

ASHFORD

Issue 6 Autumn 2019

FOR YOU

YOUR BOROUGH, YOUR MAGAZINE

SHOPPING IS CHILD'S PLAY

Designer Outlet expansion set to open

WIN

- £250 Shopping Gift Card
- Prosecco high teas

Ashford

Designer Outlet

ASHFORD IN BLOOM

Celebrating our gorgeous gardens

DID YOU KNOW

A must-read for trivia lovers



ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL



We are recruiting

Support Workers & Senior Support Workers

At Cedar Bungalows we support individuals with learning disabilities within their own bungalow home 24 hours a day. Come along to one of our open days and get a real feel for what it's like to work here.

You'll meet members of our team, tour our brand new facilities and see how we really do make a difference to our patients.

We can even interview you on the day and you could leave with a conditional offer.

Cedar Bungalows
Bethersden Road, Hothfield, Kent, TN26 1EL

Open days will be held on:

Thursday 19th September

Saturday 21st September

Thursday 26th September

Saturday 28th September

Flexible morning and afternoon sessions are available.

Morning sessions run 9am – 12pm.

Afternoon sessions run 1pm – 4pm.

For further information or to book a place please contact claire.harden@huntercombe.com



Careers at Ashford Designer Outlet

View all local employment opportunities at ashforddesigneroutlet.com/careers



Welcome

There's a lot to celebrate in this edition. The council has successfully bid for more than £3m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to pay for a range of exciting improvements to our much-loved Victoria Park, while a huge response to our first-ever Ashford in Bloom competition proves what a green-fingered lot you are!

Our annual Create music festival in Victoria Park was a fantastic success, with an estimated 13,000 people of all ages enjoying one of the biggest free music events in the South East. Meanwhile one of the Big 8 development projects that is helping to transform the fortunes of the borough is also nearing completion. There is a real sense of excitement as the £90m expansion of the Designer Outlet opens its doors to an expectant public.

The provision of cultural facilities is a priority in the borough, and so as part of our ongoing commitment to engage with the public and other stakeholders to share ideas and understand how cultural services could be improved in the future, we are using *Ashford For You* to conduct a survey. I would urge people to take part and share your views with us.

Finally, I wish you luck with our competitions to win a Designer Outlet shopping voucher and Prosecco high teas. Nearly 270 readers participated in our Glamping competition in the last issue. Enjoy reading the magazine and keep sending us your views and ideas.

Tracy Kerly

Tracy Kerly
Chief executive, Ashford Borough Council

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Design

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Printed by

William Gibbons & Sons Ltd
Front cover photo courtesy of Designer Outlet

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www.twitter.com/ashfordcouncil
www.facebook.com/AshfordBoroughCouncil
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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:

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

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

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, Mon to Fri, from 9am to 3.45pm.

Find your borough councillor:

www.ashford.gov.uk/councillors

New priorities... and a new pledge



At the heart of economic development in Ashford in recent years has been the so-called Big 8 projects – Designer Outlet expansion, the Elwick Place cinema, hotel and leisure complex, Ashford College, and the £104m M20 J10A to name a few.

With many of these at or near completion, new priorities are being set for emerging schemes and initiatives that will continue to change the skyline and economic fortunes of one of the fastest-growing towns in the South East.

A theme that binds these exciting and ambitious new schemes is a determination to focus on Ashford as a borough that cares and respects diversity. Everyone needs to benefit from the investments in our borough.

These projects include developing the Chilmington and South Ashford Garden Community, breathing new life into parks and green spaces at Victoria, Conningbrook and Discovery, creating and delivering an exceptional scheme for Vicarage Lane (former Mecca bingo site), and the much-anticipated transformation of derelict railway sheds at Newtown Works.

Development needs to go hand in hand with environmental protections, which is why Ashford Borough Council is looking at ways of strengthening our green credentials by adopting a range of measures to make the borough carbon neutral before 2030. There are plans to engage widely with the public and stakeholders on this, with the aim of adopting the plan by April 2020. Watch out for more details...



Create rocks!

Create festival rocked Victoria Park once again this summer with another fun day of live music, creative performances and family-friendly entertainment. Around 13,000 people turned up to the 24th annual event, which has grown to become the largest free music festival in the South East. Headline act, The Lightning Seeds, got the crowds dancing, while an interactive 'eco-zone' drew curious crowds in throughout the day.

With the recent fantastic news that Victoria Park will be undergoing a major renovation thanks to the granting of £3m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, next year's festival may take on a different shape for its 25th anniversary – watch this space for more details!



Funding success for Victoria Park

Exciting plans to revitalise Victoria Park will be going ahead thanks to a grant of more than £3m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The funding means the council can deliver its plans to redevelop one of Ashford's oldest and most-loved green spaces, working with the local community, volunteer groups and the Friends of Victoria Park.

The plans include a new children's play area, improvements to the river, improved lighting and a new community hub building with café and new toilets. The iconic Grade II Listed Hubert Fountain and the surrounding piazza area will also be restored. There will be opportunities for the community to get involved with volunteering roles. For details visit www.ashford.gov.uk/victoria-park, and keep an eye on our social media and News Hub for updates.



Open doors at Elwick Place



A series of high-profile shop openings are taking place this autumn as more restaurants and other retailers move into Elwick Place in Ashford town centre.

Food and drink specialist Macknade is leading the way, closely followed by the UK's first Dansaki Afro-Caribbean restaurant. And with more new tenant announcements expected as we went to press, the openings promise to create a real buzz in the development, which is anchored by the six-screen Picturehouse cinema and 58-bedroom Travelodge hotel.

Visit www.elwickplace.com

Competition winners

Thanks to everyone who responded to the competition in our last edition to win two glamping breaks at Broadhembury. Nearly 270 of you took part, and we have our winners! Spending time under luxury canvas will be Shirley Coleman from Ashford and Graham Arnold from Tenterden.

**WIN
A £50**
Love2 Shop voucher

Putting culture at the centre of our town

Back in 2018 we asked you for your thoughts on various aspects of life in the borough. One of the areas highlighted for improvement was providing more places to go and more things to do in the town centre, especially in the evenings, therefore we would like your ideas and feedback on this.

Please answer the following questions and return to the address below and you could win a £50 Love2 Shop voucher.

Q1. What do you think is missing from Ashford Town Centre at the moment?

(please tick **ALL** that apply)

- Comedy
- Dance
- Exhibitions
- Galleries
- Talks (...an evening with...)
- Live music
- Museums
- Musicals
- Plays

Q2. What would encourage you to visit Ashford Town Centre?

(please tick up to **THREE** options)

- Comedy
- Dance
- Exhibitions
- Galleries
- Talks (...an evening with...)
- Live music
- Museums
- Musicals
- Plays

Other please state Other please state

Additional comments

Please provide the following details about you: Age..... Gender..... Post Code.....

To respond either: Email this completed form to the editorial team at media@ashford.gov.uk please put Survey in the subject line and include your full name, postal address or email and contact phone number.

Or send this page to *Ashford For You* magazine, Communications, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, TN23 1PL including your: Full name, postal address including post code, email address. Please include a contact telephone number.

The closing date for responses is **31 October 2019**. Only one response allowed per person and responders must be over 16. The voucher draw will take place on 4 November and the winner will be notified soon after. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. For full terms and conditions visit www.ashford.gov.uk/ashford-for-you or turn to our competitions section on p22.

News in brief

Calling all private landlords

Letting your property should be as easy as ABC, and with the expansion of its ABC Lettings business, the council is providing a hassle-free service to landlords. Guaranteed rental income, transparent up front costs and the knowledge that you are helping people who have approached the council for housing who can afford the rent charged but not the high fees charged by high street agents. For details email abclettings@ashford.gov.uk, call **01233 330811**.

Coachworks on deck

Have you visited the Coachworks yet? The latest addition to Ashford's burgeoning food and drink scene is opening in phases this autumn, with the decked open-air yard the first section to welcome visitors. Located in Dover Place, around the corner from the international station, the Coachworks is due to be completed before the end of the year, providing a business start-up centre, an exciting indoor food and drink hub, and flexible events spaces. Visit www.coach-works.co.uk

Cycling in spotlight

Thanks to everyone who responded to our public consultation into the council's draft cycling and walking strategy. We highlighted Ashford's aspiration to become a true 'cycle borough' in the last edition and nearly 600 of you contacted us to have your say. 99% of people who took part support the need for a strategy and we will now feed the results back to the public via social media and our website before further work is undertaken.

Have your say

Ashford Borough Council also want your views on proposed changes to the council tax reduction scheme due to come into effect in April. The changes make it easier for claimants to manage their budget by simplifying the process of claiming and have been prompted by the introduction of Universal Credit. Anyone directly affected has already been contacted; everyone else can complete the survey online at www.ashford.gov.uk/counciltaxreduction by 30 September. The scheme is changing its name to the council tax reduction scheme.



Ashford in Bloom



As part of our Year of the Environment celebrations, we decided to re-launch the Ashford in Bloom gardening competition. The judging panel were delighted by the high standard of all the gardens submitted and have worked hard to select a shortlist. Here is just a small selection of photos from some of the shortlisted entries. Please look out for the winners in the next issue or online! www.ashford.gov.uk/ashford-for-you-magazine.





What's in store at expanded Outlet!



The waiting is finally over as international retail giant McArthurGlen completes the much-anticipated £90m expansion of its popular Designer Outlet in Ashford this autumn. *Ashford For You* takes a closer look at what's in store...

On budget and on schedule, the Designer Outlet was putting the finishing touches to its exciting expansion as we went to press. And while the figures alone are impressive – an extra 100,000 sq ft of retail space, up to 500 jobs for the local community, an additional 725 parking spaces and 50 new luxury brands – the stylish way in which the project has been designed and delivered is sure to prove a big hit with shoppers.

Ahead of the planned October opening, McArthurGlen has been building up the anticipation by issuing regular updates on new brands attracted to Ashford. Retailers Paul Costelloe and Zwilling are new faces at the outlet, while taste buds have been ticked by the addition of exciting Food Piazza outlets such as YO!, Five Guys, Comptoir Libanais, Pret A Manger, Starbucks and Lost Sheep Coffee. And there are many more premium brands queuing up to make their debut in one of the fastest-growing towns in the region.



A large, covered Garden of England themed adventure playground has also opened, to the delight of families looking to keep the little ones entertained during visits, while a fascinating feature that has already proved pleasing to the eye is Europe's largest living wall – tens of thousands of plants stacked vertically which cover walls throughout the new areas of the centre.



“Our dream of developing the Ashford Designer Outlet into one of the most exciting retail and leisure destinations in the South East has become a reality with the completion of this £90m project.”

Peter Corr, Centre Manager, McArthurGlen Ashford



Ashford's Designer Outlet in Kimberly Way currently welcomes 3.6m visitors a year, with many drawn to the town from outside Kent. Centre managers are confident that their investment in new facilities, and the extra choice available to discerning shoppers, will boost that number to around five million a year over the next five years.

As the new-look Designer Outlet looks forward to its first Christmas and New Year season, McArthurGlen's

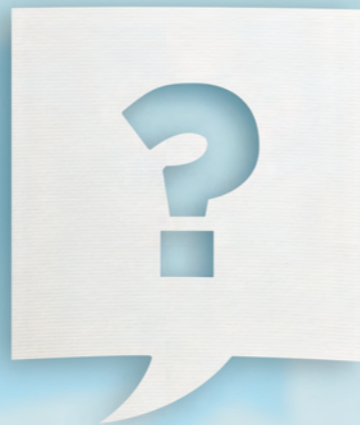
investment has underlined its reputation as one of the flagship shopping and leisure destinations in the South East, while providing a complementary offer to the town centre that continues to drive long-term economic benefits for Ashford and the wider borough.

A dedicated events space is being added to the centre and an exciting range of seasonal and themed events are planned for the years ahead – for more information visit www.ashforddesigneroutlet.com



Did you know?

What links the Prime Minister of Mozambique, Britain's first street acetylene gas lamps, white lines painted on the road and King Henry VIII? Find out in this feature...



Tenterden Town Hall, (above) has variously been used as the local gaol and courthouse, and in 1661 a freeman of the town who fell into debt, was jailed and promptly set fire to the building, completely destroying it, along with the priceless town Charters granted to Tenterden by King Henry IV in 1449 and Queen Elizabeth in 1600. The current Town Hall was built in 1792 and was once part-owned by the landlord of The Woolpack, the pub next door. He used it to entertain the Archbishop of Canterbury and other distinguished guests, stipulating that rooms should be available for pub customers who were 'decent, sober and clean' – but not soldiers or their families!

Pluckley is reputed to be the most haunted village in the country. It had an entry in the 1989 Guinness Book of Records, with 12 different ghosts reported (although that category is no longer used by the publication). Ghost-hunters are drawn to the village every Halloween...



In 1898 St Michaels in Tenterden became the first village in England to have acetylene gas street lighting. The St Michaels Acetylene Gas Company was formed to manage the system, which lit the parish church and surrounding streets. According to local history sources, the gas was made in the village by trickling water onto carbide in a sealed chamber before being fed through a network of pipes. As many as six street lamps were fed by the system.



The Ashford branch of the Kent Beekeepers Association celebrates its 100th anniversary this autumn. The club has its own apiary at Cheeseman's Green in Ashford. Educating the public about the vital role of bees in nature is a priority, while members are asked by farmers to place hives in fields to aid crop pollination. Interested in knowing more about beekeeping? Email navinnauthmisir@gmail.com

2020 is the 500th anniversary of King Henry VIII's journey from Hampton Court Palace to the Field of Cloth of Gold in France and celebrations are planned in Charing to mark this historic event. Henry stayed overnight at the Archbishop's Palace in Charing en-route to meet the King of France. Local events planned include a fundraising banquet, a visit by King Henry VIII to Charing Primary School, a free re-enactment festival in Clewards Meadow and more. For details see www.charingkent.org



New figures released by the Foreign Office show that nearly 50 of the world's leaders were educated at British institutions – including the Prime Minister of Mozambique, Carlos Agostinho do Rosario Mozambique, who went to Wye College in Ashford.

For some years, electricity provider Seeboard fitted an electricity substation inside the Mark IV tank which has been located in St George's Square in Ashford for the past 100 years. The tank was gifted to the people of the borough after the First World War.



There has been evidence of human habitation around Ashford since the Iron Age, with a barrow on what is now Barrow Hill dating back to 1500BC. During Roman Britain, iron ore was mined in the Weald and transported to Ashford where two ironworks processed the ore. Ashford comes from the Old English word aescet, meaning a ford near a clump of Ash trees. At the time of the Domesday Book of 1086 it was known by its original Saxon name of Essetesford (or Eshetisford, Esselesford, Asshatisforde, Essheford).



Friday 8 May 2020 is the 75th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe) and people in Ashford are being encouraged to celebrate with street parties and special events. The official charity for VE Day 75 is SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity and details of planned events can be found at www.veday75.org

It's 20 years since Ashford officially twinned with the US town of Hopewell. The Virginia town of 22,000 residents has strong connections with Ashford – in the early 1600s, Ashford resident Francis Epes was a sailor aboard a ship named Hopewell that travelled from England to the New World, and he settled in the area named after the ship. See www.friendsofhopewell.org.uk



Heritage Plaque Scheme gets the green light...



You may be familiar with the national blue plaque scheme which commemorates famous people from history who lived the length and breadth of the UK – now Ashford has its own scheme which aims to celebrate the existence of noteworthy individuals or buildings from Ashford's past that are not widely known or formally recognised across the borough.

The Heritage Plaque Scheme – which features green plaques to differentiate it from the long-established blue plaques that have become familiar sights on streets and buildings across the UK – has now been opened up for public nominations. Full details and an online application form will be available shortly. Keep an eye out for details.

In celebrating past Ashford residents and buildings, the £25,000 scheme will also help promote the area's history and heritage.

The objectives are to:

- Identify and enhance important heritage assets across the borough
- Increase borough-wide engagement in Ashford's history by generating civic pride and creating a sense of place and identity

Nominees eligible for a green plaque will undergo a two-stage scoring process which has been adapted from the national guidelines of the English Heritage Blue Plaque Scheme. The first stage will be focused on whether there is an original, publically accessible physical site or building associated with the nominee, that the person has been deceased for at least 20 years to allow for a period of reflection and hindsight and that there is demonstrable evidence of their stay in the Ashford borough.

If the nominees meet all these criteria they will be scored against the second stage eligibility criteria which looks at whether the nominee is either recognised locally, nationally or internationally; that the nominee is an exceptional or outstanding person and that the well-informed passer-by will recognise their name; that they are regarded as being eminent by a majority of members of their profession and that they have genuinely contributed to human welfare or happiness and deserve recognition.

Making it easier to access our services



We are aware that accessing our services when you need them is very important to our residents so the council is creating more ways you can do this, and making it easier to access our services online.



DID YOU KNOW

You can now scan your housing benefit and council tax evidence to us using your smartphone.

Three simple steps:

1. Take a picture of your evidence
2. Save it in any of the following
Images – jpeg, gif or png, PDF or TIF
3. Attach your file to either the Benefits or Council Tax Requested evidence form on our website, <http://www.ashford.gov.uk/apply>

Please note there is a 5mb size limit on all files that can be attached.
Actual documents must be received: we cannot accept any hyperlinks to websites.
Please ensure that the documents you attach are complete and legible. Failure to do this might result in us needing to contact you again and delay the assessment of your claim.

Please note:
We will sometimes need to see originals of your evidence. We will contact you if this is the case.

As part of Ashford Borough Council's digital transformation, we are providing access to more services via our website and making it easier to complete forms online. This means you can do this from the comfort of your own home, so saving you time, money and effort.

So, how are we making it easier for you to access our services digitally? Here is a quick guide to getting the most out of your council online...

Did you know you can now scan your housing benefit and council tax evidence to us using your smartphone? You can do this any time of day and it will save you a bus fare to the civic centre or the cost of parking (good for the environment too!), and time that you may have to spend waiting to see a member of staff.

In addition to making a payment or supplying evidence there are now almost 50 different issues that you can report online. These include lost dogs, missed bin collections, noise complaints, abandoned vehicles, vandalism and fly-tipping.

Please visit: www.ashford.gov.uk/report or download the Your Ashford app.

We've also added Browsealoud technology to our website (look for the headphones in the top right-hand corner). This makes it easier for people who are dyslexic, have visual impairments or who speak English as a second language to navigate the site.

What are you waiting for?

Join the thousands of residents already using the Your Ashford app - available on Google Play and the App Store.



"Staff were most helpful and gave me good advice on how to access online services"

- Customer testimonial

Dealing with your enquiries effectively

As well as allowing you to contact us while on the go or from the comfort of your own home, you can also expect a quicker response time from the authority. By responding to customer enquiries more efficiently, we can dedicate more time to providing services for those residents who need them most.

Here to help

Of course, if you prefer speaking to an actual person then we are still here to help. The Civic Centre also has a suite of self-help PCs that can be used to complete transactions and if you require any help using technology then our customer service advisors are on hand to assist.

You can also book appointments to speak face-to-face with a member of staff:

www.ashford.gov.uk/contact-us/book-an-appointment

The number of forms submitted over the past 12 months:

- Council Tax & Business Rates (20,665)
- Benefits forms (4,750)
- Report it (5,526)

The top three services that residents contacted us for where they could've completed their transaction online in the last year:

1. Making payments - (7,097 people)
2. Scanned documents - (3,169 people)
3. Garden bins - (1,773 people)



30+

The number of services that can be accessed via Your Ashford app, in addition to links to local news and amenities

A cost per transaction comparison:

- Face-to-face (£8.62)
- Telephone (£2.83)
- Web enquiries (£0.15)



To keep you bouncing this autumn we are offering:

A SECOND HOUR FREE!

Cut out the voucher below and bring along to Flip Out Ashford to get a second hour bouncing FREE. One voucher per person. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers and valid at anytime during opening hours (but excluding Bank Holidays). Offer ends Monday 2 December 2019.

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 and you can record all your flips and tricks with our FlyCam technology.



GET A SECOND HOUR FREE

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

1 St James Business Park, Henwood Industrial Estate, Henwood Road, Ashford TN24 8DH

01233 234790 flipoutashford flipoutashford flipoutashford

Courtesy of Flip Out and Ashford For You magazine. Offer ends Monday 2 December 2019.

New Mayor heralds the 'Silent Army'



Meet Ashford's new Mayor, Councillor Mrs Jenny Webb...

I am honoured and feel most privileged to have been elected as the Mayor of Ashford, the First Citizen of the Borough. This is an exciting opportunity as it has already extended my knowledge, and provided a greater understanding of our many communities through the wide range of meetings, events, activities and functions I have been invited to attend.

What are your aims as Mayor?

As the Mayor, my focus this year is on the many volunteer sectors, and I am proud that Ashford will be at the forefront of highlighting those who I refer to as 'the silent army' – our valued volunteers.

I am also seeking to encourage communities to be able to be tolerant, work with each other in order to make lives better and make Ashford a safe and environmentally friendly place to be.

Finally, I wish to help inspire and motivate the young people of our borough, the future of our communities – to enable them to become contributing citizens to our ever growing and diverse Ashford, of which I am extremely proud.

The Mayor's charities

Ashford Volunteer Centre

As a Director on the Board of the Ashford Volunteer Centre, I have a passion for the ethos of the centre, which is to inspire more people in Ashford to volunteer so they can enhance their own lives, the lives of others and build resilient communities.

Celebrating 40 years of supporting Ashford this year, hundreds of local people have made a difference through such projects as workshops, outreach work, one-to-one befriending services, volunteer car scheme (to assist in transporting local residents), youth projects, clubs, cafes – to name but a few.

My support will enable this most worthwhile charity to continue developing its programme of good work and in particular, I will be supporting the one-to-one befriending service for the elderly as this helps the most vulnerable and lonely in our society.

Home-Start Ashford and District

Following four years as the Ashford Borough Council Advisor to the Board of Trustees for the Home-Start Ashford Project, I am fully aware of the incredible work undertaken by their volunteers.

I will be focusing on supporting the 'Chill With Dads Project'. This offers Dads and children an exclusive opportunity to meet each other and extend their social networks. They can attend informal information/ education sessions about parenting and related issues, attend educational, play activities while spending quality time together and getting to know more about local resources and services that they may require to enhance their family life.

Ashford Sea Cadets

During my time as the Deputy Mayor I have regularly seen the Ashford Sea and Royal Marines Cadets out in the community. Like many other groups, they help young people realise their potential with training and support, which leads to increased confidence, self-esteem and a purpose. My father was in the Royal Navy so this charity is close to my heart.

The Ashford Sea and Royal Marines Cadets are raising funds towards a new/more up to date minibus which will enable the cadets to take part in local community events, go out training at lakes and sea based centres (as Ashford is land locked) and attend such competitions as the national football championships. Therefore, the Mayor of Ashford's Charity will be assisting the group in raising money for a much needed minibus.



At the Ashford Volunteer Centre, the Mayor visits the Men in Sheds project group.



A range of health and wellbeing advice is available at the One You shop as well as a Changing Places toilet.

Make time for One You

Ashford's One You health and wellbeing shop has opened the doors to its brand new home, offering an even greater range of facilities and services to the public. *Ashford For You* reports...

One You is a national campaign run by Public England, however the Ashford shop in Park Mall is the only physical location in the country where visitors can pop in to get advice on a range of things such as healthy weight programmes and support to stop smoking.

The shop is a partnership between Ashford Borough Council, Kent County Council and Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust. It has welcomed more than 4,000 visitors since it originally opened in February 2017.

The new shop can still be found in the Park Mall shopping centre but the larger space provides a host of extra facilities including a new training kitchen and exercise area, a public Changing Places toilet for those with extra needs as well as a family friendly area for parents to sit, relax and feed their babies.

A number of services can be accessed at the One You shop, to support residents with their overall health and wellbeing. These include: going smoke free, getting active, eating and drinking well and stressing less. You can also have an NHS health check.

Cllr Jo Gideon, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, said: "The new premises have been a real partnership effort to launch – with some wonderful

support from local companies including Benchmark Kitchens and Price Kitchen Ltd, B&Q, Prices, Tesco and Asda.

"I hope our residents will take the opportunity to make use of this important facility.

"Key to the delivery of the scheme has been the excellent work from those within the Ashford Community Payback scheme. With their help the site has been transformed into the warm and welcoming environment you will experience when you visit One You Ashford."

For more information visit

<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/one-you-kent/one-you-shop/>

Opening hours are:

Tuesday to Friday - 9.30am to 5pm

Saturday - 9.30am to 1pm

Sunday/Monday - closed



Environment update

Initiatives linked to the Year of the Environment 2019 continue to make a real difference in Ashford, with a focus on the war against single-use plastics, advice on ensuring your household waste is legally disposed of and a mythbusting look at recycling...



Your duty of care

Around two-thirds of fly-tips are household waste, for example your black sacks. Everyone has a legal obligation, or duty of care, to ensure our household waste is disposed of correctly. The best way to stop organised fly-tipping is to make sure only authorised waste carriers take your waste away. A new fixed penalty is being introduced for householders and their duty of care when it comes to waste.

Fixed penalty notices (FPN) may now be issued if a householder appears to have failed to comply. Even if you don't physically fly-tip anything yourself, if fly-tipped waste can be traced back to you, the householder, and you did not take reasonable steps to ensure you gave your waste to an authorised person, you may be issued with an FPN and fined up to £400.

A few tips to make sure you're doing the right thing:

- ✓ Ask for paperwork – whether this is a proper invoice, waste transfer note or receipt!
- ✓ Don't let someone take your waste away until they have proven they are legitimate
- ✓ Professional waste carriers should happily answer any of your questions!
- ✓ Refuse anyone who unexpectedly offers to take your waste away
- ✓ Ask what will happen to your rubbish and where/how it will be disposed

You can find legal waste carriers on the Environment Agency's website <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/index> Please remember... your waste, your responsibility.

Recycle Week (myth busters)

With the national Recycle Week (23- 29 September) just around the corner, we thought we'd bust some of the popular recycling myths and help set the record straight!

Myth: I can recycle drinking and cooking glass right, they're still made of glass? **False X**

Answer: We can't accept this type of glass (e.g. wine glasses or Pyrex jugs) as it is a different type of glass. It's a toughened glass, containing chemicals, which allows it to withstand heat. This means it has a higher melting point compared to glass bottles and jars and can cause issues when being melted as part of the reprocessing. If you have broken glass like this, please wrap it up securely and put in your refuse bin.

Myth: If something has the green circle with arrows in it, this means it can be recycled! **False X**

Answer: This is known as 'The Green Dot'. This just tells you that the producer of the product has made a financial contribution towards the recycling of packaging in Europe. So you can ignore this! Additionally, the arrow triangle on a plastic item with the number in the middle does not tell you whether it can be recycled, it simply shows what type of plastic resin was used to make the item. These are not meant for the consumer so if you're ever unsure about an item, check with us instead.



Visit: www.ashford.gov.uk/a-z-of-waste

Myth: Tissues and kitchen roll can be recycled, it's just paper! **False X**

Answer: Both of these are made of paper, which is often already recycled, with very short fibres. This means it's not high enough quality to be recycled. The fibres are too short for it to be recycled again and would result in poor pulp in the process. Most likely these will be dirty or wet too which makes it poorer quality and can contaminate other items.

Myth: Containers must be squeaky clean in order to be recycled! **False X**

Answer: While all bottles, cans, and containers should be clean, dry, and free of most food waste before you place them in your recycling container they don't need to be absolutely spotless. While this is always ideal, the goal is to make sure they are clean enough to avoid contaminating other materials, like paper. Try using a small amount of water (can be from leftover from washing up) and shake to remove most residue!



Myth: Well it's made of plastic, so it can be recycled! **False X**

Answer: Just because an item is made from plastic, or contains plastic parts, doesn't mean recycling facilities can handle it if put in your recycling bin. Items like carrier bags, cling film and bread bags (what are called 'soft' plastics) causes issues for the machinery at the sorting plant. Very hard plastics such as children's toys or garden furniture can shatter, cause problems at the sorting plant and need to be recycled using a different process. We accept plastic bottles and plastic pots, tubs and trays such as your meat trays, fruit punnets and margarine tubs.



HAVE YOU GOT THE BOTTLE?



Refill - No excuse for single-use!

Over the summer the Refill revolution came to Ashford. With 35 million single-use plastic bottles being used every day in the UK, it's time to change and have RE-FILLing as the new norm. July saw the official launch of the scheme with the borough now having more than 35 (and growing) businesses on board. Download the Refill app or look out for the sticker to find places you can fill up for free. A brand new water bottle filling station has also been installed in Park Mall to help the reduction in plastic. This has already eliminated an estimated 2,000 plastic bottles being bought in Ashford!



If all Refill stations are used just ONCE a day we're stopping around 4 million plastic bottles at source in a year!

Join the #RefillRevolution

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram icons

What's on this autumn

September

All aboard for a day out with Thomas!

Join Thomas & Friends for a day of family fun. Take a ride behind Thomas, meet The Fat Controller and say hello to Sodor Station Sweepers Rusty and Dusty.

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September, 10am, Kent and East Sussex Railway, Tenterden Town Station, Station Road, Tenterden TN30 6HE, Admission: adults £18, children £13.50, family (2 adults, 2 children) £55 (booking recommended)

October

Tenterden Folk Festival 2019

Four days of folk song, music, dance, craft and traditions. A truly fantastic event for all the family to enjoy. Events include the ever-popular English barn dance, concerts, sing-a-rounds, folk clubs, music stalls, Morris dancers, street entertainers, meet the guest sessions and free music and dance sessions in marquees on the Recreation Ground. Traditional dances from around the world are a regular feature of the annual festival.

3 to 6 October, Tenterden, Admission: for details, visit

www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk

Autumn Week

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

21 to 25 October, Activities 1pm to 4pm, Godinton House & Gardens, Godinton Lane, Ashford TN23 3BP, Admission: Adults £5, children £4

Half Term Film Club – Coco

In Disney Pixar's vibrant tale of family, fun and adventure, an aspiring young musician named Miguel embarks on an extraordinary journey to the magical land of his ancestors.

23 October, 1pm (doors open 12.30pm), Revelation St Mary's, St Mary the Virgin, The Churchyard, Ashford, Admission: 50p www.revelationashford.co.uk

Fright Night Express on Kent & East Sussex Railway

Ride the Fright Night Express if you dare! Visit the railway for a workshop including pumpkin carving and face painting. Families are encouraged to come in fancy dress, the scarier the better!

25 October, 5pm, Kent and East Sussex Railway, Tenterden Town Station, Station Road, Tenterden TN30 6HE, Admission: Adults and Children (3-15 inclusive) £18 www.ksr.org.uk

Courtney Pine Presents Song, Featuring Zoe Rahman

The ground-breaking British jazz legend returns to Revelation with acclaimed pianist Zoe Rahman. This show sold out on his last visit, so don't delay!

25 October, 7.45pm (doors open 7pm), Revelation St Mary's, St Mary the Virgin, The Churchyard, Ashford, Admission: Early Bird: £27.50 / £23 (U16), Door: £32 / £27 (U16)

Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

www.revelationashford.co.uk



Halloween at the Mill

Dress up and come along to our family event with tours of the SCARY Mill. Face painting, story time and craft table.

27 October, 2pm to 5pm, Willesborough Windmill, Mill Lane, Ashford TN24 0QG. Admissions: adults £3, children/concessions £1.50, family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £7

Tenterden Operatic and Dramatic Society present Bed by Jim Cartwright

Seven elderly people share a vast bed, to dream, remember and reflect on a long past. Exploring the time between bedtime and dreamy sleep, this surreal play is dominated by memories that keep each character awake at night and infiltrate their dreams, haunted by their past and their present.

31 October to 2 November, 7.30pm, Tenterden Town Hall, 24 High Street, Tenterden TN30 6AN. For ticket details visit www.tods.me.uk

November

Clay Sculpture: Ceramic Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

Join Brenda Burgess for this seasonal, unusual and joyous sculpting session a real 'get away from it all' day. Create a sculpture that can grace your family's festive table for many years to come.

1 November, 10.30am to 4pm, Godinton House & Gardens, Godinton Lane, Ashford TN23 3BP, Admission: £65

Christmas in Tenterden

Over 80 stalls showcasing local produce, crafts, festive foods and beautiful gifts, with entertainment, children's rides and snow!

22 November, 3pm to 9pm, 23 November, 10am to 8pm, 24 November, 10am to 4pm

Matt Parker - Humble Pi

Explore the greatest mathematical near-misses and mishaps involving planes, bridges, the internet, big data and more. Matt Parker shows us the bizarre ways maths trips us all up. Being wrong has never felt so right.

23 November, 7.45pm (doors open 7pm), Revelation St Mary's, St Mary the Virgin, The Churchyard, Ashford, Admission: Adults £15/£19 (door), Under 16 £12/£16 (door) www.revelationashford.co.uk

Gerald Dickens: A Christmas Carol

Gerald Dickens returns with his masterful one man performance of arguably Dickens' most famous and much loved tale, A Christmas Carol.

27 November, 7.45pm (doors open 7pm), Revelation St Mary's, St Mary the Virgin, The Churchyard, Ashford, Admission: Adults £11/£13 (door), Under 16 £9/£11 (door) www.revelationashford.co.uk

Family Film Fun: The Greatest Showman

Hugh Jackman leads an all-star cast in this bold and original musical filled with infectious show-stopping performances that will bring you to your feet time and time again.

30 November, 1pm (doors open 12.30pm), Revelation St Mary's, St Mary the Virgin, The Churchyard, Ashford, Admission: 50p www.revelationashford.co.uk



December

Illuminights

Head to Ashford town centre on the weekends between the 6-14 December where exciting illuminations will be taking place. From light shows to an immersive lit forest, artist workshops to a town centre procession. Get involved with this array of exciting, festive spectaculars, find out more at LoveAshford.com

loveashford

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



Win a £250 shopping experience at Ashford Designer Outlet

Go to ashforddesigneroutlet.com/shoppingexperience or scan the QR code to enter



ashforddesigneroutlet.com



Our next event at Montfort Manor

Open weekend

Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th October 2019, 10am - 4pm

Come and join us at Montfort Manor and experience our beautiful new care home for yourself. Explore our stunning facilities, and learn more about the superb care and luxury lifestyle we offer.

To find out more please call us on **01233 884359** or email jaymes.cadby@careuk.com



A PROSECCO WIN HIGH TEA

IT'S TIME TO SPOIL YOURSELF WITH A PROSECCO HIGH TEA!

We have teamed up with The Little Teapot in Ashford's Park Mall shopping centre to offer **5 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 5 prizes covers two people, (usually costs £19.95 per person).

The closing date for entries is Friday 11 October 2019, 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 competition@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.

Terms & conditions apply: 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 Friday 11 October. Entries received after this time will not be included. The prize is non-transferable and non-refundable. There are no cash alternatives. 3. By accepting the prize you also agree to be bound by The Little Teapot's standard terms and conditions.

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careuk.com/montfort-manor



FEEL INSPIRED
THIS...
Autumn



**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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UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS



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