

Police appeal after fight in town centre

POLICE have renewed an appeal for witnesses following an assault outside an Ashford town centre kebab shop last month.

A fight broke out between a group of white men and a group of black men standing by a car in High Street, Ashford, at 3.30am on Sunday, May 1.

One of the black men was assaulted and there was an estimated £100 damage to the parked car, a blue Renault Clio.

Two local men, aged 31 and 21, were arrested and have been bailed until June 8 pending a decision whether to prosecute them.

Police would like to speak to anyone who was nearby and has information that will help the inquiry.

Witnesses can call the police on 01622 690690 and quote crime report FY/6645/11. Alternatively, call Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Club launched to help jobseekers

A NEW Work Club has been launched at the recently opened Stanhope library.

The club offers jobseekers advice and support to find work as well as the chance to meet others seeking work, build new contacts, share job hunting experiences and get advice on interview techniques, CVs and volunteering opportunities.

Ellie Thomas, community development librarian, who helped set up the Work Club said: "During this drop-in session, we will help people to look for work in a relaxed setting over a cup of coffee. Free computer access in the library will help those searching and applying for jobs on line."

The Work Club will meet every Thursday from 10am at the new library which is located in the Stanhope Centre, 67a Otterden Close, Stanhope.

For more information call the library on 01233 627591 or Ashford Library on 01233 620649.

Get back to nature

ROLVENDEN Primary School is holding a Woodland Day from 10am-4pm on Sunday, June 12.

During the day there will be lots of activities for all the family, including learning survival skills, den building, nature trails, crafts, conservation, creative skills and making a bird house.

Admission £5 per family or £2 per single adult. The price includes all activities.

Call 01580 241444 for details.

Mayor to open fete

THE annual summer fete at Great Chart Primary School, Hoxton Close, Singleton takes place on Saturday, June 11, from 1.30pm. The Mayor of Ashford is due to open the fete and crown the school's "royal family".

The fund-raising event will feature stalls and entertainment and is being organised by the Friends' Association of Great Chart Primary School.

Mum's inspiring story of twins' birth is a blog hit

by James Scott
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A MOTHER from Charing is up for a national award for her blog about the experience of giving birth to premature twins.

Jennie Nairn, 34, of Old Ashford Road, wrote a diary after the emergency delivery of her babies three months early at Ashford's William Harvey Hospital last July.

After publishing her story about twins William and Esther online, offering advice to others with premature babies, she was nominated for the Mum and Dad (MAD) Blog Awards.

The former Charing Primary School teacher, who lives with fiancée David Henley, said: "I got sick because I had a twisted bowel so had to have an operation. They operated and saved my life and the lives of the babies."

"We were in the neonatal intensive care unit for 59 days. While I was there I wrote a diary in a book and I decided to publish it online to help other people who have had premature babies in special care."

The babies, now 10 months old, are both still small for their age with Esther weighing just 13lb and William at 15lb. The pair are both classed as having chronic

lung disease and William has a heart murmur.

Her blog grew in popularity, achieving 650 hits in one day and being read regularly by about 150 people each day. After being nominated, Miss Nairn's blog was selected out of more than 3,000 entries as a finalist for the best baby blog.

She said: "I'm very excited but quite surprised because I only started it for a small number of people. The reason it got to the finals is because so many mums with premature babies have voted for me. I'm quite glad that I've raised awareness really."

The winners of the competition, who will be announced in September, will win a £100 worth of baby food and other products. To vote for Jennie Nairn go to www.the-mads.com/vote.htm

Her blog can be seen at www.edspire.co.uk

'I'm very excited but quite surprised because I only started it for a small number of people'



PROUD: Mum Jennie Nairn with Esther and partner David Henley with William

Boy used catapult to smash windows

A LITTLE boy had to be spoken to by police after he confessed to smashing three windows with a catapult.

The seven-year-old child was apprehended by officers and spoken to in front of his parents where he admitted the crime. However, because of his age, he could not be arrested or prosecuted for the damage to the house windows. The incident took place on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 24, in High Ridge and Garton Way in Singleton.

Macbeth to music

A SHAKESPEAREAN opera will be coming to the screens of Ashford's Cineworld on Monday, June 13, with a performance of Phyllida Lloyd's Macbeth being screened live from the Royal Opera House to Ashford's Cineworld at 7.15pm. The tale of murder, treachery, greed and insanity is brought to life by Giuseppe Verdi's music. For more information and to buy tickets visit www.cineworld.co.uk or call 0871 2002000.

Charity line dance

A CHARITY line dance held at St Simons Hall in Shadoxhurst raised £670 for the Ashford charity Find a Voice. About 120 people attended the event organised by Brenda Moir and other members of Shadoxhurst Line Dance Club.



The baby meerkats have ventured out into the open for the first time at Port Lympne

Picture: Dave Rolfe/Aspinall Foundation

Park's latest arrivals add a little aah factor

THREE baby meerkats have ventured out into the open for the first time at Port Lympne animal park.

At almost two months old, the kittens are gaining confidence and regularly venturing out of their burrow.

These are the first kittens born to Tiggs, two, who was hand-reared by keepers.

Head keeper Richard Barnes said: "We made the difficult decision to remove Tiggs and her sister Tess from the

meerkat group because her mother Tellula's previous offspring have died at a young age from a disease known as toxoplasmosis. It's fairly common in meerkats and affects the immune system.

"Sadly we lost Tiggs' sister Tess after just 10 days but Tiggs was always a fighter and hasn't shown any signs of the illness."

You can adopt a meerkat group from £3 a month. To find out more visit www.aspinallfoundation.org

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