

ASHFORD FOR YOU

Issue 3 Winter 2018

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ASHFORD PICTUREHOUSE



YOUR BOROUGH, YOUR MAGAZINE



SNOWDOGS

Ashford goes Snowdogs crazy!

SPECIAL FEATURE

Stay well this winter

FOCUS ON

Golden age of cinema at Elwick Place



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 Designer Outlet

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 or email media@ashford.gov.uk

revelation

up close & personal

revelation COMEDY CLUB

GENTLEMEN OF FEW + LIV AUSTEN

Doors:	2:45pm	SAT	DEC	Doors:	2:45pm	FRI	DEC
Show:	3:30pm	08		Show:	3:30pm	14	

TICKETS FROM REVELATIONASHFORD.CO.UK

Advance: £10 (U16s: £8) / Door: £12 (U16s: £10)
(advanced booking fees apply)



Welcome

Thanks to everyone who responded to the summer issue, by commenting on our features, making suggestions for future content or entering our competition to win a Prosecco high tea at The Little Teapot in Park Mall – I was delighted to see more than 300 people take part!

I've spoken to so many people recently who have been thrilled by our Snowdogs Trail this autumn. Young and old alike have been captivated by the charm of the Snowdogs and of course this fantastic cultural event is also raising lots of money for a worthy cause, our very own Pilgrims Hospice right here in Ashford.

If you enjoy a trip to the cinema then you'll be excited to see the Ashford Picturehouse opening at Elwick Place. Since work started last summer on this huge development in the heart of our town centre I have watched the cinema, hotel and leisure complex taking shape and now the waiting is over. And with the eye-catching gold mesh panels adorning the front of the building, you could say that the golden age of the cinema has come to Ashford...

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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Design

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Printed by

William Gibbons & Sons Ltd

Front cover photo courtesy of Leanne Benn

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www.twitter.com/ashfordcouncil

www.facebook.com/AshfordBoroughCouncil

www.youtube.com/ashfordboroughcouncil

Instagram @Ashfordbc

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War hero honoured



A commemorative paving stone to honour the only Victoria Cross recipient to be born in the borough was unveiled in Charing's Sundial garden. It marks the 100th anniversary of Corporal Frederick George Coppins' Victoria Cross award. Stones are only laid in the area where each VC recipient was born and while Corporal Coppins lived in California he was Charing born and bred, leaving the village when he joined the army aged 18 in 1907. After joining the Royal West Kent Regiment with the British Army, Frederick emigrated to Canada where he was enlisted with the Canadian Army at the outbreak of WW1. He was serving with the 8th Battalion (90th Winnipeg Rifles) when he was awarded his VC, given for his actions in Amiens, when he single-handedly took out a machine gun nest that was annihilating his platoon, saving the lives of many men.



TIC on the move

The Visitor Information Centre in Ashford has moved...but not far. It has moved from the second floor of Ashford Gateway Plus in Church Road to a larger space on the ground floor.

Opening: Mon-Sat 10.15am-3.30pm (closed 1-1.30pm). Call 01233 330316, email tourism@ashford.gov.uk or visit www.visitashfordandtenterden.co.uk.

Have your say on Lower Thames Crossing

A major new road linking Kent, Thurrock and Essex would nearly double road capacity across the Thames and almost halve northbound journey times at the Dartford Crossing, under plans by Highways England. The multi-billion pound project will connect communities, boost the economy and add vital extra resilience to the road network while reducing pressure on the Dartford Crossing. It is the most ambitious road project since the M25 opened 30 years ago and will include the UK's longest road tunnel. A consultation runs until 20 December.

To view the details and to comment on the plans visit www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/haveyoursay

Council Christmas hours

Need to contact Ashford Borough Council over the festive season? Our Christmas and New Year opening hours at the Civic Centre are: 17-21 December normal hours; 24-28 December closed; 31 December normal hours; 1 January closed; 2 January normal hours. ABC services at Tenterden Town Hall are closed from 12 noon 21 December until 2 January. For more details visit www.ashford.gov.uk.

Singleton success

Singleton Environment Centre is going from strength to strength since Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council took over management earlier this year. Under the skilled stewardship of a dedicated group of volunteers, use of the centre is growing, new staff have been appointed, the café is busier than ever and exciting ideas are planned to make the centre even more popular with users.

www.singletonenvironmentcentre.org.uk

Introducing the new Your Ashford app...

A convenient way for residents to report their concerns directly to the council, especially if they're out and about and spot something. The app can be used in a number of ways and helps the council to deal with any concerns more rapidly. Use it to:

- Check recycling and refuse services
- Report environmental issues
- Make payments online (e.g. Council Tax)
- Find your local councillor
- Contact the council (there is the option to create an account, so all reports will be in one place and both trackable and accessible 24/7).

We all want to keep our borough beautiful. This app will enable officers to deal with residents' concerns more quickly and effectively, as they'll be able to access reports while on the move themselves.

Download it now via...   

Readers' Survey:



The council is seeking views on *Ashford For You* magazine, and how successful you feel it is in keeping you informed. Please respond by placing a tick inside the box you feel best reflects your views and you could win a £50 Love2Shop voucher.

Q1: To what extent do you agree *Ashford For You* keeps you up to date with what the council is doing?

Strongly agree Disagree to some extent

Agree to some extent Strongly disagree

Neither Don't know

Q2: To what extent do you think *Ashford For You* keeps you informed with what's going on in the borough?

Very well informed Not well informed

Quite well informed Not informed at all

Neither Don't know

Q3: Do you feel better informed since the introduction of the *Ashford For You* magazine?

Yes Don't know

No

Q4: What articles would you like to see in future editions?

Q5: Do you have any other comments to make about *Ashford For You*?

The closing date for responses is Friday 21 December 2018. Only one response allowed per person and people must be over 16. The draw for the £50 voucher will take place on Monday 14 January 2019 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 please visit www.ashford.gov.uk/ashford-for-you. This survey is also available to complete at this web page.

To enter either:

Email 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.

Join our Mailing List

Why not join our mailing list to stay up-to-date with news and events and receive an electronic copy of our magazine?

Just email media@ashford.gov.uk with the message: Please add me to your mailing list to receive an electronic copy of *Ashford For You* magazine and associated articles. Or if sending this page tick the box below:

Yes I'd like to join your mailing list.

Ashford Borough Council is the data controller for any personal information you provide. Depending upon what you have requested your information will be used to administer our competitions, collect resident's feedback or to circulate our resident's magazine and keep you up-to-date on recent news and events. Collecting and processing of your personal data is being conducted relying upon the legal basis of consent. You have the right to remove your consent at any time and this can be done by sending 'unsubscribe' to media@ashford.gov.uk or alternatively the option to unsubscribe will be offered each time we contact you. We will not share your information with any third parties unless we are required or permitted to do so by law. If you are entering our competition your information will be held for 3 months if you have asked to receive an electronic copy of our magazine your information will be held for as long as we produce a resident's magazine and you stay subscribed. For more information about your data protection rights please see the Council's data protection pages which can be found at www.ashford.gov.uk or contact the Data Protection Officer at The Data Protection Officer, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL.



Our survey says...

Residents of Ashford have their say...and the council responds

One of the biggest residents' surveys ever carried out in the borough has generated interesting results which will be used to reshape council services for years to come. Between March and April 2018, the council conducted a postal survey asking randomly selected residents what they think of the borough, the council and the services we provide.

 **2,165**

Of the 10,000 surveys, 2,165 were returned, and we would like to thank all the people who took part. This is a solid response rate of nearly 22%, meaning the data and feedback is reliable.

AREAS WE ARE DOING WELL

The survey has provided us with valuable insight into the views of local residents about living in the borough and the services they receive from us.



83%

HAPPY WITH YOUR LOCAL AREA



65%

HAVE PRIDE IN THE LOCAL AREA



73%

SATISFIED WITH HOW THE COUNCIL RUN THINGS



64%

THINK THE COUNCIL IS COMMITTED TO THE LOCAL AREA



77%

SATISFIED WITH OUR BIN COLLECTION SERVICE



64%

THINK THAT THE COUNCIL UNDERSTANDS YOUR NEEDS



71%

SATISFIED WITH PARKS



62%

HAPPY WITH YOUR PLAY AREAS

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT



18%

FEEL THEY DO NOT HAVE ANY SAY



58%

DISAGREE THEY HAVE ANY INFLUENCE



24%

SATISFIED WITH THE TOWN CENTRE AS A PLACE TO VISIT



22%

SATISFIED WITH THE TOWN CENTRE AS A PLACE TO GO OUT

Thank you

Thanks again to everyone who took part in this year's survey. Full results can be found on our website www.ashford.gov.uk

YOU SAID... WE DID

Opinions were positive overall but there were some areas where residents are not happy. We have listened carefully to what the community has said. Some areas we have already addressed, in others there is more work to do...

Your voice

18%

OF RESIDENTS FEEL THEY DO NOT HAVE ANY SAY IN THE DECISIONS THE COUNCIL MAKES

58%

DISAGREE THAT THEY HAVE ANY INFLUENCE, ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY RESULTS.

Your views are important to us, and so the council is addressing the ways in which it consults the public about upcoming and current developments, and how you can have your say in what we do.

Keeping you informed

The council is changing how it communicates too – 45% of you feel that we do not keep you well informed about what's going on in the town.

We are expanding the ways in which we keep you up-to-date including: *Ashford For You* magazine, the council's website and social media channels so you can find out more about current projects in your surrounding area.

Follow us on

 @ashfordbc

 @AshfordCouncil

 Ashford Borough Council

or visit the ABC Newshub
<https://news.ashford.gov.uk>



Free parking

Parking is too expensive according to 165 residents, while 34 asked for free parking. **We are pleased to inform you that there is free parking at certain times in council run car parks:**



SUNDAYS & BANK HOLIDAYS

Edinburgh Road multi-storey car park (TN24 8LG)



AFTER 3PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY

Edinburgh Road car park every Monday to Saturday



SUNDAYS & BANK HOLIDAYS

Flour Mills car park (TN24 8PA)



AFTER 3PM SUNDAYS AND BANK HOLIDAYS

Station Road car park (TN23 1PP)

In addition, you can park for free in pay and display parking bays in the High Street, North Street and Bank Street after 6pm from Monday to Saturday and all day at these locations on Sundays.

For more information visit:
www.ashford.gov.uk/free-parking

Improving our town centre

The survey showed us that 40% of you are happy with Ashford as a place to shop, but less satisfied with the town as a place to visit (24%) and go out (22%).

Over the summer, we ran a public consultation on the future of Ashford town centre, where many of you told us your ideas. The results are being processed and we will provide more details in the next edition.

In the meantime we have exciting projects such as the new Picturehouse cinema and leisure complex at Elwick Place, the much-anticipated expansion of the Designer Outlet and the new Chapel Down Brewery and visitor centre, which will significantly improve the town centre offer.

Visit: www.ashford.gov.uk/towncentre



Golden age of cinema comes to town...

The golden age of cinema has come to Ashford town centre with the opening of our gleaming new cinema and restaurant complex at Elwick Place, a leisure development which has been described as a "game-changer" for the area.

Elwick Place

Elwick Place has been developed by Stanhope PLC, and funded by Ashford Borough Council. Construction work began in July 2017 on the 100,000 sq ft scheme which is set to revitalise the town centre's night-time economy.

This £75m investment represents a huge economic boost to the area – the cinema and hotel alone is creating more than 60 jobs.

It includes a six-screen cinema with over 850 seats, a 58-bedroom Travelodge hotel, eight restaurants and other retail spaces, a landscaped public plaza together with a 282-space car park.

The development, which has been delivered ahead of schedule and on budget, is opening in phases, with planning consent recently given for around 200 apartments to be built on the brownfield site.

Over the last 16 months, passers-by have seen the complex gradually take shape and rise above the hoardings opposite Debenhams. One of the most eye-catching design features of the cinema are the dozens of large curved gold mesh panels decorating the façade.

The former Ashford cattle market site, which had remained unused and derelict for more than 20 years before being snapped up by the council, has been transformed into a vibrant leisure hub that provides residents and visitors alike with a stylish place to eat, drink and relax, by day or night.

“Elwick Place is a perfect example of the visionary approach that Ashford Borough Council is taking to improving the town, not only with the Commercial Quarter, but also with other major development projects. This partnership will enable the Council to secure long-term revenue streams through rents and business rates, providing a steady source of income to sustain and improve the local services it provides.”

Gary Bourne, Development Director, Stanhope

The grand opening

A series of headline-grabbing events are taking place to mark the opening of the cinema and hotel at Elwick Place. These include a royal unveiling of a statue of Queen Marie of Romania, the installation of specially-commissioned market gates and gateposts in a nod to the site's agricultural heritage, and the unveiling of the Elwick Etchings art installation.

Members of the Romanian royal family and other VIPs are expected to visit Ashford to unveil a statue of Queen Marie located within the public plaza.

Marie was a granddaughter of Queen Victoria and was born on the Eastwell estate in Ashford. After marrying into the Romanian royal family, she went on to become a revered figure in public life, serving as a nurse in the First World War and playing a key role in forging the modern day Romanian state.

Ashford's proud heritage as a market town is celebrated by the installation of imposing iron gateposts that originally adorned the main entrance to Ashford's historic town centre market. The gateposts were originally made in Ashford by John Udal Bugler in 1879 and were located at the entrance to the old market. It is believed they were removed from the site in 1970.

Market gateposts

The gateposts were discovered in a scrapyard, and were stored while work was carried out to restore them. They have been dismantled, cleaned and refitted to ensure that they remain structurally safe. Following their restoration by Stanhope, the gateposts have been installed onsite, close to the footbridge over the railway tracks.

They are being fitted with a gate-like façade that will not open or close but will form a three dimension map of the immediate area by using vertical steel bars or strips that reflect the contours of the surrounding area. This piece of contemporary artwork reflects Ashford's heritage while showing what is possible in the new surroundings.

The Elwick Etchings

The Elwick Etchings initiative, put together by Stanhope and public arts company Strange Cargo, has involved Ashfordians coming forward with their personal stories of living in Ashford, as well as interesting facts about the town. These memories have been etched into around 100 large granite slabs and set into the pavements around Elwick Place for future generations to read and enjoy.


Cllr Gerry Clarkson, Leader of Ashford Borough Council, said: "This development created by Stanhope has been funded by the council on land that we own. It is one element of a wider £519m of investment in developments in Ashford town centre which are currently under way or planned for the near future.

"Elwick Place promises to be a real game-changer for our town centre. And by investing in this site, Ashford Borough Council is receiving a secure source of long-term income generated through rents and business rates, helping to sustain and improve local services without the need for central government funding."

“Elwick Place is one of our Big 8 projects which are together transforming the borough's skyline and fortunes.”

Cllr Gerry Clarkson, Leader of Ashford Borough Council

 **6 SCREEN PICTUREHOUSE CINEMA** OVER 850 SEATS AND A 70-COVER RESTAURANT

 **58 BEDROOM TRAVELODGE** RESTAURANT, BAR AND MEETING ROOMS

 **8 NEW RESTAURANTS** CAFES AND OTHER RETAIL SPACES

 **282 SPACE CAR PARK** INCLUDING SPACES WITH ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

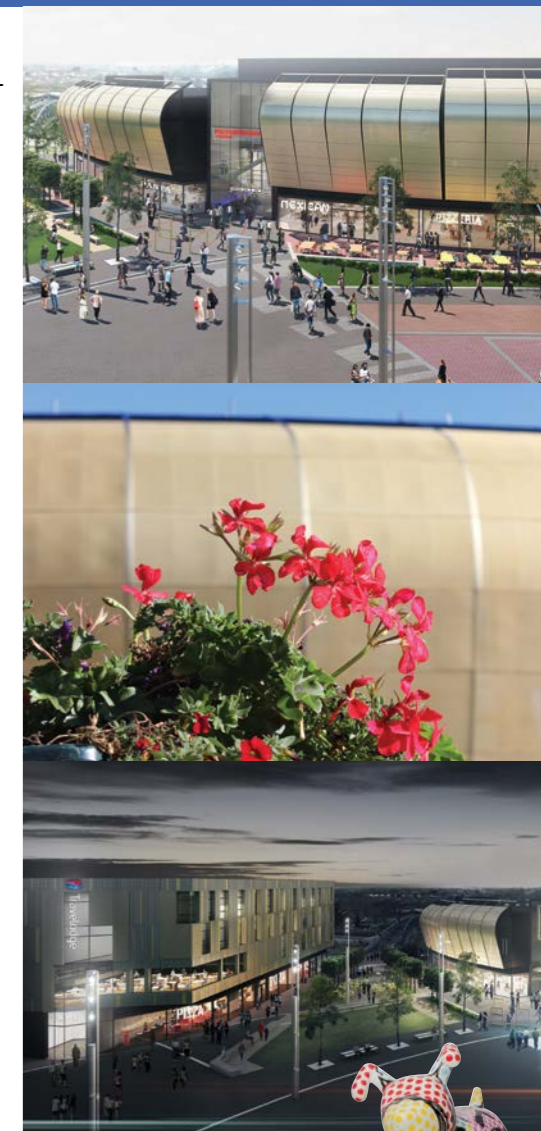
 **200 HIGH QUALITY APARTMENTS** IN PHASE 2

 **86 WEEKS** BUILDING PROGRAMME

 **+250,000 HOURS** WORKED ON SITE

Find out more

With Elwick Place opening in phases you can keep up to date with news and developments by visiting www.elwickplace.com





Images courtesy of Marc Wilmott, Chris Tubbs and Stephen o'Flaherty.

Leading British artist swaps London for Ashford

He's been described by art critics as the Harrison Ford or the Indiana Jones of the art world, and recently he has gone on a new exciting adventure of his own - swapping the bright lights of London for the quieter rural appeal of the outskirts of our borough.

Ashford For You speaks to British sculptor and installation artist, Alex Chinneck, who has recently relocated his studio to Brook.

Explaining his move to Ashford, Alex points to its proximity to both London and the coast. The rural location of Brook works for his growing family but also for his own sculptural ambition and he is confident that his decision to move to Ashford is the right one.

"Initially I was slightly worried that I would lose energy moving from London, but actually I have been re-energised. There are some brilliant tradesman and makers in the local area, who we are already building relationships with and no doubt there will be more to make in the future.

Exciting time

"We have joined Ashford at a really exciting time when its urban ambition is in its infancy. We are hoping to contribute to the momentum of the growth and development of the area with our work."

Over the past five years, the artist has completed a succession of major street sculptures including sliding the brick façade off a three-storey property in Margate; constructing a full-size melting house from 7,500 wax bricks near London Bridge; creating the illusion that a stone building on London's Covent Garden Piazza was floating in mid-air; and inverting a 37-metre electricity pylon to stand on its tip.

Open to the public

It didn't take long for Alex to display his artistic skills in Ashford too, transforming an unused building into a surreal sculpture. 'Open to the public', which appeared secretly overnight, turned Brundrett House on the former Kent Woolgrowers site on Tannery Lane, into a local, national and even international talking point – by the afternoon on the day of the unveiling, it had generated 152 media articles.

The artwork, commissioned by U+I, a specialist regeneration and property developer, creates the illusion that the walls of a 1960s office building have been unzipped to reveal its interior.

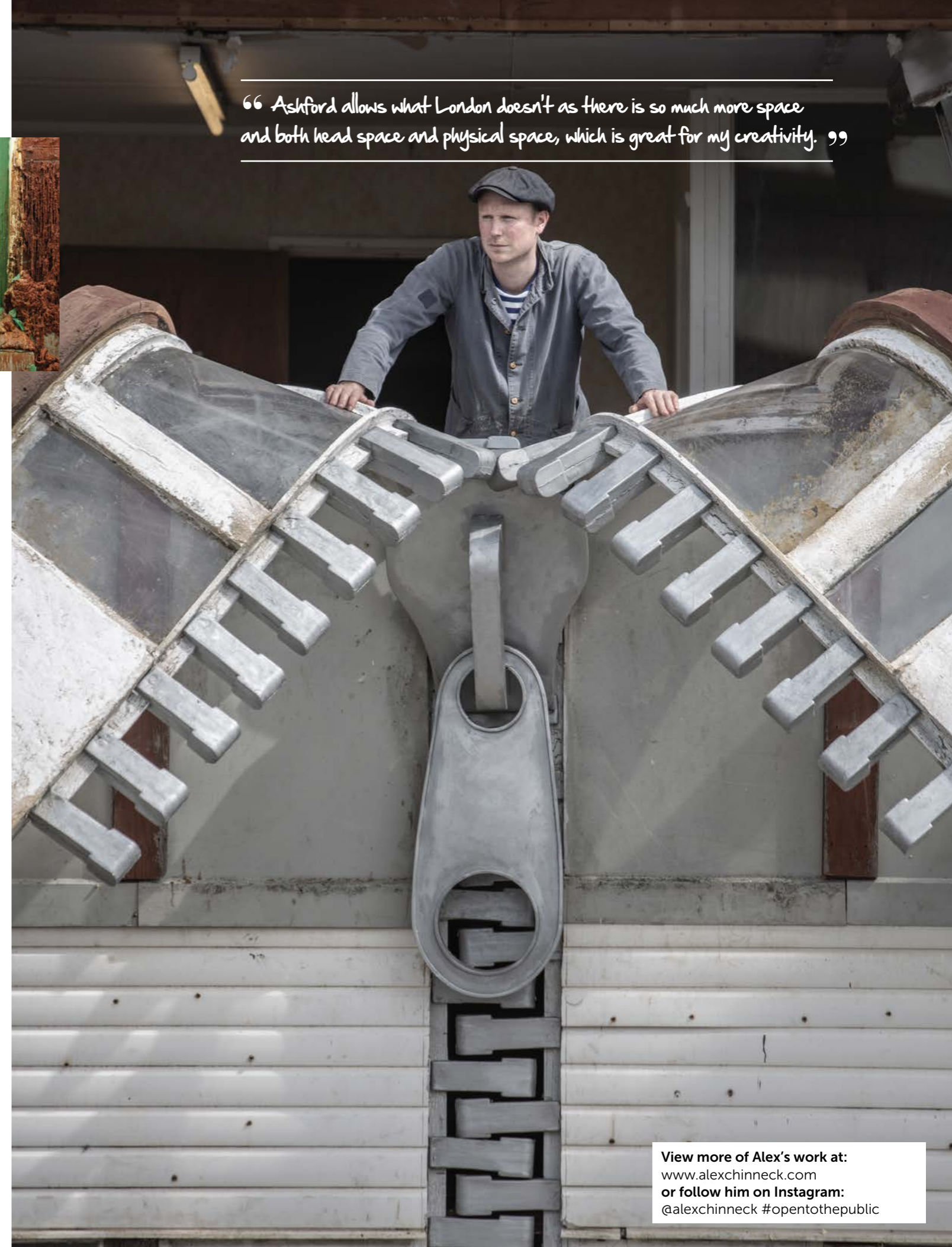
Alex said: "There is sculptural freedom with a building due for demolition. I have a fascination with warping the world around us and bending things that shouldn't be bent, which is definitely true of this piece.

"I'm always keen to conceive artwork based on the narrative of the area in which it is based. My inspiration for 'Open to the public' came from the history and association with the textiles and leather industry.

"My main aim of the piece was to create an impact and I'd like to think we achieved this."

Expect more artwork from Alex Chinneck in the local area – he has recently announced that his new project will be a loop-the-loop footbridge over the River Stour in Ashford.

"Ashford allows what London doesn't as there is so much more space and both head space and physical space, which is great for my creativity."



View more of Alex's work at:
www.alexchinneck.com
 or follow him on Instagram:
 @alexchinneck #opentothepublic

Snowdogs Discovered Ashford



Take one town, 35 giant dog sculptures, 19 school pups, a handful of sponsors and talented artists and thousands of art trail enthusiasts and what do you get? The answer is, of course, one very successful Snowdog trail.

For ten weeks this autumn, we've welcomed the Snowdogs (along with their pup litters) throughout the town, breathing life and magic into the streets and open spaces of the borough. Having never organised a public art trail of this scale before, we were unsure quite how it would be received.

We needn't have worried, however – the reaction to the Snowdogs was beyond anything we ever anticipated. It goes without saying that the trail wouldn't have created so much magic and happiness across the town without all of your support and input; it was wonderful to see the positive impact the dogs had on everyone who took part.

Of course, the point of the trail was to raise funds for Pilgrims Hospices, a very worthy local cause, and we must also thank them for their tireless work and support on the trail as well as Wild in Art, who were responsible for delivering the initiative.

Here are a few of our favourite pictures from the trail. Did you #FindYourSnowdog this autumn?



PICTURE COURTESY: TEAM WADDELL10
@TEAMWADDELL



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE OFFICIAL
SNOWDOGS DISCOVER ASHFORD APP

Snowdogs in numbers

833.9
MILES COVERED

1,961,451
TOTAL STEPS

Stats correct at time of going to press.

WIN SOME PAW-SOME GOODIES!



You've done the trail and taken the selfies and now it's time to win some goodies!

We have a selection of official Snowdogs merchandise to give away to one lucky reader, including a Classic Snowdog model, T-towel, mug, magnet and keyring.

All you need to do is check through this magazine carefully and count how many Snowdogs you can find 'hiding' among our features (excluding the ones you see on the front cover and on this page). Clue: there are more than 3 but less than 6!

Once you have added them up, email us at media@ashford.gov.uk, putting Snowdogs in the subject box. Include your full name, postal address and email, plus a contact phone number.

Or send a postcard or sealed envelope with your name, address, email and phone number to: Ashford For You magazine, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL.

ENTER OUR FUN COMPETITION TODAY - YOU'D BE BARKING MAD NOT TO!

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

Christmas collections

During the festive period your refuse and recycling collection days may be altered. Check out the 2018/2019 calendar below for any changes!

	Normal collection day	Revised collection day
recycling	Mon 24 Dec	Mon 24 Dec
	Tues 25 Dec	Thurs 27 Dec
	Wed 26 Dec	Fri 28 Dec
	Thurs 27 Dec	Sat 29 Dec
	Fri 28 Dec	Mon 31 Dec
refuse	Mon 31 Dec	Wed 2 Jan
	Tue 1 Jan	Thurs 3 Jan
	Wed 2 Jan	Fri 4 Jan
	Thurs 3 Jan	Sat 5 Jan
recycling	Fri 4 Jan	Mon 7 Jan
	Mon 7 Jan	Tues 8 Jan
	Tues 8 Jan	Wed 9 Jan
	Wed 9 Jan	Thurs 10 Jan
	Thurs 10 Jan	Fri 11 Jan
	Fri 11 Jan	Sat 12 Jan

Normal collections will resume on Monday 14 January 2019.
Garden collection resumes normal service on Monday 7 January 2019 on your usual day.

Garden Recycling & Bulky Collections

As stated on your garden recycling collection calendars, there will be NO garden waste or bulky collections over the festive period; week commencing 24 December 2018 and 31 December 2018.

These collections will resume on Monday 7 January 2019 on your usual day.



Clinical Collections

Weekly Monday Clinical collections will NOT be affected during the Christmas period.

If we have been unable to collect from your street or area due to bad weather then please leave your bin out so the crews can access it for recollection.

For missed bin collections visit www.ashford.gov.uk/wastecollections/reportmissedbin

Recycle more this Christmas

Green recycling bin

- Christmas cards
- Tin foil & foil serving trays
- Champagne, wine & beer bottles
- Paper only wrapping paper
- Cardboard boxes
- Sweet/Chocolate tins
- Mince pie foil cases

Grey refuse bin

- Tinsel
- Broken decorations
- Bubblewrap & soft plastic packaging like cellophane
- Foil/shiny wrapping paper
- Champagne & wine corks
- Polystyrene



Christmas Tree Recycling

Ashford Borough residents can register their real Christmas tree for collection and recycling in return for their chosen donation to Pilgrims Hospices. This scheme raised £19,000 for hospice patients last Christmas. Ashford Borough Council is proud to support our local hospice and we're hoping even more people will sign up this year.

This special fundraising campaign offers Christmas tree collections from homes across the Ashford Borough Council area. Visit www.pilgrimshospices.org/treerecycling to register your tree for collection and their friendly team of volunteers will take it away on 12 January. No need to mess up your car; they'll do the hard work for you!



This year give your food caddy a good stuffing!

Use it for your leftovers, turkey carcass and all your food waste from sprout tops to carrot and potato peelings!

Visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for handy recipes for those festive leftovers!

Remember...

We cannot take items that have plastic or metallic coatings.

Most Christmas cards are paper-based and can be recycled but any extras such as ribbons or bows cannot easily be recycled and should be removed by tearing off that part of the card.

If your Christmas decorations such as your tinsel and baubles have lost their sparkle then you will need to place these in your general waste bin. Any natural decorations like ivy or holly can be recycled in your garden waste bin.

When it comes to wrapping paper - do the scrunch test! Only non-foil paper is accepted for recycling so to check, scrunch up the paper and if it doesn't spring back then it's non-foil and can be recycled.

Out of ease and convenience a lot of us order Christmas presents online which means items are likely to be delivered in boxes or envelopes made from corrugated cardboard. Remember to take out any polystyrene and flatten the boxes to save space!



Know your boundaries

Did you know that there are major changes on the way that could have a big impact on how people will vote during local elections in the borough of Ashford? These have been ushered in following a major review of election arrangements carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission. Read on to find out more about this strengthening of local democracy...

New polling stations being used for the first time

Venue	Ward
Gerlach House sheltered housing, Beecholme Drive	Bockhanger
St Mary's Community Centre, Ryland Road	Bybrook
Spearpoint Pavilion, The Ridge	Bybrook
Mobile at Finberry Primary School, Avocet Way	Mersham, Sevington South with Finberry
Repton Connect, Repton Avenue	Repton

When people living in Ashford go to the polls on Thursday 2 May 2019 to choose their borough councillor they could find themselves attending a different polling station to the one they are used to, or be asked to vote for two candidates rather than the usual one.

“Ashford is the only borough or district in Kent where the numbers of councillors are increasing – this means improved representation for local voters. This is a direct reflection on the rapid pace of economic and population growth right across the district.”

For some people, their arrangements may be unchanged from previous local council elections. For others, the review carried out by the Commission means the trip to cast your vote next May, and in all future elections, is changing.

So why are these changes being rolled out across Ashford? The Local Government Boundary Commission's review aimed at tackling electoral inequality where some borough councillors represent

many more – or many fewer – voters than some of their fellow councillors on the same authority.

In delivering its recommendations for Ashford, the Commission said the borough “currently has high levels of electoral inequality where some councillors represent many more – or many fewer – voters than others. This means that the value of your vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Ashford.”

The Commission said its plans for Ashford would deliver electoral equality for voters; reflect local community interests and identities; and promote effective local government.

New community councils make their bow

Two new community councils come into force on 2 May 2019. They were created in response to a Community Governance Review undertaken by Ashford Borough Council in 2015-16. The North Willesborough Community Forum had requested the review be carried out in their area and this led the borough council to expand the review further.

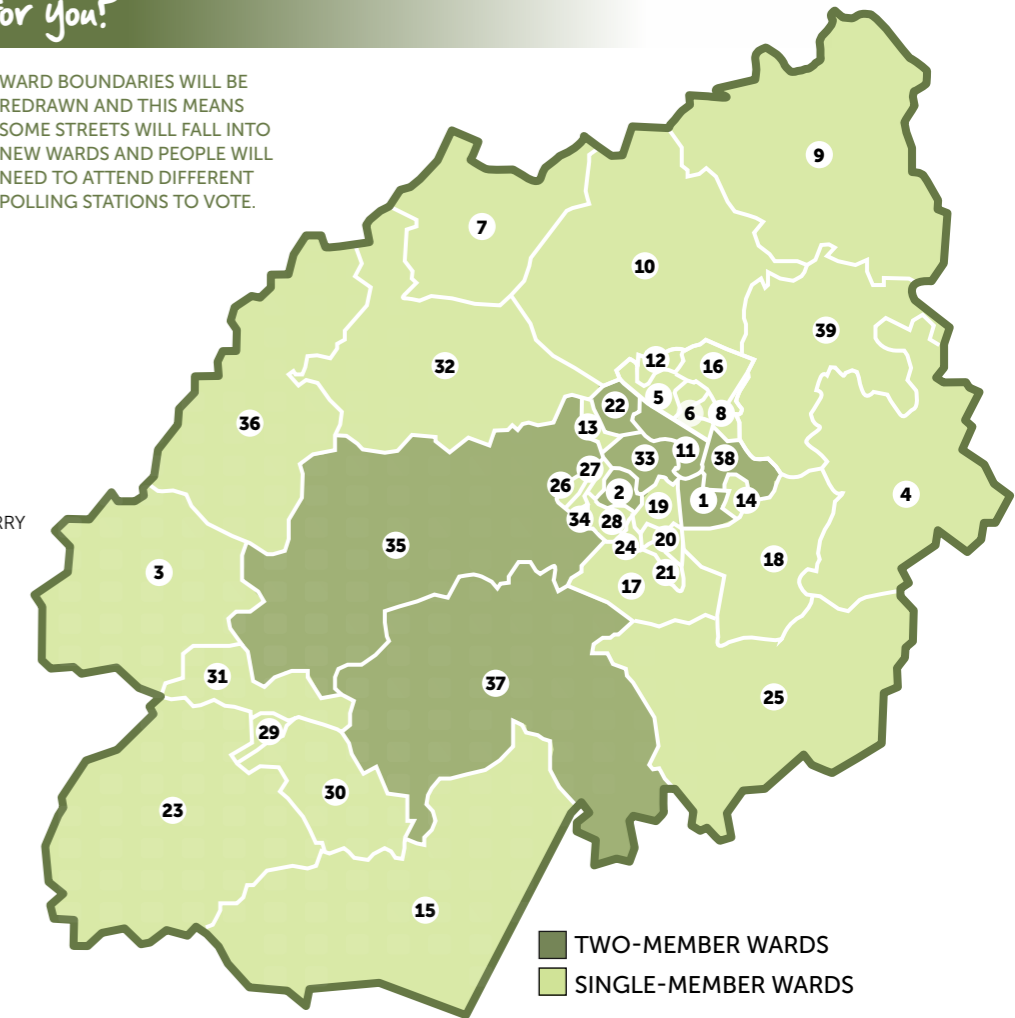
A ballot was held of all Ashford residents who are currently not represented by a parish council, with the ballot split into five areas – Central Ashford, Kennington, North Willesborough, South Ashford, and South Willesborough and Newtown.

What does this mean for you?

MAP KEY

1. AYLESFORD & EAST STOUR
2. BEAVER
3. BIDDENDEN
4. BIRCHOLT
5. BOCKHANGER
6. BYBROOK
7. CHARING
8. CONNINGBROOK & LITTLE BURTON FARM
9. DOWNS NORTH
10. DOWNS WEST
11. FURLEY
12. GOAT LEES
13. GODINTON
14. HIGHFIELD
15. ISLE OF OXNEY
16. KENNINGTON
17. KINGSNORTH VILLAGE AND BRIDGEFIELD
18. MERSHAM, SEVINGTON SOUTH WITH FINBERRY
19. NORMAN
20. PARK FARM NORTH
21. PARK FARM SOUTH
22. REPTON
23. ROLVENDEN & TENTERDEN WEST
24. ROMAN
25. SAXON SHORE
26. SINGLETON EAST
27. SINGLETON WEST
28. STANHOPE
29. TENTERDEN NORTH
30. TENTERDEN SOUTH
31. TENTERDEN ST MICHAEL'S
32. UPPER WEALD
33. VICTORIA
34. WASHFORD
35. WEALD CENTRAL
36. WEALD NORTH
37. WEALD SOUTH
38. WILLESBOROUGH
39. WYE WITH HINXHILL

WARD BOUNDARIES WILL BE REDRAWN AND THIS MEANS SOME STREETS WILL FALL INTO NEW WARDS AND PEOPLE WILL NEED TO ATTEND DIFFERENT POLLING STATIONS TO VOTE.



Of these, two – Kennington and South Willesborough and Newtown – voted “yes” to the creation of a community council, with the other three voting “no”.

Much like parish councils do in other areas of our borough, these community councils will get involved in local issues and represent the best interests of people living in those areas. In recent months a huge amount of work has gone into preparing for the launch of the councils, with two groups known as shadow councils set up to handle the preparations.

These shadow groups have included volunteers from the local community, local borough councillors and representatives from existing community forums, and they have worked tirelessly so that the community councils are ready to hit the ground running from day one.

THE NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS IS INCREASING FROM

43 to 47

THE NUMBER OF WARDS WILL INCREASE FROM

35 to 39

UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, COUNCILLORS WILL NOW REPRESENT

8 TWO-MEMBER WARDS

31 ONE-MEMBER WARDS

What happens next...

The updated electoral register will be published in December well ahead of the borough elections on Thursday 2 May 2019. You can find more by visiting: www.ashford.gov.uk/councillors-meetings-and-elections/elections-and-electoral-registration/



Sad

For some, the effect of the shorter days and colder weather can have a significant impact on their daily life. If you suffer from the following symptoms you may have Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), a type of depression and a recognised mental health disorder;

- A persistent low mood and lack of interest in activities
- Irritability
- Tiredness and low energy throughout the day
- Feelings of worthlessness and despair
- Sleeping for longer than usual and having trouble rising
- Weight gain

If you think this applies to you then get in touch with your GP or health centre for more advice.

Winter Wellbeing



At this time of year, when the days are getting shorter, it's natural to want to hibernate. However, with a long list of demands on our time, trying to achieve too much can leave you feeling frazzled and burnt out.

The cold weather can also deplete our natural immunity so this, on top of a fast-paced lifestyle, could be the reason why we end up catching a cold and feeling generally low. There are some things we can all do to counter the effects of the season and improve our mental and physical wellbeing. Here are a few suggestions:

Get outside

Try to get as much sunlight as possible – the lack of light during winter can affect your sleep cycle, causing you to feel fatigued so take the opportunity to get outside during daylight hours.

Why not encourage your colleagues to go for a lunchtime walk or take the family out into the fresh air?

Exercise

It may feel like the last thing you want to do when you're feeling tired but exercise is a fantastic way to boost your energy levels and immune system. If you fit in a gym session before or after work you'll be more likely to stick with it as, once you get home, you may not feel like going back out again. Alternatively, join a group fitness class and enjoy the social aspect too. A high energy Zumba class is a great way to enjoy an endorphin boost or, if you're feeling stressed, a yoga class can help stretch out muscle tightness and encourage relaxation.



Stay hydrated

It's easy to drink more fluids in the summer when you're hot and thirsty but in winter you may tend to reach for warming tea and coffee and shun water. Caffeinated drinks are actually diuretic (i.e. they make you urinate more) so they're not as hydrating. Try to ensure you're drinking water or squash throughout the day, or if you really don't fancy something cold then try herbal tea instead.



Sleep well

Get into a good sleep habit by going to bed and getting up at the same time each day. Avoid long lay-ins as these can have the same impact as jet-lag, leaving you feeling foggy and even more tired.

Resist the urge to check your phone before you go to sleep too as the blue light can affect your body's release of melatonin (the hormone that regulates sleep), impacting your ability to drift off. Instead, ensure your bedroom is cool and dark and enjoy a warm bath before bed to naturally soothe your body into slumber.

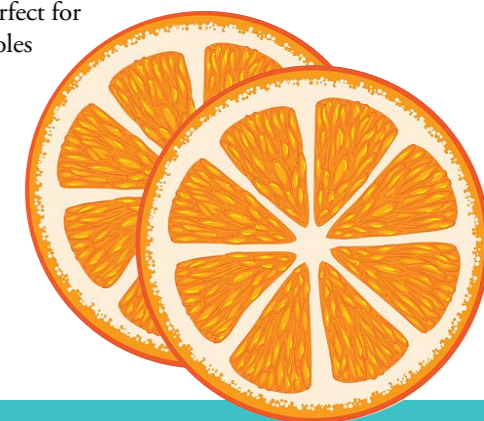


You are what you eat

It may be tempting to reach for convenience comfort food but high sugar and salt meals and snacks will also deplete your immune system.

Instead, aim to increase your intake of fresh fruits and vegetables. This time of year is perfect for hearty, warming stews and casseroles with plenty of vegetables.

Make the most of cheaper cuts of meat by slow cooking them and bulking out with pulses. If you make more than you need and you can save portions in the fridge or freezer to reheat when you don't have the time or inclination to cook from scratch.



ONE YOU

If you are interested in making a positive lifestyle change the Ashford One You shop can help. The shop provides support and advice on a range of lifestyle issues, stop smoking support, healthy weight, health checks, health MOTs and blood pressure checks. No appointment necessary just pop in and speak to an advisor to find out more.

Find the One You Shop in Ashford's Park Mall on Tuesday to Friday from 9.30am to 5pm and Saturdays from 9.30am to 1pm.

Visit: www.oneyoukent.org.uk for more information about Health Improvement Services or call 0300 123 1220.

What's On

This issue we bring you a Christmas Special event guide, these are just a few of the activities you can do in our borough this festive season...

December

Christmas Countdown

Look out for our daily advent reveal with mini workshops from Christmas crafts and activities to styling advice.

1-24 December, Ashford town centre, for details visit www.loveashford.com

Santa Specials on Kent & East Sussex Railway

Take a magical steam train journey to meet Santa on the railway's popular Santa Specials.

1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 21-24 December, Tenterden Station, Station Road, Tenterden TN30 6HE, Admission: Standard Class Tickets - from £19, First Class Tickets from £25, for details visit: www.ksr.org.uk

Santa's Grotto

Come and meet the man himself in his cosy cabin.

1, 8, 15, 18-24 December, 11am - 4pm, Park Mall shopping centre, Ashford

Christmas balloon modelling and face painting

Get creative and look festive!

2, 9, 16 December, 10am - 3pm, Main Square, County Square shopping centre, Ashford

The Reindeer Centre Christmas Grotto

Enjoy a special family encounter with Father Christmas in his Festive Cabin, where every good child receives a quality wrapped present.

10 November to 24 December, Reindeer Centre, Capralama Farm, Bethersden, Ashford TN26 3EQ, for details visit: www.reindeercentre.co.uk



Outdoor Ice Skating at Eastwell Manor

Whether it's an afternoon out with the family, or a romantic date with someone special, the outdoor skating rink is perfect for some traditional festive fun.

1 December to 2 January, Monday to Thursday 2pm - 8pm, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 12pm - 6pm, Eastwell Park, Boughton Lees, Ashford TN25 4HT, Admission: 1 hour skating and skate hire: Adults - £14.50pp, Children under 12 - £9.50pp

School Choirs sing for Demelza

Your local schools sing it loud for charity.

6 December, times to be confirmed, County Square shopping centre, Ashford

Carols in the Courtyard

Enjoy your favourite carols and Christmas songs in the Courtyard with "Harmony". Warm up with mulled wine and mince pies in the Barn.

14 December, Willesborough Windmill, Mill Lane, Willesborough, Ashford TN24 0QG, Admission: Adults: £5, Children: £5, Under 10's: FREE

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Pantomime

That's Entertainment Productions return again this Christmas with the loveliest Panto of all as Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs arrives at the Sinden Theatre.

28 December to 30 December, various times, The Sinden Theatre, Homewood School, Ashford Road, Tenterden TN30 6LT, for details visit: www.sindentheatre.com

For events in January check out the What's on section of Visit Ashford and Tenterden website

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)

Family Film Fun:

1 December

Frozen Sing Along

Experience Frozen, the hit musical comedy from Walt Disney Animation Studios, like never before in a full length Sing-Along version!

1.00pm to 2.30pm

The Snowman and the Snowdog

In this sequel to Raymond Briggs' classic animated tale a snowman and snowdog come magically to life.

3.00pm to 3.30pm

Arthur Christmas

How can Santa deliver billions of presents to the whole world in just one night? Deck the halls with excitement, fun and wonder in this new Christmas classic!

3.30pm to 5.00pm

All at Revelation St Mary's, Churchyard, Ashford TN23 1QG, Admission: 50p for each film, for details visit: www.revelationashford.co.uk



Ashford MP Damian Green joined representatives of the borough and parish councils at the unveiling.

A community connected

We recently saw the launch of the Rolvenden Rocket, a 16-seater community minibus, which was made possible by the hard work and combined efforts of Rolvenden Parish Council and Ashford Borough Council.

The minibus, which is the first in a pilot wellbeing initiative, was named the Rolvenden Rocket in a nod to the village's history, where the village supported a successful team of speedway racing cyclists during the 40s, 50s and 60s.

While provided by the borough council, the minibus is fully operated by the parish council. They run the booking system, collect the hire charges and undertake all necessary administration. Volunteers drive the minibus for their local clubs, societies and other community groups, providing access to attractions, cultural and sports events and shopping trips. All monies collected go towards the operational costs, with any surplus being retained by the participating clubs. People therefore benefit from not only using the minibus but by being part of a community group.

Public transport in rural areas is an important issue and it's well known that poor transport can lead to rural isolation for people of all ages. It is hoped that this will be the first in a fleet of community-run minibuses, making it easier for those in more rural areas to travel around the borough.

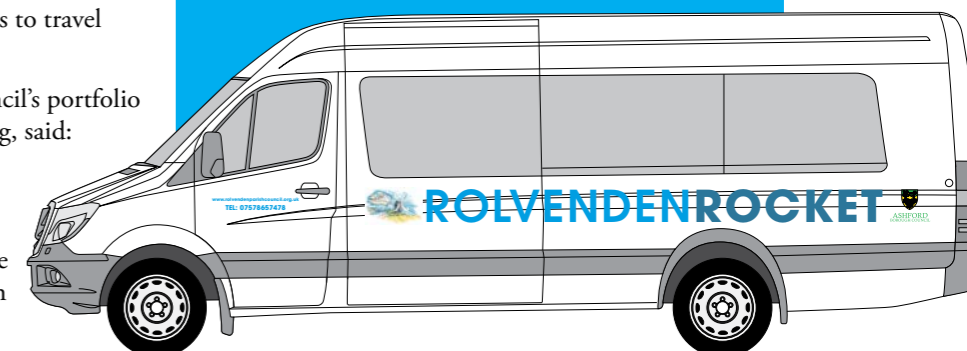
Cllr Brad Bradford, Ashford Borough Council's portfolio holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, said: "This is a fantastic new service that will be hugely beneficial to the local community. I am proud to have championed the initial idea and would like to give my thanks to the fantastic volunteers, the clubs and the parish council who turned this idea into a reality."

Duncan Murray, Chairman of Rolvenden Parish Council, said: "Lots of hard work has gone into getting the Rolvenden Rocket community minibus. We're delighted to see how popular it's proving and how it's connecting people and improving their wellbeing."

Rolvenden residents can find out more via www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk and follow the Rolvenden Rocket on Facebook (@RolvendenRocket).

Is your parish council interested in having a community minibus?

The borough council is interested in hearing from other parish councils who might want their own community minibus. If you would like further information, please contact the Community Safety and Wellbeing service by email: parkingcustomer@ashford.gov.uk



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

Singleton Environment Centre: 01233 666519

Environment Agency floodline: 0345 988 1188

Benefit fraud: 0800 854 440

WIN A YEAR'S FREE MEMBERSHIP

A Perfect Picturehouse Prize For Film Fans!

To celebrate the opening of Ashford Picturehouse at Elwick Place this winter we have 10 Annual Memberships to give away, a fantastic prize for movie buffs!

Benefits of Annual Membership (normally costs £50) include four free cinema tickets, 10% off food and drinks, discount on tickets at Picturehouse Cinemas nationwide, access to exclusive members' free preview film screenings, members' priority booking, and no booking fees. Members also receive lots of extra benefits from Picturehouse partners - for a full list and other details visit www.picturehouses.com

The closing date for entries is Friday 21 December 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 Picturehouse 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 Picturehouse Competition Entry on the card.

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

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Competition winners

More than 300 readers took part in our competition to win a Prosecco high tea for two at The Little Teapot – a record response! The 10 lucky winners are David Forbes, Isabel Sage, Emma Bradford, Iris Millen, Michelle Sinclair, Paul Allison, Shelley Ashton, Mrs C. Herbert, Mrs Joan Mills, and Mrs J. Read.



INSPIRING

Special Moments

County Square Shopping Centre

Visit County Square Shopping Centre this festive season, for inspirational gift ideas your loved ones will adore.

We're right in the middle of Ashford's Town Centre. With over 50 stores to choose from.

Check out our website for Christmas Opening times.

