**Tourism Matters: Have your say, project updates and attraction opportunities**

It's hard to believe we are nearly at the end of September, where is the time going! As we plan for the autumn season please do keep us informed of your events for Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas.

In this issue you have the chance to have your say on the future of Westbrook Loggia, we ask for your assistance with surveys and information, plus there's information on the latest courses being run by the Federation of Small Businesses

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 [www.visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters)

**Thanet District Council**

**Westbrook Loggia**

Thanet District Council has commissioned Fourth Street Place Consultants to carry out a feasibility study on the potential redevelopment of Westbrook Loggia at Westbrook Bay. You may be aware but, for clarity, a feasibility study investigates the viability and practicality of a potential project or development.

As part of this study we would like local residents, businesses and beach users to tell us their views about the future of the building via [an online survey](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/westbrook-loggia/)

The Loggia, which sits along Westbrook Royal Esplanade, was originally constructed as a bathing pavilion in the early 1900s. The building is owned by Thanet District Council and is currently empty except for a section occupied by Thanet Lifeguard Club and Your Leisure.

Earlier this year, the council put out a tender for a feasibility study to consider development options that would be practical, sustainable and commercially viable 365 days of the year. The building has also been identified as a key site to deliver improved experiences and facilities all year round in the council’s [Destination Management Framework](https://www.visitthanetbusiness.co.uk/destination-management/)

**We would appreciate you completing the survey by Monday 4th October 2021.** The final report is expected by the end of the year and will be taken to Cabinet for consideration.

**Summer season in Thanet: impact of Beach Management Plan**

New figures released by the council today (Thursday 23rd September) show the extent of work undertaken by their teams and partners in their collective commitment to keep the area’s beaches and towns clean and safe this staycation boom summer season.

Dedicated multi-agency activity was in place as part of the council’s Beach Management Plan this summer to tackle the huge volumes of visitors to the coast. During this period, train travel to Thanet increased by 71% during the peak season as the demand for a UK staycation at the coast remained strong.

From tonnes of litter collected, to lost children reunited with their families, agencies including the council, NHS and South East Coast Ambulance Service, Kent Police, RNLI, Your Leisure’s Bay Inspectors and Southeastern Railway, have successfully worked together for another year in support of the comprehensive Beach Management Plan. The plan was implemented for the second consecutive season to help everyone respect, protect and enjoy Thanet’s coastline. [Read more](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/summer-season-in-thanet-statistics-show-impact-of-beach-management-plan/) and watch the [Summary video](https://youtu.be/V_Tf2txSRyU)

**Tourism and Visitor Services News**

**Interreg Experience Development Project Update**

Thanet District Council is a contributing partner in the Interreg Experience Development Project. The aim for this project activity is to have new, bookable tourism experiences which are available between October to March, to help extend the visitor season and generate income in the destination during the quieter autumn/winter season. The project is also a vital activity to help rebuild the tourism sector and help counter the impact of COVID-19.

Since the previous update, the 17 Thanet businesses participating in the Project are benefitting from one to one consultations with an industry expert through Visit Kent to help them bring their experiences to market. Those that are in a position to do so have also had new photography taken, which will be used to help promote their new experiences.

Plans are underway to host a local workshop for Thanet on ‘creating new packages/experiences in collaboration with other businesses’ to build on the activity so far and stimulate interest for the creation of more new experiences. It is hoped that the workshop will take place by the end of November.

The Interreg Experience Development Project is a 4-year scheme that runs until the end of August 2023, and is worth €23 million across 10 partners in France and England. Led by Norfolk County Council, both Visit Kent, the destination management organisation for the county, and the Kent Downs AONB, are core partners with distinctive roles underpinned by budgets of €1.6 and €3.1 million respectively. Further information on the project can be found [here](https://www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk/about-us/european-funding/experience/).

**Sustainable Thanet**

Part of our activity over the autumn/winter months will be to look at the sustainability offer and green tourism in Thanet, both from a ‘what we currently have’ perspective and potentially training needs. The aim is to raise awareness of our sustainable businesses and make it easier for potential visitors to find this kind of information on our website.

We are in the very early stages, but one of the ‘quick wins’ we would like to highlight is venues that are vegan. If you run a vegan venue in the area, or know somebody who does, please get in touch via tourism@thanet.gov.uk

**National Coastal Tourism Academy Business Survey**

We would appreciate as many businesses as possible spending a little bit of time completing the latest National Coastal Tourism survey. The information helps us to see how Thanet compares to the national figures and is used to update members, to understand the impact of the pandemic over the last year, and to help us plan for recovery and the support that is needed. [You can view the national data from the first three waves here](https://coastaltourismacademy.co.uk/resource-hub/resource/impact-of-covid19-on-tourism-businesses--2021-business-barometer)

[Click here to complete the survey](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NCTA_Thanet) before the **deadline of Friday 8th October**. Thank you for your support with this.

Thank you to everyone who completes the survey as it is extremely valuable.

**Press Visit - restaurant review opportunity**

Martin Banks is a Brussels-based journalist who will be visiting the area between Thursday 4th and Sunday 7th November. Martin is travelling with his wife and two teenage children and will be gathering information for a ‘coast for all seasons’ style feature. The feature will include some of the new experiences being developed as part of the Experience Project mentioned above.

Martin is looking for an evening meal in a local restaurant for him and his family in return for review of up to 750 words and pictures. Publication will be soon after Martin’s visit and a sample of a previous review can be found [here](https://www.brusselsinview.eu/2021/08/23/time-for-a-curry-at-little-india/).

Martin has said that, “The review will appear in English language titles Brussels In View/EUReporter, EU Political Report and EUToday. EU Reporter's readership is on average 95,000 visits to the site per month (Google Analytics). It is also available in each of the official languages of the EU. This means its readership is particularly diverse and multi-national. [EU Reporter](http://www.eureporter.co) is a trusted international news provider by Google News and all EUReporter articles will be aggregated and available on Google News. Its articles can be found alongside those of the BBC, Mail online, Telegraph online, Guardian online, Politico and Reuters.

[EUToday](http://www.eutoday.net), current circulation figure is approx. 115,000pm and the readership profile is very similar to EUReporter, targeting those in the "high end" market in Brussels (it is read, for example, by MEPs, EU commissioners, EU personnel).”

If you are interested in hosting Martin, please contact julie.edwards@thanet.gov.uk

**National Lottery Days Out Campaign**

As mentioned in the last issue, VisitBritain is looking for UK-based attractions with paid admission fees suited to domestic families and younger audiences. If this applies to your attraction, you could take part in the £10 million National Lottery Days Out campaign.

Starting in October, the campaign will invite players of the National Lottery Lotto in the UK to redeem a £25 voucher to use at participating attractions. Bookings will be made through the revamped VisitBritain Shop.

Express your interest now by emailing daysoutcampaign@visitbritain.org to make sure you are registered in time for the campaign launch.

[Further information can be found here](https://www.visitbritain.org/join-days-out-campaign)

The Visitor Information team are currently contacting local attractions to find out how things are going and will be discussing this with you

**Visit Kent - Summer Residents Tourism Survey**

Kent residents, Visit Kent and Kent Downs AONB would like to hear from you on what you think of summer tourism in the county through a short survey. All respondents will have the opportunity to enter a draw for a chance to win a £50 shopping voucher.

The survey explores residents' perceptions of the impact that tourism has on the economy in your area, on your local community and on your wellbeing and is part of the INTERREG EXPERIENCE project.

The survey will take around 12 minutes to complete. It is conducted for Visit Kent and the Kent Downs AONB by the University of Surrey and is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund. You must be 18 years or over to complete the survey.

**Entry into the survey is by Wednesday 13th October**, [please click here](https://surreyfbel.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3XeolpyEeH1hGnQ?_se=ZW1tYV9kYWRkc0Bob3RtYWlsLmNvbQ%3D%3D)

**Other News**

**Government Review of Destination Management Organisations**

[The de Bois review of Destination Management Organisations](http://link.visitbritain.com/c/6/?T=MTgzODk4NTg%3AcDEtYjIxMjU3LTgyN2MwMzBkMGNkNDQwY2VhYjlkMzcyNzJlOGUzZTI5%3AcGF1bGEuaGFyYmlkZ2VAdGhhbmV0Lmdvdi51aw%3AY29udGFjdC1mOTNkODEwMjQ4ZjFlYjExOTRlZjAwMjI0ODNmNTljOC0xZmIxNDAzYjQ5MzY0MTAwOGEwZTgyZWFjOWU1MThhMQ%3AZmFsc2U%3AMA%3A%3AaHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ292LnVrL2dvdmVybm1lbnQvcHVibGljYXRpb25zL2luZGVwZW5kZW50LXJldmlldy1vZi1kZXN0aW5hdGlvbi1tYW5hZ2VtZW50LW9yZ2FuaXNhdGlvbnMtZG1vcz9fY2xkZWU9Y0dGMWJHRXVhR0Z5WW1sa1oyVkFkR2hoYm1WMExtZHZkaTUxYXclM2QlM2QmcmVjaXBpZW50aWQ9Y29udGFjdC1mOTNkODEwMjQ4ZjFlYjExOTRlZjAwMjI0ODNmNTljOC0xZmIxNDAzYjQ5MzY0MTAwOGEwZTgyZWFjOWU1MThhMSZlc2lkPTJjNGQwNTUxLWFmMTQtZWMxMS1iNmU2LTAwMjI0ODQxMmQzNQ&K=Dl-i3ozmpmOmzurodtlQEw) in England, commissioned by DCMS has been published. The review examined and assessed how Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) across England are funded and structured, and how they perform their roles, in order to establish whether there may be a more efficient and effective model for supporting English tourism at the regional level, and if so what that model may be. Read the review [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-destination-management-organisations-dmos?_cldee=cGF1bGEuaGFyYmlkZ2VAdGhhbmV0Lmdvdi51aw%3d%3d&recipientid=contact-f93d810248f1eb1194ef0022483f59c8-1fb1403b493641008a0e82eac9e518a1&esid=2c4d0551-af14-ec11-b6e6-002248412d35).

The forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review settlement will frame how these are taken forward and implemented. We will continue to keep you updated.

**Federation of Small Businesses - Virtual Conference**

**The Journey to Net Zero - Tuesday, 2 November 10am to 3pm**

This conference will look at the significant role your business plays in the transition to Net Zero, why urgent action is needed to adapt and how you can get started on your journey.

Net Zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere.

Attendees will hear from leading expert names in Government, regulation and policy making, as well as other small businesses who have taken steps towards Net Zero and seen real benefits to their businesses. For further information and to book, [click here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/fsb-small-business-virtual-conference-the-journey-to-net-zero.html?utm_source=SEPT60&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=NetZeroAcc)

**Webinars**

The Federation is running a series of webinars (click the links for further information and to register)

* Tuesday 28th September 12pm-1pm [How to make critical decisions when the stakes are high](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/how-to-make-critical-decisions-when-the-stakes-are-high-28-sep.html?utm_source=SEPT36&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WebinarAcc)
* Wednesday, 29 September, 9:30am-10:30am [Using and creating video to grow your business](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/using-and-creating-video-to-grow-your-business.html?utm_source=SEPT36&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WebinarAcc)
* Wednesday, 29 September, 2pm-3pm [How to be an award winning businesses and why it matters](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/fsb-awards-webinar.html?utm_source=SEPT36&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WebinarAcc)
* Tuesday, 5 October, 9am-10:30am [Workshop: Change your business in 90 days](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/workshop-change-your-business-in-90-days.html?utm_source=SEPT36&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WebinarAcc)
* Wednesday, 6 October, 9:30am-10:30am [How to attract your ideal clients and customers](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/how-to-attract-your-ideal-clients-and-customers.html?utm_source=SEPT36&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WebinarAcc)

**Broadstairs Quiz Trail - local stockists wanted**

The producers of the Broadstairs Quiz Trail and Town Souvenir are looking for local stockists so that people can buy them in Broadstairs rather than wait for the post. They are sold in batches to stockists for £1.50 and they retail at £4 We understand all marketing materials are provided free and as a stockist you are included on [their website](https://2uz0w.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/xiL-D5bpMebJrCfP0-BW8SV3AE6gD9vI5IcwNSam6VfZWluohoIqJCQnbJF_GJvIYW8p_CDwbTZvI76Acdsb-mN3_IlwyQIN8hfHEjW6MOvJc_qdvWPfGgbHwcHollCz7qTZTOAX82PcxRJErN7eOOTHPtf6nWWDVU1wCuU)

If interested please contact Liz at info@quiztrail.co.uk for more details and a free sample

**Your News**

**Turner Contemporary Opening Hours Update**

The gallery will be closed for their exhibition changeover between Monday 27th September and Friday 22nd October, during which time there will be no public access.

The gallery will be open Saturday 23rd October - Sunday 31st October Tuesday to Sunday 10am-5pm before opening Wednesday - Sunday 10am-5pm between Monday 1st November - Sunday 3rd April 2022.

During the Christmas period the gallery will operate

* Friday 24th - Tuesday 28th December and Tuesday 4th January - CLOSED
Wednesday 29th, Thursday 30th, Saturday 1st - Monday 3rd January - OPEN 10am-5pm
* Friday 31st December - CLOSE at 3pm

**Major new artwork as part of Pioneering Places**

Pioneering Places is a multi-year child leadership program which is enabling children from Ramsgate schools to shape their town for the better, further information can be found on the project [here](https://turnercontemporary.org/pioneering-places/?mc_cid=dc84d32530&mc_eid=UNIQID).

The project has culminated in a major new public artwork for Ramsgate from leading artist Conrad Shawcross, commissioned by the Young Arts and Heritage Leaders and based on their own research and ideas. [Beacons](https://turnercontemporary.org/news/20/09/2021/conrad-shawcross-artwork-ramsgate-launch/), the culmination of this 4-year project, will be launching next Thursday.