

New £20 million fund announced and VisitEngland promotional opportunities

In this Tourism Matters there is information on a new £20 million fund to support small and medium businesses in England, an opportunity to share your news for autumn/winter and 2021 with VisitEngland for potential use in their promotional activities, plus how to claim back reimbursements for venues participating in the Government's 'Eat Out to Help Out' initiative, which is running this month.

If you know somebody who would like to read our e-news, please forward it on, or let them know they can register to receive it themselves on [visitthanel.co.uk/tourismmatters](https://www.visitthanel.co.uk/tourismmatters)

Thanet District Council

The new Business and Planning Act 2020 has temporarily passed the responsibility for issuing Pavement Licences to Thanet District Council. Any business that would like to place tables and chairs etc. on the pavement will need to apply for a Pavement Licence, unless the land is private or it already has a licence from Kent County Council.

Tables and chairs must not be put out until a [Pavement Licence](#) has been secured - The licence fee is non refundable and costs £100. A licence will run up to 30th September 2021, and will be reviewed after 6 months.

Margate Town Deal Board call for projects

The Board is now inviting proposals for projects which could be included in the town's Investment Plan. It has created a Call for Projects form which is designed to allow residents, organisations and businesses to submit proposals or investment ideas that fit with the objectives of the Town Deal Fund and drive economic regeneration in Margate.

Projects should be clearly defined, consistent with the Towns Fund objectives. Any organisation wishing to put forward a project should do so by 12 noon on Friday 14th August.

More information and the ['Call for Projects'](#) form can be found at: Projects will need a lead individual or organisation and have the ability to be scoped into a deliverable plan.

Water sports licence - expressions of interest sought

Thanet District Council is inviting applications from businesses who would like to operate water sports activities at Walpole Bay and Ramsgate Main Sands. The two bays have been identified by the council as potentially suitable locations for new or expanded leisure activity. Specifically the licences on offer are for non-motorised water sports.

The opportunity reflects a long-term aspiration to improve coastal facilities and enhance the number and range of visitor experiences on offer at Thanet's beaches and bays.

The proposal for businesses to offer water sports activities at these bays is initially for a 12 month period. [Interested parties can apply for either one or both licences](#) The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Friday 21st August 2020.

Government Information

Reopening and guidance changes for all of England

The plan to reopen remains conditional, and the Government has decided to slow down the reopening of higher risk settings across England. It was announced that the reopening of

casinos, bowling alleys and close contact services would be postponed until Saturday 15 August.

Live performances and pilots of large gatherings in conference centres have also been postponed. Wedding receptions cannot take place, but weddings themselves still can.

Face covering guidance has been extended for settings such as museums, galleries, cinemas and places of worship, this will become the law on Saturday 8 August. The Home Secretary is working with the police to ensure that settings not following guidelines can be closed, and ensure that face coverings are being worn when required.

£20 million fund announced to support small and medium businesses in England

The Government has announced a [£20 million fund to support the recovery of small and medium-sized businesses in England](#).

Businesses will be eligible to receive grants between £1,000 - £5,000 to help them access technology, equipment or professional advice as they plan for recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The support will be fully funded by the Government from the England European Regional Development Fund and distributed through Growth Hubs, embedded in local areas across England.

Activities supported through the funding can include:

- One-to-many events providing guidance to respond to coronavirus.
- Grants (£1,000 - £5,000) to help businesses access specialist professional advice such as HR, accountants, legal, financial, IT and digital, and to purchase minor equipment to adapt or adopt new technology in order to continue to deliver business activity or diversify.

Further details should be available by the end of August.

Culture Recovery Fund Grants

In July, the Government announced a world-leading £1.57 billion rescue package to help arts, culture and heritage industries weather the impact of COVID-19, this is the biggest ever investment in UK culture.

Thousands of organisations across a range of sectors, including the performing arts and theatres, heritage, museums, galleries, live music and independent cinema can now apply and access emergency grants and loans from a package of up to £500 million.

The fund criteria has been set by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the grants are administered, awarded and monitored by Arts Council England on behalf of DCMS.

Further information, including funding criteria and how to apply can be found [here](#)

There are two rounds for this fund, but Arts Council England will allocate approximately 75% of the overall budget to the first round, which runs from midday on Monday 10th August to

midday on Friday, 21st August. Round two is from 4pm on Friday, 21st August to midday on Friday 4th September.

Eat Out to Help Out

If your business is taking part in the Government's Eat Out to Help Out scheme this August, you can start to [claim back reimbursements](#) from Friday 7th August until Wednesday 30th September.

If you want to include your business in the scheme you can [register on the Eat Out to Help Out site](#).

Please let us know if you are taking part so that we can add you to the page we have created www.visitthant.co.uk/eatout

HMRC announces further details of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Bonus
[Businesses will receive a one-off payment](#) of £1,000 for every previously furloughed employee if they are still employed at the end of January 2021.

A policy statement published by HMRC on Friday 31st July gives employers further details on eligibility requirements and how they can claim the bonus:

- Employers will receive a one-off payment of £1,000 for every employee who has previously been furloughed under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) – if they remain continuously employed to the end of January 2021.
- To ensure the jobs are meaningful and well-paid, employees must earn at least £520 (the National Insurance lower earnings limit) a month on average between the beginning of November and the end of January.
- Those who were furloughed and had a claim submitted for them after 10th June (when the CJRS closed to new entrants), because they were returning from parental leave or time serving as a military reservist, will also be eligible for the bonus as long as they meet the other eligibility criteria.
- Employers will also be eligible for employee transfers protected under TUPE legislation, provided they have been continuously employed and meet the other eligibility criteria and the new employer has also submitted a CJRS claim for that employee.

Changes to claims on the Coronavirus Job Retention scheme from 1st August

[The rules for the scheme have changed](#). Unless you're making a new claim for an employee who is a military reservist or is returning from statutory parental leave, you can only continue to claim through the scheme if:

- You have previously furloughed the employee for three consecutive weeks between 1st March and 30th June
- You submitted your claim before 31st July

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme update for those with a new child

A [new form and accompanying guidance](#) is available for those who have a new child which affected their trading profits or total income reported for the tax year 2018 to 2019. You can use the new form to ask HMRC to verify that you had a new child. HMRC will review your application and contact you within two weeks, if HMRC tells you that your information has been verified you should [make a claim](#) from 17th August 2020 to find out if you're eligible for the grant.

Two new leadership programmes to help small business leaders announced

The Government has announced [two new training programmes for small businesses](#) on management, productivity and problem-solving skills.

- The [Small Business Leadership Programme](#) will focus on strengthening decision-makers' leadership skills.
- The [Peer Networks Programme](#) will focus on helping business owners improve their problem-solving skills, through a series of guided exercises.

There are 2,000 places available on the Small Business Leadership Programme and 6,000 on the Peer Networks programme.

Other Government Updates

- [Guidance for businesses and organisations](#) on how to recognise, contain and report incidents of coronavirus (COVID-19) has been published. [Action cards](#) summarising this information have also been developed to cover a range of businesses and organisations to provide specific advice on the issues each type of organisation may face.
- An [overview](#) of the Government's approach to managing local coronavirus outbreaks is available.
- Guidance on how to inform HMRC if you have been overpaid or were not eligible for the [Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#) or the [Self-Employment Income Support Scheme](#) (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tell-hmrc-and-pay-the-self-employment-income-support-scheme-grant-back>)
- [Additional webinars](#) are available for the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme, Universal Credit and Child Benefit, providing advice about making claims.

VisitBritain/VisitEngland

Help to share Government guidance with customers on planning a holiday in England

Businesses are asked to help raise awareness of the Government's guidance for tourists who fall ill whilst on holiday in England by directing customers to the advice displayed on the [VisitEngland website](#).

Dedicated copy for businesses to use to communicate with their customers is also available on the [VisitEngland website](#). You can include the information as part of the customer booking confirmation and adopt the messaging on your marketing channels – to help protect your staff and customers.

Share your England news for autumn/winter and for 2021

There are opportunities to get involved in VisitEngland's domestic recovery campaign to inspire consumers to travel this autumn.

We are coordinating information to send through for various headings, including 'Businesses that are adapting / innovating to follow government COVID-19 measures and guidance', 'Brand new tours and trails' and 'notable events'.

If you have anything you would like put forward for consideration under these headings, please let us know, bearing the bullet points below in mind.

When sharing your news:

- We'd like to hear about interesting people associated with the experience that could help bring the news story to life – please share their job description and a short summary of their role.
- Please confirm if image / video assets are or will be available to support your news story and if you would be willing to give VisitEngland the right to use these in their marketing activity. These don't need to be shared at present.
- They are keen to celebrate how diverse and inclusive England is, so when sharing stories, please do highlight where possible.

Please send relevant information to julie.edwards@thanet.gov.uk. We shall be sending this information on Thursday, 13th August, though anything received after this date will still be forwarded for consideration.

Business Recovery Webinars

- Getting your business visible on Google - Thursday, 13th August from 10am to 11am
- Getting started with analytics - Tuesday, 18th August from 10am to 11am

For further information and to register and to view past webinars [click here](#).

[Visit Kent](#)

Essential Ingredients for Tourism Recovery - The 3m Framework

One of the UK's leading tourism analysts, David Edwards, will share his theory on the three essential ingredients for post-pandemic recovery.

Monday 17th August from 3pm to 4pm - [click here](#) for further information and to register.

Interreg Experience Development Programme

Thanet District Council is participating in the Interreg Experience Development Programme with Visit Kent.

We're looking to work with organisations, both traditional tourism businesses and businesses from other sectors, from across Thanet to develop new experiential tourism products for the off-season.

If you have a great idea for a new experience, an idea for collaborating with another business or an existing offer which could be adapted for a new audience, this programme could help you turn this into reality and take it to market through a package of dedicated support worth around £6,000. Further information can be found in the [full applicant guidance document](#).

Kent County Council Scrutiny Committee - Impact of COVID-19 on the Visitor Economy

Visit Kent has been working closely with Kent County Council (KCC) to support written evidence for the KCC Scrutiny Committee into the impact of COVID-19 on the visitor economy. You can access and read the document [here](#)

[Other Information](#)

Kent and Medway Growth Hub - Free Business Recovery Support Programme

As part of the Government's economic recovery plans, the Kent and Medway Growth Hub will be offering any business the opportunity of working with a Business Adviser over the next eight to twelve weeks, to develop and implement a personalised Recovery Action Plan.

This FREE TO ACCESS programme is available to all businesses in Kent and Medway thanks to funding from Kent County Council and Local Authorities.

For further information watch their [90 second promotional video](#), register your interest [here](#) or ring 03333 602300 (Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm).

Events Industry Forum - guidance for those in the outdoor event industry

The Events Industry Forum with input from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and in consultation with Public Health England (PHE) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have [produced a useful guidance document](#) to support those involved in the outdoor event industry in England.

Kent and Medway Economic Partnership - Economic Renewal and Resilience Plan Launch

Businesses from across Kent and Medway are invited to join the online launch of the Kent & Medway Economic Renewal & Resilience Plan on Monday 10th August at 9.30am.

Local stakeholders (drawn from across all the local councils, education sector and private sector) have worked in collaboration to devise a series of actions that will help to stimulate Kent and Medway's economic recovery.

Register your place [here](#).

Heritage Open Days - 11th to 20th September 2020

If you wish to take part in this year's festival, you have until Monday 24 August to submit your event.

If you would like to take part but need inspiration, check out their video and local organiser's case studies [here](#). This link also includes step by step registration information.

[Tourism Service News](#)

Thanet Visitor Information Centre

The Visitor Information Centre in Margate is open daily from 10am to 5pm until Sunday 6 September.

Visitors will receive the same excellent level of service, but a few changes have been made in line with government guidance, to help ensure the safety of visitors and staff, including:

- One way system for entering and leaving the building
- Hand sanitiser to use on entry
- Restriction on the number of people within the centre to aid social distancing
- Signage with FAQs in the hope it will save some people from waiting
- Face coverings to be worn by visitors entering the building

The service now has it's "We're Good to Go" industry standard status from VisitBritain to instill visitor confidence. [If you haven't received yours yet sign up here](#)

Visitors' Maps

Please let us know if you would like copies of the Visitors' Maps 2020. Contact us on visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk or 01843 577577.

[Your News](#)

Dreamland Award nomination

Voting for the UK Theme Parks Award runs until Thursday 20th August, so there is still time to vote for Dreamland, which has been nominated in the following categories:

- Best Theme Park for Families
- Theme Park of the Year
- Best Halloween Event - Screamlnd
- Best Christmas Event - Winterland Margate
- Best Social Media Engagement
- Best Accessibility
- Best Value
- Best Customer Service

We would love to see them win an award in their 100th year, so please [go online and vote for them now.](#)

Ambrette is offering 50% off this August - At Home

The Ambrette is still closed due to COVID-19 so unable to participate in the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme. However they don't want customers to lose out for staying at home, so throughout August, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, they are offering 50% off their home delivery menu. Simply go to their [ordering app](#) on any Wednesday or Thursday and put the code "August50" in the coupon section to get 50% off the entire bill.