Ashford C.S.U Newsletter Rural North Ward



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September 2025

Halloween

Next month is Halloween 🖫 🕒 🖫 🕒 Not everyone enjoys or wants to take part in Halloween. Addressing any anti-social behaviour, concerns that come with this, we are giving advice not only to residents in our community but also shops and retailers who can assist us in reducing any behaviour linked to this time of year.

If you'd prefer not have trick or treaters call at your door, you can download and display our <u>'no trick or treat'</u> <u>sign</u> in your front door or window. It's a simple way to let others know you're not taking part.

If you're taking young children out, Halloween can be a fun experience for children, and a few precautions can keep it safe:

- children should be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times
- it's best to visit homes of people you know
- if a house doesn't have decorations or a pumpkin outside, it's likely they're not participating, so it's best not to knock

If you have teenagers going out, older children may want more independence, but it's important they understand how to celebrate respectfully:

- avoid knocking at homes without decorations or pumpkins outside
- do not use alcohol or play a trick on someone using flour or eggs
- if a 'no trick or treat' sign is displayed, they should move on without knocking
- encourage them to stay in groups and never go into a stranger's home
- remind them that Halloween is meant to be fun, not frightening for others

Let's work together to make Halloween safe, respectful, and enjoyable for everyone, whether they're celebrating or not.

Need help? Please only call <u>999</u> in an emergency. You can <u>report a non-urgent incident or crime online</u> Alternatively, you can visit our advice pages for information and guidance on a range of issues.

- Trick or treaters welcome poster with advice
- No trick or treaters please poster with advice

Drop-in surgeries:

- Hothfield Greggs Hothfield Service Station, Hothfield, TN26 1AP 27/10/2025 10:00 hours. Monday 27th October 2025, 10:00 hours.
- Perry Court Farm Canterbury Road, Wye, TN25 4ES 27/10/2025 12:00 hours

Your local officer: PC 30538 Hopkins

Acting on Community Concerns The top 3 concerns for the area are:

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There has been an increased reporting of poaching of wildlife in the Charing, Challock and Westwell area. Ashford Community Safety Unit works with Ashford Local Policing Teams and Rural Task Force to disrupt and prosecute illegal poachers. This has resulted in some positive stops and intelligence building of those involved as well as seizures of vehicles with no tax that had been identified involving in poaching through intelligence. We will continue to use wide ranging legislation to prosecute and disrupt individuals where appropriate to do so.

Look out for suspicious groups of people or vehicles in rural areas, especially at night. Make note of any signs of trespassing which can be seen from damaged or disturbed land/crops. Poaches use larger vehicles such as 4x4s, use snares and traps or large 'lamps'. Call 999 if in progress.

Ashford Community Safety Unit attended a large car meet at a local venue in Challock. We continue to work with the venue and Ashford Borough Council to minimise the detrimental impact of the car events to residents by taking enforcement action on parking obstructions and anti-social driving.

S.59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 allows police to seize a vehicle if it's used in a way that causes alarm, distress or annoyance to the public.

We continue to work with Ashford Borough Council over fly tipping in local communities. Kent Police have assisted in joint operations with their Community Safety Unit to develop intelligence and prosecute individuals linked to fly tipping.

