

# ASHFORD FOR YOU

Issue 17 | Summer 2022

YOUR BOROUGH, YOUR MAGAZINE

## IT'S CHILD'S PLAY

Major investment in new play areas

READER SURVEY

SAFER STREETS

WHAT'S ON



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Plus, the College will soon be launching its first T Level courses. Designed in collaboration with leading employers, T Levels are a brand new qualification equivalent to three A Levels, boasting hands-on learning and a 45-day work placement to give you the skills employers need.

In an OFSTED inspection conducted earlier this year, Ashford College received the top rating as the watchdog found students' skills and knowledge received significant boosts from their time with the College.

The strong community focus of the College creates opportunities to help out the town as a whole, an experience which OFSTED said "enables students to develop their employability skills and understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the College."



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The College also benefits from being part of the EKC Group family, giving you access to an enhanced range of opportunities.

The best thing about Ashford College is that everyone is welcome to apply, plus you can get financial assistance depending on your circumstances.

Learn more:  
[ashfordcollege.ac.uk](http://ashfordcollege.ac.uk)



## Welcome



Welcome to the summer edition of *Ashford For You*, where there's a strong focus on positive news about new projects and investments that hopefully will have an uplifting impact on the lives of many of our residents.

Economic good news comes in the shape of the latest exciting developments proposed for bringing the Newtown Works scheme forward, plans for the expansion of Ashford College and – in an announcement that has captured the imagination of us all – the impending arrival of the world famous Brompton bikes brand to Ashford. It goes without saying that their scheme to create a state-of-the-art production facility, visitor centre and museum on a wetland site alongside the Designer Outlet will need to pass the rigorous scrutiny of the planning system but the proposal is a massive vote of confidence in economic development and investment in our borough.





We also report on the council's considerable investment in upgrading and renewing play spaces for the benefit of young families and children. You can also read about efforts being made to create safer streets in an initiative that I am sure will be welcomed by everyone in our communities.

We carry one of our regular reader surveys in this issue and I encourage everyone to take a moment to let us know what you think about the magazine and the way we share news and information with you. Keep sending us your ideas for future features and make sure you enter our reader competitions – as usual there are some fabulous prizes to be won.

*Tracey Kerly*

**Tracey Kerly**  
Chief executive, Ashford Borough Council

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



## News in brief

Tenterden has remained in the top ten (out of a thousand) retail centres in the UK claiming sixth place – the highest in Kent – in this year's Harper Dennis Hobbs' Vitality Ranking. The analysis determines the health of high streets and shopping centres nationwide taking in factors such as vacancy rates and suitability to local consumer demands.



Financial support from the council has led to a 12 month reprieve for the G Service bus route, which links two sides of Ashford – Godinton Park and Repton Park with the Orbital Park via Bank Street in the town centre, the railway station, Newtown and South Willesborough. Stagecoach had planned to close the loss-making route. Frequency is one bus an hour, compared to the previous 30 minutes.

Following the refurbishment of the gym and exercise studio last year, Julie Rose Stadium is getting a brand new athletics track after the council invested £300,000 on a completely new running surface. Working with Freedom Leisure, we have resurfaced the outdoor athletics track at the iconic stadium that was built in 1997 with works finishing this summer.

## Even more Fabric!

One of last summer's most colourful community events in Ashford's high street will come to life again this year with an explosion of colour as beautiful fabric creations decorate the bandstand and town centre as part of The Fabric of Ashford.

The inspiring art installation is created by and for the local Ashford community, with local schoolchildren also due to take part.

With the grand finale taking place on Saturday 20 August, we will share more details of the project on all of our usual channels over the coming weeks, so look out for news on how you can get involved.

## Food for thought

Repton Community Trust has supported over 3,500 people through our community-led food bank The Peoples Pantry which started as a cupboard of free food items for people visiting Repton Connect Community Centre.

It has provided food, cleaning and hygiene items to people in need including through our Covid-secure 24hr food lockers, online ordering, collections and deliveries. We started Kent's first community fridge in 2019, distributing surplus supermarket food and have grown to be one of Ashford's main food banks.

We have developed a community shop where people can donate towards food at a reduced cost and still have a great shopping experience. We support people from across the borough. Initiatives include the shop, a 'Good Mood Food' recipe box scheme, and our community fridges.



## A brighter future

Councillor Jenny Webb was Mayor of Ashford between May 2019 to July 2020. The end of her term of office was greatly affected by the pandemic. Here she looks ahead to her new term and reveals which local charity she'll be supporting...

It's a real honour and privilege to be Mayor for a second term, especially in this extra special year as we celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee year. The council has a fabulous range of activities to mark this milestone including participation in The Queen's Green Canopy project.

The focus for my year in office is to help encourage the rebuilding of communities and raise support and awareness for the regeneration of businesses after a prolonged pause in our normal working and family activities.

My charity is Singleton Spaces and I will be raising awareness of the wonderful work that the volunteers do to preserve, protect and improve our green spaces. I'll work alongside the team with a plan to raise funds for new interpretation panels and increase the educational and community activities that are open to all.

I do love to get out and about across our great borough to visit our diverse communities – it will be a great year! Let's all look forward and celebrate a brighter future while considering the greater care of our natural environment.



Images, clockwise from below: The ribbon cutting ceremony; Ron Monk, whose voice is featured in the exhibition, and project engineer Dave King.



## Sound Museum on the line

Like many villages, Rolvenden Layne had a disused phone box at risk of becoming an eyesore. But now, with help from Ashford Borough Council, Rolvenden Parish Council, Kent County Council and Persimmon Homes, Skep Arts has transformed it into Kent's smallest museum.

On the back wall, where the phone used to be, is a box containing an MP3 player. When visitors crank the handle, they generate power to activate the sound files within. The first of a series of exhibitions, 'I Remember', presents the voices of older residents, recalling village life in the 1930s and 40s. Recorded by a local historian, they are moving records of a bygone age.

While the Sound Museum is tiny there are many potential exhibits it can present, stored on the MP3 player at its heart. It is curated by Skep Arts and maintained by the parish council. Entry is free. [www.arts.theskep.uk](http://www.arts.theskep.uk)

## Bursaries available

Ashford Leisure Trust and Freedom Leisure is offering 20 bursaries of £500 plus a year of age-appropriate membership to the Stour Centre and Julie Rose Stadium to start January 2023. Applications will close 30 September.

For more details and application forms visit [www.ashfordleisuretrust.co.uk](http://www.ashfordleisuretrust.co.uk)

## Competition winners



Hundreds of entries were received for our fantastic competitions in the last issue. The winner of the Wine Tours of Kent full day tour for two people is Nigel Catt of Ashford. Thanks to everyone who took part – see page 22 for our latest exciting competitions.

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# Changing face of Ashford

Jobs and investment on the horizon as town's transformation moves into exciting new chapter. Ashford continues to be a magnet for inward investment and regeneration, and as we emerge from the challenges of recent years there are several exciting projects on the cards. Together they signal a bright future for the town.

## Brompton choose Ashford as new home

Brompton, the UK's largest bicycle manufacturer, has announced exciting plans to create a revolutionary new factory in Ashford by 2027.

The new factory will be constructed on a floodplain, which will provide an opportunity to restore the wetland and improve the flood mitigation of the site and promote walking and cycling opportunities.

The plans are subject to planning approval and commercial terms being agreed.



Will Butler-Adams OBE, CEO at Brompton and inset, images of how the Brompton factory will look.



## Lights, camera, action

Newtown Works will breathe new life into the Grade II listed locomotive sheds, with the area being transformed into an international film and TV studios.

The plans also includes educational facilities, a hotel, serviced apartments and commercial units. Full planning permission was granted in September 2020, with works expected to start on site in the summer.



## Funding boost for Ashford College expansion plans

A major extension to Ashford College's Elwick Road campus has been given Government funding support. An 'Engineering Hub' is planned to open in September 2023, which will bring all 16-18 aged students together on the main college site in the heart of the town centre.

The Hub will include cutting edge equipment, workshops, classrooms, and computer lab spaces for the teaching of specialist, technical qualifications in Business, Engineering, Computing and other Digital Technologies.



## Creative arts hub

Jasmin Vardimon Company was founded in London in 1998 and rapidly rose to become a significant element within the British dance theatre scene.

As its much-anticipated new creative hub takes shape, it promises a state-of-the-art facility for the company to expand its activities locally, nationally and on the global stage.

Its new home in Javelin Way is expected to open this autumn and also includes a number of light industrial units which will welcome other creative companies.



WIN a £50 Love2Shop voucher!

# Readers' Survey 2022



We're always looking for ways to improve *Ashford For You* magazine therefore we'd love to hear your thoughts. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions and you could WIN a £50 Love2Shop voucher. Alternatively complete the survey online at [www.ashford.gov.uk/ashford-for-you](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/ashford-for-you)



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

Strongly agree       Agree to some extent  
 Neither agree/disagree       Disagree to some extent  
 Strongly disagree       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       Quite well informed  
 Neither agree/disagree       Not well informed  
 Not informed at all       Don't know

**Q3.** How do you rate *Ashford For You* magazine overall?

Excellent       Very good  
 Good       Average  
 Poor       Very poor

**Q4.** What do you like most about *Ashford For You* magazine?

**Q5.** What articles would you like to see in future editions *Ashford For You* magazine?

**Q6.** How frequently would you like to see *Ashford For You* magazine?

Quarterly       Monthly  
 Once a year       Twice a year  
 Not at all       Online only

**Q7.** How do you read *Ashford For You* magazine?

Print       Tablet  
 Smart phone       PC/laptop

**Q8.** Would you like to sign up to our newsletter? If so, please enter your email address here: \_\_\_\_\_

Or you can sign up at: [www.ashford.gov.uk/get-updates-from-the-council](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/get-updates-from-the-council) You can also find out the latest news and information via [www.ashford.gov.uk/news](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/news) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, You Tube or Nextdoor.

**About you.**

<b>Gender</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	<b>Age</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 26-34	<input type="checkbox"/> 35-44	<input type="checkbox"/> 45-54	<input type="checkbox"/> 55-64	<input type="checkbox"/> 65+	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	<b>Please provide your postcode:</b>
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## A big thank you!!



We would like to say a big Thank you and well done to all residents in Ashford as your continued determination with recycling has helped us achieve our recycling goal of over 52%.

Once one of the worst-performing recycling boroughs in Kent, Ashford's record in recent years has been outstanding and this proud track record has been delivered thanks to a powerful partnership involving the council and our residents.

Here are our handy tips on recycling

1. Rinse it, Bin it – Don't forget to scrape away food excess and put it into your food caddy. Then put the clean recyclable items into your green recycling bin
2. Flatten your recycling – Stop your recycling bins overflowing by flattening your boxes before putting them in your bins
3. Check what you can recycle at home– If you are unsure on what you can recycle then please visit [www.ashford.gov.uk/how-do-i-dispose-of](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/how-do-i-dispose-of)



## How much single use plastic do you use?

Why not take a look at what you can do to reduce the amount of single use plastic you use this July. Be it buying items that have no packaging on, refilling items using refill outlets or reducing how much you buy, making small changes can have a big impact to the environment

To find out more and how to take part in the challenge head to [www.plasticfreejuly.org](http://www.plasticfreejuly.org) OR why not follow Plastic Free Ashford on Facebook to find out how you can become a plastic free hero in your community.



# Our Parks

Parks and green spaces have been a vital lifeline to many of us over the last few years for our mental health and wellbeing. Yet, our parks and green spaces have been under immense pressure, with us collecting more litter during the summer months than ever before.

As we head into warmer weather (we hope) and start spending more time in our parks here's our guide to make it enjoyable for everyone.

**Be friendly to those working in the park**

**If the bins are full, take your litter home**

**Take care of the environment**

**Bag and bin dog poo**

**Be a responsible pet owner**

**Be mindful of others using the park**

# Save Water

We may be used to seeing lots of water with our weather however water is a precious resource that the changes in our weather are having an impact on.



Minimising the water we use in our homes will help minimise the stress our usage has on the planet.

Saving water also saves you money as about 20% of a typical gas heated home's heating bills comes from the water we use in our showers, baths and from the hot water tap.

We have collated our top tips for saving water this summer

1. Add a washing bowl to your sink to catch the excess water and use this to water your plants
2. A short 2 minute shower with an efficient showerhead uses less water than a bath – around 80 litres!

3. Install a water butt – The average roof collects about 85,000 litres of rain in a year, enough to fill 450 water butts with free rainwater!

4. Let's make this the year to let your lawn go naturally brown, it will soon bounce back after rainfall

5. Make sure you time when you water your plants as watering your plants in the early morning or evening when the temperature is cooler means less water is lost to evaporation.



# What's On

With a wealth of events and activities, we've got plenty to keep you entertained this summer...



**26 June 10am – 5pm**  
**Armed Forces Day**

Civic Park, Tannery Lane, Ashford, TN23 1PL  
Show your support and come joint the fun with live music, displays, refreshments, games, raffle and tombola.

**1 – 3 July,**  
**Spirit of Tenterden**

Recreation Ground, Tenterden

The Spirit of Tenterden family festival returns. Enjoy more than 40 stalls, street food, live music from the best local bands, real ale, cider and gin bars, fun for kids, and a dog show. Organisers hope it will be even bigger and better than the last full event in 2019, when more than 3,000 visitors attended.

Spirit is organised by volunteers who have launched a fundraising programme and a campaign to recruit helpers to run the event, visit [www.spiritoftenterden.co.uk](http://www.spiritoftenterden.co.uk) and click on Contact. You can help with the fundraising campaign via the Ashford Community Lottery.

Visit [www.ashfordcommunitylottery.co.uk](http://www.ashfordcommunitylottery.co.uk)



**9 - 11 June 2022**

**Wealden Times Midsummer Fair 2022**

Hole Park Gardens, TN17 4JA

Around 200 stalls will be selling goods for the home, garden, wellbeing and fashion with food, live music and workshops.

Adult £14.50, Child £7.00

[www.wealdentimes.ticketssrv.co.uk/tickets](http://www.wealdentimes.ticketssrv.co.uk/tickets)

**17 June 6.00pm – 10.30pm,**

**18 June 11.00am – 10.30pm,**

**CAMRA Real Ale & Cider Festival**

Tenterden Station, TN30 6HE

A wide range of real ales, ciders and Perry. Sit back enjoy a drink as you travel through the Beautiful Wealden Countryside. Food will be available and the BBQ open.

For details on admission charges visit [www.kesr.org.uk/camra-beer-festival](http://www.kesr.org.uk/camra-beer-festival)

**25 - 26 June 2022**

**Wealden Literary Festival**

Boldshaves Garden, Woodchurch, TN26 3RA

Immerse yourself in talks, workshops and outdoor activities and enjoy the gardens and woodland at Boldshaves.

More details: [www.wealdenliteraryfestival.co.uk](http://www.wealdenliteraryfestival.co.uk)

**9 July 12pm – 8pm**

**World in a Tent Multicultural Festival**

Victoria Park

Dance, music and food from around the world - African, Nepalese, Balkans, Syrian, Roma, Gypsy, Bollywood and Latin DJs, Tai-chi, arts and crafts stalls, a Bollywood Bazaar, cultural exhibitions, world picnic, workshops and activities. Free entry. (Supported with funding from ABC, ACE Lottery, KCC Reconnect).

**16 July**

**Open Air Theatre, The Pantaloons at Godinton House**

Godinton House & Gardens, Godinton House, TN23 3BP

Performed in the delightful Walled Garden in true Pantomime style, they will bring Much Ado About Nothing to life. Picnics from 5.30pm, performance from 6:30pm.

Purchase tickets [www.thepantaloons.co.uk](http://www.thepantaloons.co.uk)



**20 - 21 August 2022,**

**Biddenden Tractorfest 2022**

Holden Farm, Sissinghurst Road, TN27 8EZ

Biddenden Tractorfest is an annual event, run by the registered charity Kent County Agricultural Society along with a team of volunteers. Enjoy tractor rides, numerous arena displays such as dog shows, falconry, working horses, craft stalls, children's entertainment, enticing local artisan food & drink and fantastic live music and so much more.

Get more information on these events and see what else is on: [www.visitashfordandtenterden.co.uk](http://www.visitashfordandtenterden.co.uk)

## The Stour Centre & Julie Rose Stadium

Join online or get in touch to find out more 01233 663503

**The Stour Centre**

Station Approach, Ashford TN23 1ET

**Julie Rose Stadium**

Willesborough Rd, Kennington, Ashford TN24 9QX

Fitness and fun for all the family – come & see us soon!



[www.thestourcentre.co.uk](http://www.thestourcentre.co.uk)

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These exciting events are coming up later this year...

- Autumn: Create Music Village: Throughout October 2022
- Winter: Carnival of the Baubles: Saturday 3 December



**5 June**  
**Big Jubilee Lunch featuring 'Barklife' on Watercress Fields**

**Victoria Park**  
 A free community picnic for residents surrounding the park to celebrate the Jubilee. Join us between 10am and 3pm, see the Jubilee Tree and make your own decoration to add to it, take part in games and creative activities. Four paw family members welcome too with a free fun dog show!

**23 July**  
**Mr Harpers Birthday**

An event celebrating Mr Harper the Victorian philanthropist who donated the Hubert Fountain and two stag statues to the park. Listen to a new music piece created by a composer and local young people based on the heritage of the fountain. There will also be other performances to see and fun activities to do.

**23 - 29 July**  
**Kids Take Over Week**

Local young people will be taking over Victoria Park! A week of activities designed by, chosen by and aimed at young people including a Social Media Take Over and small pop-up activities in the park. Young people, schools and groups that would like to get involved can contact the Youth Involvement Co-ordinator Nicola via email at [nicola.priest@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.priest@ashford.gov.uk)

Attendees to Victoria Park and Watercress Fields events over summer should be aware of potential disruption to toilets and parking due to ongoing project works in the park.

For more information and updates about Victoria Park Project events please visit [www.victoriaparkashford.co.uk](http://www.victoriaparkashford.co.uk)



**The Fabric of Ashford Returns!**

Ashford's high street will come to life again this summer with an explosion of colour as beautiful fabric creations decorate the Bandstand and town centre as part of The Fabric of Ashford; an inspiring art installation created by and for the local Ashford community.

With the grand finale taking place on Saturday 20 August, we'll be sharing more details of the project on all of our usual channels over the coming weeks, so look out for how you can get involved.







# TENTERDEN FAMILY FUN TRAIL



## Ales and Rails group tour - various dates

Minimum group size 15 people. On arrival at the Kent & East Sussex Railway station in Tenterden, you'll start your tour with a 45-minute Talk & Tasting Session at the Old Dairy Brewery in the Taproom. Then take the 1.15pm steam train where, if you opt for it, you will be served a delicious ploughmans lunch while travelling through the Rother valley. The return journey takes two hours, which includes a brief stop at Bodiam. For details including costs visit [www.olddairybrewery.com/partner-tours](http://www.olddairybrewery.com/partner-tours)

## Tenterden Family Fun Trail

Have you picked up the free Family Fun Trail of Tenterden yet? For all ages and abilities, explore and discover Tenterden and its history in a fun-filled way.

Available from over 30 locations, it's a fact-finding compendium on this ancient town with even a piece of treasure to be had (a keepsake badge!). It was created by historian Jane Mills with help from Tenterden Town Council and designed by Vincent Design and illustrated by Andy Robert-Davies.

## Time to dust off the bike

Cycling UK have launched a new long-distance cycle route that will start and end in Wye. The 145-mile tour of Kent is called Cantii Way, which celebrates Kent's landscape, culture and history. The loop circles through quiet ways, country lanes, byways and bridleways and is designed to be manageable by anyone of reasonable fitness on most bike types. You can ride the route over three to four days in one go or it can be split into smaller routes, with incredible sights like Deal Castle and The White Cliffs of Dover.

To find out more visit [www.cyclinguk.org](http://www.cyclinguk.org)



# Thanks for your patience while we upgrade our Ashford site from Southern Water

After many people in the Kennington area complained about smells coming from our Ashford Wastewater Treatment Works, we're working closely with Ashford Borough Council and the Environment Agency to carry out upgrades and improvements to the site.

We've completed a thorough odour assessment and agreed an ambitious improvement plan in November 2020. A delivery team is now in place to carry out the necessary work.

The £3.5 million capital project includes covering up sludge tanks, monitoring and reviewing the efficiency of odour control equipment, reducing the impact of gases from tankers, installing automatic storm tank cleaning systems, addressing the storage and handling of treated sludge, fitting an additional odour control plant, and decommissioning disused open tanks.

## Are we there yet?

A lot of work is currently being undertaken on the site, including:

- Installation of an effective and automated cleaning system on all our storm tanks which will prevent waste deposits decomposing in the open channels and creating unpleasant smells.
- Off-gases from waste tankers are now being extracted and treated before being released into the atmosphere.
- Processed 'cake' (e.g. treated sludge) has been relocated, away from our site boundaries. The sludge treatment facility is being optimised in order to ensure the absolute minimal quantity of solids is kept on site at all times.

We're now focused on covering a large surface of waste holding tanks, as well as finishing installing a new Odour Control Unit to make sure odours emitted are captured and treated adequately.

We plan to complete the project in late 2022. In the meantime, residents continue to receive regular updates. As part of the site's normal operation, the team also follows an odour management plan, carrying out twice-daily checks which are reported to our Regional Control Centre so that they can respond to any potential enquiries from local residents with the most up-to-date information.

## What about green sustainable solutions?

Alongside this improvement project, the on-site team has planted a total of 70 trees and shrubs to act as an odour screen in more sensitive areas. Once fully grown, these will also promote biodiversity while contributing to our pledge to achieve net zero carbon by 2030.

## Is it working?

The team is making good progress and, as we continue to work closely with Ashford Borough Council and the Environment Agency, the benefits of the scheme are already showing. While odour at our Wastewater Treatment Works can be a tricky issue to manage, particularly during the summer, the number of odour complaints sent to us by local residents between June and September 2021 had dropped 91% for our Ashford site (compared with the same period in 2020).



from Southern Water

# Priceless smiles thanks to versatile new play areas

Improving the health and wellbeing of our residents through accessible leisure facilities across all ages is one of our top priorities. Did you know that Hunter Avenue in Willesborough is now home to a brand new play area? Enjoy our visual montage of the new facilities on offer and find out what else is in the pipeline for the community...



## What's next?

We have been overwhelmed by the positive reaction that we've seen on social media when sharing updates on play areas across the borough. Work is now underway to design and deliver new facilities at Central Park at Park Farm, Spearpoint Recreation Ground in Kennington and Ryland Road open space at Bockhanger.

Visit [www.ashford.gov.uk/play-area-refurbishment](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/play-area-refurbishment) to see more images of the proposed new facilities and to see a full list of completed projects so far. Follow our social media channels for the latest updates.



Mayor Cllr Callum Knowles, who cut the ribbon on the big day was joined by four little helpers and was given blessing scarves to wear by the local Nepalese community. Free ice cream was a big hit!

Over 150 people attended the event including local councillors and stakeholders, following on from a consultation with local residents and school children in early 2020. The results were used to shape the final design for the new play area.



# Safer Streets – making Ashford town centre safer



In Autumn 2021, following a successful bid to the Home Office, Ashford was awarded almost £550,000 to make the streets of its town centre safer, particularly for women and girls.

Officers from Ashford Borough Council and Kent Police have been working to implement the project. Here's what has been delivered...

- The creation of the Ashford Streetwise app
- Active Bystander training has been delivered to more than 180 front line staff from businesses operating in the town centre
- A network of Safe Spaces - premises people can go to if they need help and support when out in the town centre (look out for the window sticker or find them on the app)
- Additional Ashford Partnership Against Crime radios purchased to increase the number of guardians in the town centre (and support Safe Spaces)
- 20 school presentations, emphasising key safety messages and the importance of respect and healthy relationships
- CCTV cameras have been installed in Edinburgh Road car park and at Elwick Place, eight public space cameras have been installed in the town centre as well as wall-mounted mirrors to improve sightlines
- Improvements to the Memorial Gardens to remove undergrowth and replace the perimeter fence
- Purchase and distribution of:
  - Smarttag to licensed premises
  - Personal safety equipment
  - Pressure washer and litter picking equipment (below)



Image right, top: Presentations have been made to schools.

Images right, middle and bottom (before and after): Fencing around the Memorial Gardens has been replaced.



**Ashford Streetwise App**  
 Ashford Streetwise is an innovative, new Smartphone App which identifies the areas and routes in and around the town centre with the best safety provision, such as monitored CCTV, good street lighting, high footfall, Safe Spaces and high presence of guardians.  
 The app also offers safety features such as SOS, alerts and defibrillator and emergency trauma pack locations.  
 Download the app for free via your Apple or Android app store.

**Safe Spaces**  
 A Safe Space is a designated premises open to any member of the public in need of immediate help and support, by means of assistance in contacting an appropriate carer, friend, family member or emergency services.  
 If you feel unsafe and want to wait for a lift, feel unwell and require help, feel uncomfortable with a group of individuals, have been the victim of crime or are in any situation where you feel you need assistance, you can enter any premises displaying the 'Safe Space' logo and ask for help without fear of embarrassment.  
 You can also find the location of your nearest 'Safe Space' through the Ashford Streetwise app.



# WIN

## Family Passes on Kent & East Sussex Railway



Summer is for adventures! For a truly memorable, historic one – whatever the weather – jump aboard a heritage steam or diesel train and sit back in comfort to ride through the unspoilt countryside from Tenterden to Bodiam. You can even pre-book a kids munch bag for them and treat yourself to a cream tea or ploughmans. We're dog-friendly so the family pooch can come too!

We have four family passes up for grabs, each enabling four people (two adults and two children or one adult and three children) to enjoy a fun-filled day. Passes are valid for one visit, for one year from date of issue, and exclude refreshments and special events. For full details of services visit [kesr.org.uk](http://kesr.org.uk)



## Sign up to the brand new McArthurGlen Club and be in with a chance of winning a £200 gift card

Fancy having a spending spree on McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Ashford while walking in a beautiful open air centre which houses Europe's largest living wall and over 90 designer brands at up to 60% less?

All you need to do is sign up to our brand new McArthurGlen Club by 12 noon on Friday 1 July, for a chance to win a £200 gift card to spend at the Ashford Designer Outlet and be the first to hear about any exclusive offers and events. Sign up now by visiting [www.mcarthurglen.com/formagazinecompetition](http://www.mcarthurglen.com/formagazinecompetition)



To enter your name into our Kent & East Sussex Railway draw only either:

\* Email the editorial team at [competition@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:competition@ashford.gov.uk) – put KESR competition 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 KESR competition entry on the card. We will contact the winners to request consent to provide your contact details to KESR to enable you to claim your prize.

**Terms & conditions:** 1. The competition is open to UK residents aged 18 years or older except employees of the Promoter, their families, agents or any third party associated with the competition. 2. The closing date of the competition is **12 noon on Friday 1 July 2022**. Entries received after this time will not be included. The prizes are non-transferable and non-refundable. There are no cash alternatives. 3. By accepting the prize you also agree to be bound by standard terms and conditions specified by the prize providers. Only one entry per person. Editor's decision is final.

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COUNTY **SQ**



From **A-Z** in Ashford

X

F



E

B



A

County Square shopping centre, in the heart of Ashford's town centre, has over 50 stores all under one roof.

next



smiggle



The Works

W  
Waterstone's



NEW  
LOOK

PANDORA

The Entertainer

COSTA

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