

the ashford freedom flyer!

September
2026



Autumn is here

Explore activities,
celebrate achievements
and see what's
happening near you
throughout the month.

PEOPLE



Ashford AC Young Athletes Represent Kent!

7 under 14 athletes from Ashford Athletic Club represented Kent at the Don Turner U14s Inter County Match on 2nd August at the XCEL Sports Hub, Walton. This prestigious match involves over 500 athletes from 12 counties throughout the South East of England. In the match Kent finished 2nd in the girls and 5th in the boys. Well done to: Alexis: 75m Hurdles and 100m, Amelia: Discus Throw, Dexter: Discus Throw and Shot Put, Emma: High Jump, Eva: 100m and 4 x 100, Indie-Rae: Long Jump, Leo: 1500m.

AAC Crowned East Kent Road Relay Champions!

Ashford Athletic Club celebrated an outstanding East Kent Road Relay Series, winning four team titles across the Senior Men's and Senior Ladies' A and B categories. The club also enjoyed podium finishes in the veteran competitions, while Wegahta Zerom, Briony Walsh, Amy Seager and Richard Huckstepp claimed individual honours. With nearly 50 athletes taking part, it was a brilliant team effort and a season to remember.



Three Peaks Challenge!

Some of our wonderful members at the Stour Centre recently climbed Scafell Pike as part of their preparation for the Three Peaks Challenge this September. They're raising money for Mental Health UK, Broadway Lodge and Dementia UK, and every donation makes a difference. Please support these fantastic causes by scanning the QR code.

Ellin Makes Her England International Debut!

Congratulations to Ellin, one of our FLAIR athletes, on her selection to represent England Schools at SIAB track and field international held in Belfast. She was 3rd in the 3000m race walk getting a new PB of 16.10. This was the international debut for Ellin, who is the latest member of Ashford Athletic Club to be awarded international honours.



Reclaim the Night is Back!

Join us on Monday 2nd November for Reclaim the Night, a FREE women's run starting at Julie Rose Stadium, celebrating community, confidence and safety. Spaces are limited, so scan the QR code to reserve your place today.

COMMUNITY



Connecting with the Community at Reach Out Festival!

Our team had a fantastic time attending the Reach Out Festival at Civic Park, meeting members of the local community and enjoying a brilliant day packed with activities. Visitors were able to take part in sporting activities, enjoy live music performances and explore a range of food vendors. We also gave attendees the chance to enter our prize draw. Thank you to everyone who stopped by and made the event such a success!

Julie Rose Stadium to Host Kent Relay Championships!

The Kent County AA Relay Championships return to Julie Rose Stadium on 12th September 2026. More than 190 club teams from across Kent are expected to compete in relay events ranging from 4x100m to medleys, with athletes of all ages taking part. The Kent Masters Jumps Championships will also be held on the day, featuring High Jump, Pole Vault, Triple Jump and Long Jump. Competition starts at 10am and spectators are welcome.



Dempseys' Female Only Boxing Sessions!

Looking for a new challenge, a confidence boost or a fun way to stay active? Dempseys Boxing Academy is welcoming females aged 10 and over to its dedicated boxing sessions at Julie Rose Stadium. Held every Wednesday at 5pm, participants can expect boxing circuits, pad work, bag work and a supportive training environment. With a special launch offer of just £4 per person, now is the perfect time to get involved and discover what boxing can do for you.

Striking Events Pokémon Card Show Returns!

Striking Events is back at the Stour Centre on 12th September, and it's bigger than ever with over 100 tables of amazing Pokémon and Trading Card products from some of the country's biggest vendors. Scan the QR code to get your tickets today, or purchase them on the door. Don't miss out!



Save the Date for Holo-Con Ashford!

Holo-Con Ashford returns to the Julie Rose Stadium on Sunday 6th December 2026 at 11am - 4pm, bringing together collectors, traders and players from across Kent and beyond. Whether you're hunting for rare cards, looking to trade, or keen to play your favourite TCG, this is the perfect event to connect with the community and celebrate the hobby.

FREEDOM LIFE STORIES!



Meet Harvey!

Meet Harvey, a talented young triathlete who has quickly made his mark in endurance sport through hard work, determination and a love of competition. Already representing Great Britain at international level and setting ambitious goals for the future, Harvey shares his sporting journey, biggest inspirations and the advice he would give to others looking to follow a similar path.

What sport(s) do you compete in and how did you first get involved?

Triathlon, I got told to come along to a training session by a school friend and have been involved since. Competing in a European duathlon Championship with him.

What is your current national ranking?

Duathlon - 122, Triathlon - 299.

What has been your proudest achievement in your sporting career so far?

My proudest moment was competing in Poland in the European sprint Duathlon Championships 2025.

Who inspires you most in your sport and why?

Inspired by the Brownlee brothers while I was in primary school, watching them compete at the London Olympics. I have always enjoyed each of the sports individually and finally got the chance to put them together after finding out about my local tri club (Weald Tri Club).

What advice would you give to young people who want to follow in your footsteps?

Find a local event and just give it a try. The worst case is you just get a medal.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time within your sporting career?

Competing at a university level in Triathlon and hopefully qualifying for the GBR age group team again.

If you could compete anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

If I could compete anywhere it would be in Norway, completing the Norseman (world's toughest Ironman).

What does being part of the FLAIR membership mean to you?

Being part of the FLAIR membership will enable me to train regularly, during all seasons, increasing my potential.



DISCOVER!



Half Price September!

As the seasons change, there's never been a better time to start your fitness journey. Join this September and enjoy 50% off monthly memberships, giving you the perfect opportunity to stay active, healthy and motivated throughout autumn. Scan the QR code to join today or enquire at your local centre for more information. Offer ends 20th September 2026.



Back to School, Back to Swimming!

With the new school term underway, now is the perfect time to get back into swimming lessons. Help your child build confidence, develop essential water skills and stay active all year round. Scan the QR code to enquire and secure your place today.

Member Testimonials



"A great fun session here, definitely will return. Friendly and helpful staff members. Changing rooms were nice and clean. Lazy river and flume was great fun."

- Rebecca, Stour Centre



"Great staff and a lovely venue."

- Simone, Julie Rose Stadium



"I have recently booked a few games of pickleball here and I've got no complaints at all. The facilities and equipment are top notch and the staff are very friendly and helpful."

- Michael, Tenterden Leisure Centre



BE A PART OF THE ASHFORD FREEDOM FLYER!

If you have an idea for an article, an update from your area or a story to share, please email dannii.woodward@freedom-leisure.co.uk