

ASHFORD FOR YOU

Issue 15 | Winter 2021

YOUR BOROUGH, YOUR MAGAZINE



CARNIVAL OF THE BAUBLES

Dazzling winter extravaganza returns

THE ENFORCERS

A SPORTING CHANCE

WIN

- Macknade goodies
- Fine Kentish wine and vineyard tour



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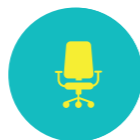


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Welcome



Welcome to the winter edition of *Ashford For You*, where we celebrate the festive season with a profile of events planned across our borough. After a pandemic-enforced break

last year, I'm delighted to see the return of our glittering Carnival of the Baubles in Ashford and there's also news of events guaranteed to bring festive cheer to the streets of Tenterden.

I know that the *Ashford For You* editorial team always appreciate receiving your ideas and suggestions for features and news, and several of these have made it into this issue. Please keep them coming – email the team at media@ashford.gov.uk or call 01233 330543.

There's a really strong community feel about this edition. Our newest community at Chilmington Green continues to grow, with exciting news about new schools to serve the local population. Residents in Kingsnorth have teamed up to transform wasteland into a haven for all to enjoy, while our local community radio station, Radio Ashford, prepares to celebrate its tenth anniversary.

Finally, more than 930 entries were received for our three competitions in the autumn edition as readers again enjoyed engaging with the magazine. Added to the numerous comments and feedback we received about features carried in the last issue and it's clear that the people of the borough continue to enjoy and value their community magazine.

Tracey Kerly

Tracey Kerly
Chief executive, Ashford Borough Council

Contents

News	4-6
Holocaust Memorial Day, Revelation events and much more	
Loveashford rebrand	7
Loving Loveashford's new look; plus Localise launches	
Christmas spectacular	8-9
Carnival of the Baubles and festive fun lights up Tenterden	
Winter gas safety	10
Top tips for keeping safe this winter	
Focus on licensing	11
Food labelling and running a business from home	
Environment special	12-15
Christmas bin collections and our enforcement team cleans up	
	
Chilmington Green	16-17
Focus on schools at our growing garden village	
Victoria Park	18
Ashford's first pump track and much more	
Radio Ashford anniversary	19
A decade of championing the community	
The Limes Community Garden	20
Green fingered residents transform wasteland	
Sporting Chance	21
We team up with Charlton Athletic FC on youth campaign	
Competitions	22
Win Macknade hampers and Woodchurch wine	

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Call: 01233 330543 or
Email: media@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:

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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Customer Services

Email: customer.care@ashford.gov.uk or Call: 01233 331111
or write to us at the above address.
Find your borough councillor: www.ashford.gov.uk/councillors

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

A magical Revelation

Get in the festive spirit with Revelation Ashford as Maddy Prior teams up with the Carnival Band on 10 December for Carols & Capers performing a range of festive fare. On 14 January experience the ultimate Celine Dion tribute concert on a magical ride through four decades of hits. In February Everything Changes showcases the songs of Take That. Visit www.revelationashford.co.uk



Have your digital say...

We are currently consulting on our next IT, Digital and Customer Service Strategy. If you'd like to have your say on our future direction then please visit www.ashford.gov.uk/it-digital-and-customer-service-strategy-consultation. The consultation is open to the public until Friday 17 December 2021.

We are always keen to receive feedback on our services. You can leave feedback on our website by clicking on the smiley face logo at the bottom right of any of our webpages.

We have also published a series of videos on our website that demonstrate how to complete simple tasks online. These tutorials include how to make a payment, an application, or how to report something. For more information please visit www.ashford.gov.uk/website-help.

One Day for Holocaust Memorial Day

Plans are being made to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day across the borough on 27 January 2022 - please visit www.ashford.gov.uk/holocaust-memorial-day for more details.

Holocaust Memorial Day is the day when we remember the millions of people who were murdered in the Holocaust as a result of Nazi

persecution and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The theme for 2022 will be 'One Day', symbolising the hope that there may be 'One Day' in the future with no genocide and the 'One Day' that people can set aside to remember and learn from past events. For more information visit www.hmd.org.uk



Remembering HMS Albacore



During the early stages of World War II, the enemy sank many Allied ships and pressure was mounting on the Royal Navy to provide escorts for convoys in the Atlantic. "Warship Week", a British National Savings Campaign, was organised in cities, towns and villages throughout Britain to raise funds for the building of new warships.

In this time of need, the people of Ashford borough came together and staged a successful week of fundraising in February 1942. On the 16 June 1942 HMS Albacore, the borough's chosen warship and crew were officially adopted and that month the Ashford Sea Cadet Unit was established and affiliated to HMS Albacore.



HMS Albacore was an Algerine-Class Minesweeper which was ordered from Harland and Wolff, Belfast. It was 225ft long, had a top speed of 16.5 knots and a crew of ten. Despite being under constant bombardment, HMS Albacore patrolled the seas north of Africa sweeping mines and clearing the waters to enable the Allied invasions of North Africa, Sicily and Italy. A plaque - "Presented by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to East Ashford Rural District to commemorate the adoption of HMS Albacore during Warships Week February 28th 1942" sits proudly on display at Ashford Museum, along with the HMS Albacore crest and a dress uniform worn by one of her commanding officers, telling the story of one of the borough's finest, but lesser known moments in history.

Information on celebrations to mark the 80th anniversary of HMS Albacore and the Ashford Sea Cadets in June 2022 will be available online.



Panto? Oh yes it is!

Ashford's only professional family pantomime returns this Christmas as Blue Phoenix Productions present Dick Whittington at Brake Hall in Ashford School from 20 December to 3 January.

Audiences join Dick Whittington and his Cat on their journey from the streets of London to a spectacular voyage across the seven seas. The show will be spectacularly brought to life with rib-tickling comedy, stunning sets, fabulous costumes, plenty of magic and audience participation. Tickets are priced from £12.

This year the cast will be joined on stage by a team of professional dancers and a chorus of local children. Book your tickets at www.ashfordpantomime.co.uk or call 01233 367399.

Ashford in Bloom

Thanks to all those green-fingered readers who took part in our Ashford in Bloom gardening competition this summer. We had a record number of entries for the seven categories - watch out for our next edition in March to see the winning entries!

Competition winners

More than 930 entries were received for our three fantastic competitions in the last issue. The winner of a Premier Plus Annual Membership at the Stour Centre is Emma McQuillan, while enjoying a succulent free range festive bird courtesy of Kent Turkeys is Paul Ticehurst. The two winners of a meal for two people at Unita 4 at Elwick Place are Stephanie Jury and Graeme Rumley Thanks to everyone who took part - see page 22 for our latest fantastic competitions.



New look leisure pool makes a splash

The refurbishment of the leisure pool and learner pool at The Stour Centre is complete. Swimmers can ride the flumes and experience all the new play features.

The pool now boasts an exciting array of new water play features to make a visit to the leisure pool even more fun and interactive than ever before for younger swimmers. Book at www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/centres/the-stour-centre/



Getting in touch over Christmas

If you need to contact us during the festive period, our Christmas and New Year opening schedule at the Civic Centre is as follows:

- * 20-23 December open;
- * 24-28 December closed;
- * 29-31 December open;
- * 3 January closed;
- * 4 January open.

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The Big Tidy

Watch out for the next 'Big Tidy' event in your area! We are taking our The Big Tidy events on tour around the borough. Are you a community group who wants to clean up a certain area you live in? Maybe your village hall needs a spruce up. Why not organise a Big Tidy?

Big Tidy events are all about empowering communities to take pride in their area and come together to clean it up. From litter picking to cutting bushes, washing

bins and signs to cleaning off graffiti and painting, all tasks are guided by a member of the council's environment team, one of our contractors or a member of the parish council. All residents have to do is turn up on the day, choose what they wish to do and tidy up.

If you are a parish or community group keen to organise a Big Tidy just register your interest at www.ashford.gov.uk/outdoor-spaces/litter-free-ashford



A tree-mendous start!

We are committed to lowering our carbon footprint and as part of this challenge, we recently announced that in support of the Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy project we will be planting / supporting the planting of 135,000 trees over the next three years.

Our new tree wardens are now trained and ready to get started in their new roles. A huge thank you to the 11 volunteers, who have signed up, donned their uniform and undergone their induction training.

The team have taken up the opportunity to work with other volunteers, to make a tangible difference to the local environment and use their skills to support the wider community in growing and maintaining our valuable tree canopies.

Trees are so important, not only on a local level improving our wellbeing by giving us beautiful places to walk or providing building materials, but fundamentally

supporting the planet through carbon storage, oxygen production, wildlife habitats and preventing soil erosion.

The wardens will not only plant trees themselves, but support Aspire Landscape Management with action days and events, using their skills to work with other community groups and volunteers. They'll also play an important role by helping to inspect newly planted trees, control vegetation, monitoring condition and check stakes and guards.

To help us work proactively, woodland areas will be assigned to wardens to inspect, which will give us additional resources to identify risks, unhealthy or damaged trees and report issues directly back to Aspire.

If you are interested in becoming a tree warden please email treewarden@ashford.gov.uk and we can provide you with further information and update you on the waiting list for training.



80 trees for 80 years

To mark the 80th anniversary of the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR), 80 native oak trees will be planted around Britain in honour of the refugees that escaped from Nazi-occupied Europe.

Ashford has been invited to play a part in this project and we'll be planting an oak tree in the

borough on Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January 2022, courtesy of the AJR.

During the nine months leading up to World War II, Great Engham Farm in Woodchurch acted as a transit camp for Jewish children aged between 13-16 years old. Between 300-350 children passed through the



camp before being moved to Devon when Kent was designated as off limits to so-called enemy aliens.

To learn more about the initiative visit www.ajr.org.uk/latest-news/80-trees-for-80-years

Stop press!

Do you want to be the first with the news? More than 500 residents have already signed up for our e-newsletter to receive the latest council news, exclusive information about partners, details of upcoming events and fantastic competitions. To join them simply sign up here: www.ashford.gov.uk/contact-us/get-updates-from-the-council



LOVE LOCAL LOVE ASHFORD

Have you noticed something different lighting up our high street recently? Our town centre brand, Loveashford, has had a radical makeover. With a new look and website, Loveashford is the digital destination for all your town centre news, offers and events information. On the site you will find:

- A business directory, with regularly updated information on businesses new and old
- Events – what's coming and how to get involved
- Offers – get discounts, find promotions and enter competitions
- Useful visitor information – travel guides, community toilet scheme participants and feeding friendly venues
- Articles – business spotlights, where to eat and drink, shopping guides and more
- Newsletter – sign up to Loveashford's newsletter, full of exclusive town centre content

Started more than seven years ago as part of the Portas Pilot, Loveashford has evolved to nurture our local business community, offering support, networking opportunities, marketing and support with events and campaigns to bring the best of the high street directly to shoppers.

Businesses can join the Loveashford directory today – email us at love.ashford@ashford.gov.uk Visit the new look Loveashford www.loveashford.com

Or follow Loveashford on social media:

@loveashford @loveashford @love_ashford @loveashford



Localise, the new 'High street in your hands' app

Mobile app Localise has launched in Ashford and Tenterden to support independent retailers.

The app is the brainchild of Kent entrepreneur Ashleigh Cornelius, who said: "Localise aims to level the playing field for independents through the app, which enables small businesses to establish a digital presence in the community and connect with local shoppers."

"For independent retailers, Localise offers simplified community building tools and an intuitive interface that makes online selling a social affair."

"Shoppers also benefit as Localise brings locally sourced products and services directly to their smartphones, delivering a premium shopping experience that supports their local community. Soon local shoppers will be able to earn commission for helpful suggestions and receive rewards that can be redeemed at local indie retailers."

Melissa Dawkins, owner of Made in Ashford, said: "Localise's approach is really personal. I can see the app being a great tool for reaching out and promoting local businesses to the community."

Andrew Laughland, owner of The Snug who have premises in Ashford and Tenterden, said: "The team have been great to work with and have been addressing the challenges the high streets are facing with very personal and authentic approaches."



Find out more about Localise at www.localiseapp.com, info@localiseapp.com

@localise @localiseapp



Carnival of the Baubles is back!

Did you parade the streets of Ashford town centre in 2019 as part of Carnival of the Baubles? Well, the good news is this year it's back and bigger than ever!



Loveashford, in conjunction with Emergency Exit Arts, Made in Ashford and other local artists, are bringing Carnival of the Baubles back to our high street with a magical parade of hand-crafted lanterns.

This Christmas, Carnival of the Baubles will shine a light on those who call our town home, with a focus on what makes Ashford special and the experience of moving to Ashford for those who have come from somewhere else – be it from London, Kabul or Kathmandu!

Themed around disco and dancing, this year's parade will host a special appearance from Emergency Exit Art's Disco Turtle – a giant mechanical puppet that will lead the procession full of glitter and light through the town, accompanied by the best disco tunes!

When: Saturday 11 December

Where: Parade starts at Elwick Place at 5pm and ends in the Lower High Street

Find out more: Follow Loveashford on Instagram for live updates on the evening

www.loveashford.com

@loveashford



Photo courtesy of Sue Ferguson@MyTenterden

Festive fun in Tenterden

A sea of twinkling Christmas lights are greeting visitors to Tenterden this year as the town serves up a host of festive fun with a Friday High Street market and also Late Night Christmas shopping celebrations.

Both organised by the Town Council, the days in November and December are designed to give the local economy a boost in the run up to Christmas. The Friday High Street Market, boasting a variety of quality stalls, runs from 9am until 2pm on 10 and 17 December, followed by special Late Night Christmas Shopping events on the same days.

Tenterden Mayor, Dr Lisa Lovelidge, said: "We are all aware of the challenges everyone has faced during the pandemic, and indeed many continue to do so. The Town Council is doing our best to ensure Christmas can be celebrated and enjoyed in a calm but very festive environment.

"We are expecting a busy run-up to Christmas for our traders. We are proud of our many independent shops as well as some more established national ones."

For more details visit www.tenterdentowncouncil.gov.uk/en/events and also www.mytenterden.co.uk

Saturday 11 December

Carnival of the Baubles will be the finale in an action-packed day on Saturday 11 December:

Where: Procession starts at Elwick Place at 5pm and ends in the Lower High Street

10am – 6pm: Park Mall Makers Market – Christmas version!

11am – 2pm: Live Music on the Bandstand from Revelation Ashford

11.15am – 3pm: Live Music in Elwick Place

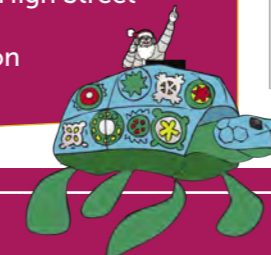
10am – 2pm: Public lantern-making workshop at the Craftship (opposite Made in Ashford, Park Mall)

4pm – 8pm: Evening Food Market by Kent Food Hubs (Lower High Street)

5pm: Procession starts from Elwick Place

6pm: Procession ends at Lower High Street

6–8pm: Family disco and rave on the Bandstand



Please note: all event plans correct at the time of publishing and have been planned in line with the latest COVID-19 Government guidance. The organisers reserve the right to withdraw these events at any time or introduce extra measures to preserve public safety should guidance change.

I Don't be the 1 in 4...

Seven million homes in the UK – that's one in four households – have dangerous gas appliances, according to gas safety experts Gas Safe Register. They say that one in three people have used excuses to avoid having their gas appliances checked.

Gas Safe Register said seven million UK homes have potentially dangerous gas appliances, including boilers, cookers and gas fires. These faults pose a threat to life from gas leaks, fires, carbon monoxide poisoning and explosions. It says many homeowners have a 'if it ain't broke don't fix it' mentality to annual safety checks.

Gas Safe Register is the official list of gas businesses registered to work legally on appliances. Anyone working with gas must be on the Register. Visit www.gassaferegister.co.uk/find-an-engineer.

Council housing inspections

For gas appliances the council own we arrange for a Gas Safe engineer to service the fire and boiler and undertake a safety check each year. When we contact you to arrange an appointment, please help us ensure it takes place. The

servicing only takes 30-45 minutes. Failure to allow access will lead to court action to gain access, with the costs charged to you. Tenants are responsible for safety checks on any gas appliances they own.

Tenancy agreements do not allow the use of portable gas heaters in council homes, due to concerns about the maintenance, safety and storage of combustible gas heaters.

Used efficiently, gas central heating is the best and safest way to keep your home warm, while using portable gas heaters or alternative forms of heating instead of your central heating can sometimes be more costly. See the links below to find out more about grants available to keep your home warm.

If you are in a rented home and feel improvements are needed to insulate and draught-proof the property then contact your landlord. You can also contact us by email at privatesectorhousing@ashford.gov.uk to address issues relating to cold homes. For details of private sector grants available to improve your property visit www.ashford.gov.uk/housing/grants/private-sector-grants.

Getting help with your energy bills

Warm Home Discount: £140 annually off electricity bills for those eligible. Visit www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme

Winter fuel allowance: payments for pensioners and vulnerable £100-£300 annually. Visit www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment

Cold weather payments is a scheme run by the government from 1 Nov to 31 March every year, those eligible could receive £25/wk. Visit www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment

Green Doctors: A charity which offers free advice on saving money on your energy bills. The charity provides help in understanding how to use energy and heating systems and understanding bills and accessing help for energy debt. Visit south.greendoctors.org.uk

Debt assistance: If you're struggling with debt find advice and help through Citizen Advice www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/help-with-debt

Grants to help pay off your energy debts. Visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/grants-and-benefits-to-help-you-pay-your-energy-bills

For general energy saving advice on reducing your energy bills or making your home warmer, visit Simple Energy www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk

Top tips for home safety

- Learn the six main symptoms of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning – headaches, nausea, dizziness, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness and teach them to others.
- Check gas appliances for warning signs that they are not working properly – lazy yellow flames instead of crisp blue ones, black sooty marks or stains on or around the appliance and high levels of condensation in the room.
- Fit an audible carbon monoxide alarm to alert you if there is carbon monoxide present.
- Don't block air vents. They provide a flow of air for the safe operation of boilers and fires.
- Have all your gas appliances safety checked every year by a Gas Safe registered expert.

Buy and Sell with Confidence



Natasha's Law

We have become used to seeing details about allergens listed on the wrapped products we buy, but since October 2021 allergy sufferers are now better protected by a new law. 'Natasha's law' it requires more foods to be labelled with this information and makes it easier to make safe choices about the food you buy.

Businesses must put full ingredients and allergen labelling on foods, which have been already prepared and packed on the premises, before you place your order (such as a salad). This change came about following the death of teenager Natasha Ednan-Laperouse after an allergic reaction to a baguette she had eaten, which did not display allergen information on the packaging.

There are 14 major allergens this applies to including nuts, dairy, and fish. The full list and information for consumers and businesses can be found at www.food.gov.uk/allergen-labelling-changes-for-prepacked-for-direct-sale-pfds-food

Consume with confidence

Many enterprising people started their own small businesses operating from home during the pandemic and this has made it easier to support local when you are choosing products.

But how do you know you are buying safely? You need to know that the business is operating safely and is not going to put you at risk. Many businesses need to be registered or licensed by the council, including:

- Food businesses – those making meals, sandwiches, cakes etc.
- Skin piercing (ear piercing, tattooists, Botox, microblading etc.)
- Businesses working with animals such as dog boarding, doggy day care, cat boarding or selling of pets

You can check that a business is properly registered in several ways. You may know about the food hygiene rating scheme

- all food businesses are inspected and given a hygiene rating which you can see at ratings.food.gov.uk.

This includes small home caterers. If the business you are about to buy your food from is not on the site then it's not registered with the council and may not have been checked to make sure it is producing food that is safe.

To check the person offering to ink a tattoo, or look after your dog is registered or licenced by the council you can check at licensing.ashford.gov.uk.

If you see something that you are concerned about or is not on these lists, let us know by email env.health@ashford.gov.uk.

Running a business from home?

Did you know that if you set up one of the following businesses you need to ensure you are registered or licensed, as well as making sure you meet any planning requirements:

- Food business
- Skin piercing (tattooing, ear piercing, semi-permanent make up, Botox)
- Animal activities like boarding, day care and riding establishments

Head to our website, complete an application and pay the required fee (there's no fee for food registration). An inspector will contact you to discuss the things you need to have in place to operate safely and within the law.



For information on food business registration visit: www.ashford.gov.uk/food-business-registration

For skin piercing visit: www.ashford.gov.uk/skin-piercing

For activities involving animals visit: www.ashford.gov.uk/animal-licences

Please ensure bins are presented prior to 6am

Christmas recycling & refuse collections 21/22

Check out the 2021/2022 calendar below for details of your refuse and recycling collection days.

Week	Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Recycling	Mon 20 Dec	No Change
	Tues 21 Dec	No Change
	Wed 22 Dec	No Change
	Thurs 23 Dec	No Change
	Fri 24 Dec	No Change
Refuse	Mon 27 Dec	No Change
	Tue 28 Dec	No Change
	Wed 29 Dec	No Change
	Thurs 30 Dec	No Change
	Fri 31 Dec	No Change
Recycling	Mon 3 Jan	No Change
	Tue 4 Jan	No Change
	Wed 5 Jan	No Change
	Thurs 6 Jan	No Change
	Fri 7 Jan	No Change

Green bin

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



Grey bin

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



Remember.... Do the scrunch test!

- Only non-foil paper is accepted for recycling.
- To check, scrunch up the paper and if it doesn't spring back then it is non-foil and can be recycled.
- Please remove ribbons and bows from your paper and maybe keep them to reuse next year.
- All extra cardboard boxes can be flattened to save space and placed next to your recycling bin for collection.



Christmas Tree Recycling



This special fundraising campaign is celebrating its 10th anniversary. In that time, more than £125,000 has been raised for local hospice care. The campaign offers real Christmas tree collections from homes across the Ashford borough.

Ashford residents can register their real Christmas tree for collection. Pilgrims volunteer elves will collect the tree from your home and take it for recycling. In 2020 a record breaking 1,350 real Christmas trees were collected by the charity, raising more than

£21,000 for vital end-of-life care.

Ashford Borough Council is proud to support our local hospice and we're hoping even more people will register and donate to have their tree collected and recycled. Register your real tree for collection by midnight on 6 January 2022 by visiting www.pilgrimshospices.org/treerecycling

Pilgrims Hospices team of volunteer elves will safely collect your tree to be recycled from Saturday 15 – Tuesday 18 January 2022.

Sleigh festive food waste!

Use your food caddy 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!



Bulky collections & garden waste

Bulky waste collections will be suspended from Monday 27 December 2021 to Monday 10 January 2022. Garden waste collections will also be suspended for the two week festive period and resume as usual on Monday 10 January 2022.

Clinical collections

Weekly Monday clinical collections will be as normal on Monday 21 December and Monday 28 December 2021 and also on Monday 3 January 2022.



To report a missed bin collection visit www.ashford.gov.uk/recycling-waste-and-bins



THE ENFORCERS

Our new Environmental Enforcement Team has had a huge impact, clamping down on illegal flytipping and handing out fines totalling £4,500 to nearly a dozen offenders within months of starting work.

Due to the highly sensitive nature of their jobs – and the very real threat to their safety in the face of verbal abuse and threats they sometimes receive from aggrieved offenders who are confronted with their crimes – we must protect the team’s identities.

Led by Steve, a no-nonsense straight-talking 20 year military veteran, the team work closely with Kent Police, Trading Standards, the Environment Agency and other local councils to investigate alleged offences and to bring offenders to justice whenever possible.

Many of the leads that end with offenders being caught come from residents alerting us to flytipping incidents by using the Report It page on the council’s website – see www.ashford.gov.uk/environmental-concerns/report-a-street-issue/fly-tipping

“We welcome the public’s help to clamp down on the scourge of flytipping and other environmental crimes,” said Steve. “They are our eyes and ears in communities across the borough and with their support we are much more effective in investigating incidents and catching those responsible whenever there’s enough evidence to do so.”

Photos taken, evidence bagged

So what happens when the team become aware of an alleged flytipping incident, either via an alert from the public via the ‘report it’ page or from other sources? A team member will visit the site, take photos and sift through the rubbish and debris looking for documents, receipts or other paperwork that might identify a householder or business involved. Any evidence will be bagged and sealed before arrangements are made to clear the site.

The detective work then moves from fieldwork to desktop, with databases used to track down the suspected culprits. They are contacted and invited to attend an interview under caution, which is recorded. Evidence is presented and they are questioned about how their waste ended up being illegally dumped.

Steve said: “At this point people are often keen to co-operate and if they paid someone else to dispose of the rubbish for them they will give us whatever information they have about the waste carrier, which we will use to investigate further.”

Deterrent effect

The presence of an enforcement team, who are already proving hugely effective in hitting flytippers in the pocket, is expected to have a strong deterrent effect, which is why the team is adopting a high profile across the borough, both in urban and rural areas.

They have already carried out foot patrols in Tenterden high street, looking out for evidence of littering and dog fouling. Meanwhile early morning foot patrols are planned at known dog fouling hotspots in parts of Ashford, with the intention of speaking to dog walkers and, if necessary, the issuing of fixed penalty notices to dog owners where offences are committed.

Steve and his team work closely with farmers, landowners and Kent Police’s Rural Task Force to investigate incidents across Kent’s largest borough.

Secluded rural locations are often favoured by flytippers and the team is currently working with one local farmer who has suffered no fewer than three separate flytips on his land in less than six months. Despite painstaking examination of the rubbish, no evidence was found to pinpoint the culprits and so the team is working with Kent County Council to set up high tech surveillance equipment.

One highly successful joint operation saw the team work alongside Kent Police on Ashford’s ring road to stop vehicles suspected of being involved in the illegal carriage of waste. 11 vans and small trucks were stopped by police officers and the drivers questioned by the council’s enforcement team.

Three drivers failed to produce information to prove that they were registered Environment Agency Waste Carriers, including failure to produce documentation (Waste Transfer Notes) for the waste being carried. Each was served with Section 34 & Section 5 Notices, which means a £300 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for each offence if they fail to provide the documentation within the required time.

The joint operation also led to investigations into an unlicensed scrap collector operating in the area. More of these operations are being planned, working both with the Rural Task Force in the borough’s more rural areas and across towns and villages.



Duty of Care

The team regularly speaks with local businesses about their Duty of Care responsibilities, enquiring about the disposal of their business waste. As a result, a number of businesses have failed to provide information and have admitted that they had no official agreements in place with their waste carriers.

Our team is working with Kent County Council to arrange for business owners to attend courses for education in their responsibilities.

Steve said: “I urge the residents of Ashford to ensure that they dispose of their waste responsibly and to continue reporting incidences of flytipping on the council website.

“Residents and businesses have a duty of care when it comes to their waste disposal. This means they must ensure that any contractor they hire has a waste carriers licence otherwise they could end up with a £400 fine.

“My team is determined to tackle the blight of flytipping, littering, dog fouling and other environmental crimes across the beautiful borough of Ashford” he added.

How to dispose of your waste responsibly

Fly tippers often target households via social media or local advertising, luring customers in with cheap rates to dispose of unwanted furniture, building rubble or garden waste. But these unlicensed waste carriers often simply dump the waste wherever they can get away with it, including in Ashford’s country lanes.

Householders or small businesses found to be using these people to dispose of their waste can, and are, being prosecuted by Ashford Borough Council, with FPNs of up to £400 per offence. Failure to pay a FPN may result in court action where fines can be significantly larger.

If using a commercial service, you should check whether someone is licensed to carry waste by visiting the Environment Agency website environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers. Alternatively call 03708 506506. It also helps if householders receive a written receipt or transfer note, including contact details, description of waste removed and details of where the waste is being taken to.

CHILMINGTON GOES BACK TO SCHOOL

With a new primary school opening and plans for the first secondary school to be built in the borough for over 20 years revealed, *Ashford For You* learns how education will play a key role at Chilmington Green

Primary School welcomes children onto permanent Chilmington site

The first primary school at Chilmington Green opened its doors to pupils for the first time on its brand-new school site in November 2021.

Having been at a temporary site on Jemmett Road since 2018, the school enters the state-of-the-art building as a well-established primary with over 150 pupils and 29 members of staff.

The newly opened school nursery now inhabits a dedicated space for up to 26 nursery-aged children (2, 3 and 4-year-olds) per session and also includes a Specialist Resource Provision for up to 14 pupils who have an Education Health Care Plan for Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

At full capacity the school, which is part of The Stour Academy Trust, has sufficient space to offer 420 primary school places to children in the local area. It will have 14 classrooms, a library, nurture room, multi-use games area plus a large hall and sports field available to hire by the community.

Council purchases 10 affordable homes

The council has purchased ten 2-bedroom, affordable homes. Six are affordable rent and four shared ownership. These Jarvis Homes are built to modern housing standards so offer a lower carbon footprint and lower heating costs.

Secondary School proposals revealed

Bowmer + Kirkland (B+K) has been selected by the Department for Education (DfE) as the main contractor to build Chilmington Green Secondary School, which is part of the United Learning Trust.

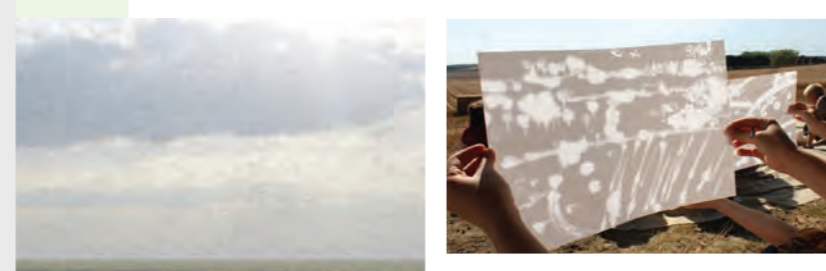
Outline permission for a new mixed 11-18 six-form entry school has been granted and a public consultation on the detailed plans was held in the summer, with the school opening expected in September 2023.

The architects are proposing an inspiring and sustainable school, which includes community use of the facilities.

The building fabric, heating, ventilation, water and lighting systems will be energy efficient. This sustainable and biodiversity led approach enables the school to be Net Zero Carbon in operation.



Left and below (main): Children get used to their new school. Below (left): affordable homes at Chilmington Green, (middle): artist impression of the Secondary School, (right): capturing local history and stories.



Creative Chilmington

Artist-in-residence Janetka Platun is returning this autumn to continue the work she started before the pandemic on exploring Chilmington Green's heritage and communities.

The award winning artist brings with her a set of gifts that were created in 2019, including a bespoke story booklet and miniature vials of oak gall ink made by members of the Repair Cafe Ashford.

Her work will form part of a long-term arts strategy that captures local history and stories, and engages with existing local residents and those new to the area.

For more information

Primary School
www.chilmingtongreen.kent.sch.uk

Secondary School
www.chilmingtonsecondaryplans.co.uk

Chilmington Green & the wider SAGC:
www.ashford.gov.uk/sagc

Busy days in Victoria Park

Exciting things are happening at Victoria Park, here are just some of the events and projects that have been taking place and are coming to Ashford's biggest park...

Ashford's first pump track!



The Victoria Park Project has been successful in its bid to the British Cycling 'Places to Ride' fund, so existing plans for a bike dirt track will be upgraded to a pump track. Combining this as well as funding from the Department of Transport the project will deliver a dedicated learn to ride space, new cycles stands, 100m 'sprint' track markings, a seating/viewing space near the pump track and plans for regular cycling groups and events.



Conservation

The conservation volunteers continue their regular tasks such as managing the orchard, monitoring the wildlife and assisting with the woodland. They are also receiving monthly training from Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership in areas such as moth identification and how to use wildlife-monitoring software. One project included building a hibernaculum (a place for animals to rest over the winter). New members are welcome – you'll get an opportunity to work with specialists while helping conserve a beautiful and ecologically rich town centre park. Find out more www.ashford.gov.uk/victoria-park

During the winter and spring seasons more trees will be arriving to replace dangerous or ailing ones, including Alder, Beech, Birch, Maple and British Oaks.

Get involved

The Friends of Victoria Park are a group of volunteer residents who are helping to shape the future of the park. If you're passionate about the park then they would love to hear from you. Find out more at: www.victoriaparkashford.uk/about-us

And finally... The Victoria Park Project Team now have a presence in the park, if you see us in the hub, come and say hello!

More information can be found on www.ashford.gov.uk/victoria-park



Successful events

The park's first Scarecrow Trail took place on Saturday 23 October. Organised by Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership the event had more than 20 scarecrows built by members of the local community including a gingerbread man and a hedgehog family. The Mayor of Ashford, Cllr Callum Knowles was on hand to announce the winners, including Ben Sharp, creator of the overall winner 'Mrs Archer'.

A series of free workshops for Halloween was packed out with children learning a variety of crafts from spooky silhouette jars to magical wands using materials from the park.

The team is planning events for 2022 so keep an eye on their Facebook page for details: www.facebook.com/VictoriaParkABC



Community champions

10th anniversary



As Radio Ashford celebrates the tenth anniversary of local broadcasts on 107.1FM, the team that puts the "community" into community radio have been reflecting on a tumultuous period for the station and the people they serve.

When we caught up with presenters Webbo, Redders and Sam they agreed that the Radio Ashford team of presenters and volunteers "had really come into its own" during the pandemic. Radio Ashford is a not-for-profit organisation and the only radio station based in the borough.

Breakfast show host and station stalwart Webbo said he was proud of how Radio Ashford helped so many people to get through the darkest days of the pandemic. "People were frightened and confused and many were stuck indoors, isolating and feeling cut-off."

"We were there for them, we were their link to the outside world, a friendly voice and I know from the conversations I've had with listeners that we made a difference. We stood out as a real community station. We were their champions."

Hometime show host Redders agrees. The man who first cut his teeth on local hospital radio aged 15 says the best bit of the job is interacting with the audience. "When last Christmas was ruined for most people and some listeners were on their own is when Radio Ashford really mattered, keeping people's spirits up by enabling them to relay messages to family and friends and request song dedications that were personal to them."

Sam's show is sandwiched in between the two veterans and she also has her hands full with advertising sales, sponsorships, marketing, social media and booking guests. "Watch this space" is Sam's reply when asked how Radio Ashford plans to mark its tenth anniversary.

Email info@radioashford.com or call 01233 427424 or visit radioashford.com. Catch us on Twitter and Facebook.



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From wasteland to garden haven

“How can we turn wasteland in Kingsnorth into a beautiful thriving hub of community activity?”

That was the vision of Roman Ward Councillor Heather Hayward and in just over 18 months, that vision has become reality with The Limes Community Garden open for all to enjoy. Situated next to Belgic Court, The Limes, Ashford, volunteers have transformed the land into an oasis of wildlife and quiet, with many stating that they've seen an improvement in their mental and physical health since joining the project.

Cllr Hayward said: “The creation of the garden has enabled young and old to work for a common goal. We have young people volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. A local mental health nurse regularly brings patients to the garden and we're looking to become a place where doctors send patients under the 'social prescribing' scheme.

“An Action for Happiness mental wellbeing course is also being held in the new community hub building at the garden.”

As a registered charity, the garden is entirely grant and donation funded with no charge for produce or involvement. Friendships and comradery among those involved take centre stage, with DIY enthusiasts, cake makers, social media whizzes and of course gardeners just some of the volunteers that make up the team.

If you're interested in volunteering or just want to visit, the garden is open at various times throughout the week, with Saturday mornings, 10am-1pm being a key time for newcomers to get started.

For more information visit: www.thelimescommunitygarden.org



Images are courtesy of Charlton Athletic Community Trust and taken during previous projects prior to lockdown or in accordance with Government guidelines at the time.



COMMUNITY TRUST

A Sporting Chance

A new project has launched which aims to use the power of sport and physical activity to create safer, stronger and more respectful communities by engaging with young people in some of our most high-need areas.

The council joined forces with Charlton Athletic Community Trust (CACT) on the year-long project to run activities including a one to one mentoring programme, working with a number of young people per week for targeted intervention around crime. The Community Safety Partnership receives an annual crime reduction grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and some of this funding has been allocated to the project. This has been matched by the council along with additional funding identified by CACT.

There are weekly ball court/estate sessions, three crime reduction workshops, three ten-week peer enrichment programmes plus a residential trip for 30 young people to attend.

The Joy of Movement programme within schools encourages children to adopt a healthy, active lifestyle, combating childhood obesity, where they will learn about the body and nutrition and take part in practical sessions.

The project aims to create safer, stronger, and more respectful communities through engaging young people in positive activities where they live. The one to one

mentoring sessions can cut the risk of young people becoming involved in serious youth violence and gang related crime.

Cllr Peter Feacey, portfolio holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing, said: “This project offers support and mentoring to those young people who are struggling to engage and who are at risk of becoming involved in violence and crime.

“The targeted activities aims to empower them to set positive goals for their future, which they are then supported to achieve. I'm proud to support this important project which will inspire our young people to forge a healthier and happier future.”

Carl Krauhaus, Head of Early Help and Prevention at CACT, said: “Engagement across all levels for young people is important. We have to listen to what challenges young people are being faced with and how we can turn things around with them. The more platforms we can provide for young people, the more chance they'll make positive life choices.”

To find out more about new weekly ball court/estate sessions, contact Paul Robinson, CACT's Crime Reduction Manager: Paul.Robinson@cact.org.uk



WOODCHURCH
GARDEN OF ENGLAND

WIN Woodchurch Wine and vineyard tour



Woodchurch vineyard is situated on the edge of the picturesque village of Woodchurch. Set on hills looking south over the ancient Romney Marsh down to the English channel, it has the perfect geography and climate to produce the highest quality grapes and exceptional English still and sparkling wine.

Woodchurch vineyard is giving away two bottles of sparkling wine presented in a gold gift box, along with a tour and tasting voucher for two people. The winner will be able to arrange collection from the vineyard.

The vineyard is open to the public Thursdays to Sundays from 11am to 5pm. The cellar door shop stocks the full range of Woodchurch wines as well as gifts and accessories. Available at the bar are wines by the glass and cheese and charcuterie boards. For more details visit woodchurchwine.co.uk



WIN

one of two Best of Kent Hampers, courtesy of our friends at Macknade!

The perfect treat, this hamper from Kent's food & drink experts, Macknade highlights some of the very best produce the County has to offer.

Delve inside to discover wonderful treats from Goupie and the Zingiberi Bakery, plus Macknade's own blend No.1 breakfast tea & moreish strawberry jam (perfect on a scone). That's not all, there's also some delightful pale ale and cider, ideal for enjoying by the fire on a cold evening! www.macknade.com



MACKNADE
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To enter your name in one of our two prize draws either:

* Email the editorial team at competition@ashford.gov.uk – put **Macknade** or **Woodchurch wine 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 either **Macknade** or **Woodchurch wine** competition entry on the card. We will contact the winners to request consent to provide your contact details to Macknade or Woodchurch wine 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 **5pm on Monday 10 January 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. Ashford Borough Council is the data controller for the personal information you provide us and this will be used to circulate our magazine and keep you up-to-date on recent news and events. Collecting and processing of your personal data is being conducted relying upon the legal basis of consent. You have the right to remove your consent at any time by sending 'unsubscribe' to media@ashford.gov.uk The option to unsubscribe will be offered each time we contact you. We will not share your information with any third parties unless we are required or permitted to do so by law. Your information will be held for as long as we produce a residents' magazine and you stay subscribed. For more information about your data protection rights see our data protection pages at www.ashford.gov.uk or contact the Data Protection Officer, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford TN23 1PL.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Before we close the final page on another happy edition of *Ashford For You*, we wanted to remind you, there is a new, simple and free way to support the local independent businesses of Ashford and the local area. You know the ones - those wonderful independent businesses that turn up, put a shift in and dedicate their lives to making sure you get your lovely hot coffee to get your day started, or perhaps helped you to get rid of that lockdown hairstyle that was concerning you and the rest of your family!

Loveashford has proudly teamed up with Localise, an award-winning community app that connects independent retailers and small business owners with local people in Ashford, Tenterden and the surrounding areas.



With recent circumstances bringing never before seen challenges to our wonderful indies, supporting the High Street has never been more important.

It has been a tough time for many business owners, and we believe it's up to all of us to pull together and support each other on the road to recovery and beyond. From perfect brunch spots to family-run greengrocers, the flavour of our neighborhood is down to all of us.

By supporting our local businesses, we'll keep the wheels of our communities turning. Stats show that for every £1 spent with a local indie business, 50p-70p circulates back into the area. You can now use Localise to support Ashford, Tenterden and beyond.

Available now on iOS, download Localise today via the QR code to connect with your favourite local independents and discover the wonderful local businesses that you never knew existed... until now!



SET THE TREND. SHOP LOCAL.



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Christmas

all wrapped up

at County Square

The sparkle of Christmas begins at County Square with a great selection of gift ideas from over 50 stores.

There is seasonal entertainment every weekend in December to enchant children and adults alike.

For festive information and updates, visit our website and social media pages.



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COUNTY SQ

From **A-Z** in Ashford

The Entertainer

PANDORA

smiggle



The Works

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W

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