

February's Tourism Matters - Training, Tickets and Opportunities

Our February Tourism Matters has fallen on Valentine's Day, so we want to share some love with you in this issue. We have a link to a great article in The Sunday Times - Dammit, Thanet, I Love You. The opportunity for some FREE training courses - who doesn't love something for free? Plus we all love Thanet and the wonderful things it has to offer, so check out #SunsetSunday and #SpotlightSaturday and join us in sharing the love.

Press and PR

Birdwatching opportunities in Thanet feature in this super article by Ed Hutchings for [Bird Watching magazine](#). Ed came to Thanet last year on a trip to gather information for the article. We love the header image.

Plus we have picked up the following coverage
Travel Trade Gazette - [Why Margate is the UK's new hipster hangout](#)

The Sunday Times - [Dammit, Thanet, I Love You](#)

FREE Training Courses

What's not to love about [Free training courses](#) We are running two this year so be sure to book your place as soon as possible.

- Tuesday 5th March 10am-1pm Social Animal
- Wednesday 20th March 1-5pm Making Creative Content

The courses need to be pre-booked and places are on a first-come-first served basis, with a restriction of one delegate per business. However additional delegates will be added to a reserve list and may be offered a place subject to take-up.

We are also investigating the possibility of running a 'TripAdvisor' course and would be interested to know how much interest there is for this. Please let us know at tourism@thanet.gov.uk

Kent Big Weekend - Get your Tickets

The free ticket ballot for the 2019 Kent Big Weekend opens on 21st February and runs through to 17th March. Over 130 Kent tourist attractions and related businesses, including 24 in Thanet, are offering Kent residents the chance to visit for FREE.

The Kent Big Weekend 2019 takes place on 6th and 7th April as part of English Tourism Week.

To see the Thanet venues taking part visit www.visitthanet.co.uk/kentbigweekend

To see all venues taking part and to apply for tickets visit www.kentbigweekend.co.uk

Opportunity to participate in Visit Kent's Discover England Fund Projects

Visit Kent is leading on two Discover England Fund (DEF) projects - England's Creative Coast and Gourmet Garden Trails, both funded by Visit England. There are opportunities for you to participate, if you fit the criteria, more below.

England's Creative Coast

A project to develop a brand-new product to promote England's exceptional art and cultural offering to international visitors. This is an innovative new visitor experience that will allow travel trade and Fully Independent Travellers (FITs) from France and The Netherlands to gain inspiration, browse and plan their own bespoke cultural travel itineraries.

To learn more about the project, have a read of the [Introduction document here](#) which gives an overview of why you should get involved. You can also [download a FAQs document here](#).

To register and find out more see the [Visit Kent Business site](#)

Gourmet Garden Trails

This is a project to develop a new tourism product that will allow the Travel Trade and Fully Independent Travellers (FITs), from Germany and The Netherlands, to gain inspiration, browse and plan their own bespoke gardens & gourmet themed itineraries

To register and find out more see the [Visit Kent Business site](#)

Share your #SunsetSunday and #SpotlightSaturday

The Isle of Thanet has some of the best sunsets, and we want to share these with our followers on social media to encourage them to visit. On a Sunday across our platforms we will be sharing pictures of sunsets from across the area using the hashtag #SunsetSunday. We invite you to join us by sharing our posts, or your own pictures, using the hashtags #SunsetSunday and #VisitThanet, and would be grateful if you could send us any images of sunsets you'd be happy for us to share.

Also, on a Saturday we are looking to introduce #SpotlightSaturday highlighting some of the lesser known places and villages in the area. If you have ideas of locations we can highlight or images to support this please let us know.

Visitor Information Service

The Visitor Information Service at The Custom House, Ramsgate sells coach tickets accepting cash and cheque payment (with card details) on behalf of:

- Bayliss Coaches
- Bovy Tours
- Carol Peters
- National Express

Map Advertising

We have had a few enquiries from local tourism businesses who have been approached by a company selling advertising, saying that they are working on behalf of Thanet District

Council. We want to clarify that this is nothing to do with Thanet District Council and if anyone has any information on this, do please let us know.

Kent Excellence in Business Awards 2019 (KEiBA)

Entries for the Kent Excellence in Business Awards 2019 are open. KEiBA aims to recognise and reward excellence in Kent and Medway businesses of all sizes and across every sector - as well as individuals.

Entry forms can be completed at www.keiba.co.uk and must be **submitted by 22nd February**

Paws for thought - have you considered the dog-friendly travel market?

PetsPyjamas, www.petspyjamas.com the UK's number one dog-friendly travel company is searching for new partners in Kent! From fantastic hotels and B&Bs, to self-catering cottages and delightfully unique properties, they're looking for new places that truly welcome dogs. Interested? Get in touch here! florence@petspyjamas.com

Turner Prize Update

Remember the Turner Prize is coming to Turner Contemporary from 28th September 2019 to 12th January 2020.

Turner Contemporary has announced their plans to develop an exhilarating and ambitious arts programme to run alongside the Turner Prize exhibition. The programme will be town wide with arts, activities, events and an expanded Margate Festival

Find out more at the launch of the Margate Festival on Friday 15th February 5pm-8pm at Pie Factory Margate. The Margate Festival team will also be available to discuss the plans from Saturday 16th to Wednesday 20th February 11am-3pm at Pie Factory Margate.

Keep an eye out for dates being released for Business Events, where you can find out more about the Turner Prize coming to Turner Contemporary and how you can get involved.

Your News

Join the Dreamland Team

Dreamland are hosting recruitment days on Saturday 23rd and Wednesday 27th February between 12pm – 4pm.

Meet the teams with roles available in guest experience, ride operations, food and beverage, estates and facilities, park presentation and guests safety.

To find out more about these opportunities visit the [Dreamland website](#)

Remember that this section is for you to share your news, so if you have won an award, will be celebrating an anniversary or have a job vacancy or business development you would like to share, let us know. Please email through to tourism@thanet.gov.uk before the second Thursday of the month

Events

Here are just a few events taking place across the area in the next few weeks

- Half - Term Events www.visitthanet.co.uk/february
- 16th February: [Children's Book Festival](#), Dreamland
- 16th February: [Trash and Treasure](#), St Nicholas-at-Wade Church
- 19th -22nd February: [Museum Mash Up](#), Powell-Cotton Museum
- 22nd - 24th February: [Broadstairs Blues Bash](#)
- Until 26th February: [Art <£100](#), York Street Gallery and The Gallery, Ramsgate
- 8th - 17th March: [POW! Thanet](#)

For more events happening in the area go to www.visitthanet.co.uk/whats-on/find-events