1.50, family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £7

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

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

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

For events at Revelation Ashford: www.revelationashford.co.uk

(tickets can also be purchased from the Tourist Information Centre at Ashford Gateway Plus)

NOVEMBER

Friday 9 November, 8pm-10.30pm Bootleg Blondie

Bootleg Blondie is the official Debbie Harry & Blondie tribute band and the only Blondie tribute to play the CBGBs in New York City before its demise in 2006.

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

Admission: £15/£17.50 (door) under 16's: £13/£15 (door). (must be accompanied by an adult)

Sunday 11 November, 11am Service of Remembrance

Ashford Memorial Gardens, Ashford

Admission: free

Sunday 11 November, 7pm Battle's Over: A Nation's Tribute

Beacon lighting and Ashford's Poppy Tribute.

North Park, Tannery Lane, Ashford

Admission: free



A PROSECCO WIN HIGH TEA

SUMMER IS HERE
SO IT MUST BE TIME TO SPOIL YOURSELF WITH A PROSECCO HIGH TEA!

THE LITTLE TEAPOT

We have teamed up with The Little Teapot in Ashford's Park Mall shopping centre to offer 10 PROSECCO HIGH TEAS FOR TWO PEOPLE, an ideal way to round off your shopping trip.

Our lucky winners will enjoy a lovely Prosecco High Tea for two people in the welcoming surroundings of The Little Teapot. Tuck into a plain or fruit scone with butter, jam and clotted cream plus a sandwich of your choice with side salad and a slice of cake with berry garnish served on a three tier stand. It is served with tea or coffee plus a glass of Prosecco each. Each of the 10 prizes covers two people, (usually costs £19.95 per person).

The closing date for entries is Friday 17 August 2018, when the draw will be made. Winners will be notified in writing. Only one entry allowed per person. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Visit www.ashford.gov.uk/ashford-for-you.

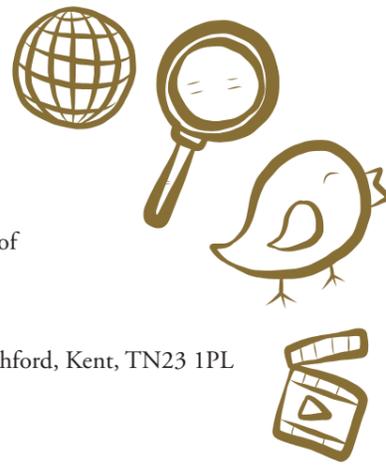
TO ENTER YOUR NAME IN OUR PRIZE DRAW EITHER:

- * Email the editorial team at media@ashford.gov.uk – put The Little Teapot 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 The Little Teapot Competition Entry on the card. We will contact each winner to request consent to provide your contact details to The Little Teapot to enable you to claim your prize.

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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

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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, Mon to Fri, 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 03000 414 141

Ashford Gateway: 03000 416 666

Environment & public rights of way: 03000 417 171

Highways and transport (roadworks, potholes and street lighting): 03000 41 81 81

Kent libraries: 03000 413131

Social care & health: 03000 416161

Other useful phone numbers

Ashford Community Safety Unit: 01233 330891

Leisure & Tourism: Stour Centre: 01233 663503 Julie Rose Stadium: 01233 613131

Kingsnorth Recreation Centre: 01233 879389

Environment Agency floodline: 0345 988 1188

Benefit fraud: 0800 854 440

Your feedback

“I loved your magazine Ashford for you. It was great to read what is really happening in Ashford, instead of hearing rumours.”

“Just read through my copy of the 'Ashford for you' Magazine received in the post... Just wanted to say how I think the media team have done a great job... it's really informative; I love hearing about some of the Arts projects planned like Jasmin Vardimon, and really feel like the borough is moving forward with a clear plan.”

“I've received the Ashford You magazine today. I'm really pleased a publication such as Ashford You is being printed, raising the profile of the town is a must, and getting locals to adopt some town pride is a must.”

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County Square Shopping Centre

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ASHFORD

**MORE THAN 200,000 PEOPLE HAVE HAD A
FLIPPIN' GREAT TIME AT THE FLIP OUT ASHFORD
TRAMPOLINE ARENA SINCE IT OPENED LAST SUMMER.**

TO CELEBRATE OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY WE ARE OFFERING:

**BUY ONE SESSION
AND GET ONE FREE!**

Flip Out Ashford has a soft play area for under-twos plus equipment that offers a range of high-octane fun for everyone. A slam dunk area, dodgeball arena and Ninja Assault Course add to the attractions.

NEW! You can now record all your flips and tricks with our brand new FlyCam technology.



Cut out the voucher below and bring along to Flip Out Ashford to claim your free session. The offer can only be used when buying a standard one hour jump, on a one jump, one voucher basis. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers and valid at anytime during opening hours. Offer ends Sunday 18 November.

**FREE
SESSION**

Buy one session and get one free courtesy of
Flip Out and *Ashford For You* magazine.
Offer ends Sunday 18 November.

**FLIPPERS, BOOK ONLINE AND SAVE
YOUR TIME WWW.FLIPOUT.CO.UK**

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