**February's Tourism Matters: Meet in Kent, Coronation deadline and Job opportunities**

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague

How can it be half-term already? The days are staying lighter for longer and there’s a hint of spring in the air. In this issue we bring you news of ‘Meet in Kent’, an update on the Margate Winter Gardens, the Taste in Kent awards launch and events for half-term to share with your visitors and guests.

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

**Tourism and Visitor Services News**

**Visitor Information Centre - Change of opening hours**

During February Half-Term (Monday 13 - Sunday 19) the Visitor Information Centre at Droit House in Margate will be open daily 10am - 5pm. After this date opening hours will return to Wednesday - Sunday, 10am - 5pm.

**New Coach Service**

We will soon be agents for Touromo, part of the National Express Leisure Company. Touromo offers a wide range of UK and overseas holidays and day trips, with pick up points in Thanet. We are excited to be able to offer this new service to our customers. You can view the available trips at [www.touromo.com](http://www.touromo.com) or come in to the Visitor Information Centre to find out more from the team who will be happy to help.

**Broadstairs Information Kiosk**

You may have seen in the news recently that Broadstairs Information Kiosk is looking for a new location after Shepherd Neame decided not to renew the lease on the building.

The Information Kiosk was established in 2011 to provide a warm welcome and useful information for residents and visitors to Broadstairs and St. Peter's. The kiosk is grateful to Shepherd Neame for providing the facility for the past twelve years.

The kiosk will reopen for the season on Saturday 1 April at the existing location on the seafront before moving to a new location, which is currently being sourced.

If you would like to support the kiosk in their fundraising efforts for a new venue please visit [www.broadstairsinfokiosk.co.uk](http://www.broadstairsinfokiosk.co.uk)

**Half-Term Page**

We have a dedicated website page with details of events taking place during half-term for you to share with your visitors and guests - [www.visitthanet.co.uk/february/](https://www.visitthanet.co.uk/february/)

If you know of any events that we have not included, please let us know at [visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk)

**VisitBritain /VisitEngland**

**New legislation affecting Tourism Business**

VisitBritain has published updates covering upcoming changes to the laws on tipping and single-use plastics.

Read an overview of the requirements of the Employment (Allocation of Tips) Bill and the ban on single-use plates and cutlery in their [Business Advice Hub](https://www.visitbritain.org/business-advice/latest-regulatory-updates).

**Visit Kent Updates**

**Meet in Kent Campaign**

Visit Kent has recently launched their ‘Meet in Kent’ campaign targeting businesses across Kent and London, encouraging them to book their next meeting or team away day in the county.

Businesses are looking for ways to bring their staff together to collaborate, learn and motivate with an emphasis on being more sustainable, spending money more locally, enjoying local produce and discovering what’s on their doorstep.

If you would like to be included on the website [www.meetinkent.co.uk](http://www.meetinkent.co.uk) that features meeting venues, experience providers and accommodation, or to find out more about the campaign, please contact Visit Kent on [enquiries@visitkent.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@visitkent.co.uk)

**Thanet District Council**

**Coronation Street Party Applications**

Following the announcement of the date for the King’s Coronation and the 'Big Lunch' taking place on Sunday 7 May, you may wish to organise a street party to mark the occasion.

Applications to organise a street party close on Friday 3 March and information can be found at [www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/street-parties/](http://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/street-parties/)

**Winter Gardens Update**

In December we asked you to share your questions about the future of the Margate Winter Gardens. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed, by asking questions, adding a comment or upvoting someone else’s submission. More than 130 people took part, submitting over 200 questions in total.

We’re currently working through the questions, and will add the most frequently asked to our website.

In the meantime, we wanted to share our ‘Inside the Winter Gardens’ [video](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fthanet.us11.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Dab28309033e381a95b7d8ecb7%26id%3D85e008bd5c%26e%3D16946afb53&data=05%7C01%7C%7C12360e3849c94a2edcdc08db03b59984%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638107850745085219%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jyJ23qHowJlB%2B9SaBHvok0MBFAVZh%2BjhCxsE4%2BDP1FY%3D&reserved=0). It features cabinet members and officers explaining where things are with the venue. It answers some of the questions people have been asking about the ambitions for the space and what’s happening while bookings are paused.

**Funding opportunities for Ramsgate**

The Ramsgate Cultural Consortium has been awarded funding to deliver a Cultural Programme, to encourage local residents and visitors to rediscover Ramsgate’s High Street.

It now has opportunities for local individuals, artists and organisations to apply for funding:

* **Public art and street signage project -** An exciting opportunity to deliver a permanent public art or creative street signage project along Ramsgate High Street. The deadline to submit your expression of interest is Monday 20 February 2023.
* **Events -** An opportunity to apply for funding - from £500 to £3,000 - to develop events to bring visitors to Ramsgate High Street. The deadline for applications is Thursday 30 March 2023.

[You can find out more about the Cultural Consortium and full details on the funding opportunities and how to apply on our website](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/campaigns/ramsgate-future/?tab=5)

**Love your local businesses!**

Love Local Day (Tuesday 14 February) is about sharing the love of all things local, encouraging people to support their high street businesses by nominating their favourite. [Submit your choice online](https://shopappy.com/love-local-day-2023) by Tuesday 14 February. Winners will receive a gift as a token of their community’s appreciation.

If you make a nomination, you will be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 voucher to spend with your favourite local businesses.

**PSPO introduced to tackle litter and anti-social behaviour in Margate**

Cabinet approved plans to introduce a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) on Athelstan and Ethelbert Roads at a meeting that took place on Thursday 26 January. The PSPO will be in place for three years and aims to reduce the amount of litter and rubbish on these streets, as well as address other anti-social behaviour including noise nuisance.

**Other News**

**Taste of Kent Awards - nominations open**

Nominations for the Taste of Kent Awards 2023 are open until Tuesday 28 February. The awards celebrate the best of Kent’s food and drink.

This year there have been some changes, with the award categories now refined into three key areas – Product / Taste, Hospitality and Retail and Business Awards.

Categories include - Kent Savoury Bakery Product of the Year, Kent Prepared or Cured Meat Product of the Year, Kent Beer of the Year, Kent Sustainable Food and Drink Award.

To find out more about the awards, categories and how to nominate, head to <https://tasteofkentawards.co.uk/>

**We Design Maps - these are not our official stripy Visitors’ Maps**

We understand that We Design Maps has approached some local businesses regarding advertising.

We would like to clarify that the map that they are selling advertising space for is not the stripy Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate Visitors’ Map that we produce and distribute locally. We do not stock the ‘We Design Maps’ at the Visitor Information Centre.

**Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) - webinars**

* Tuesday 14 February 10.30am-11.30am - Stop the overwhelm, step into love

[Click here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/stop-the-overwhelm-step-into-love.html?utm_source=FEB11&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WebAccs) for further information and to register

* Wednesday 15 February 10am-11.15am - Engineering, manufacturing and transport sectors networking

[Click here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/engineering-manufacturing-and-transport-sectors-networking-15feb2023.html?utm_source=FEB11&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WebAccs) for further information and to register

* Wednesday 15 February 4.30pm-5.45pm - Health, wellbeing and personal development for small businesses

[Click here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/health-wellbeing-and-personal-development-for-small-businesses.html?utm_source=FEB11&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WebAccs) for further information and to register

* Thursday 16 February 10.30am-11.30am - A business culture for high performance: setting goals and driving performance

[Click here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/a-business-culture-for-high-performance-setting-goals-and-driving-performance.html?utm_source=FEB11&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WebAccs) for further information and to register

* Friday 17 February 2pm-3pm - Let’s grow business together: LGBT+ led business networking

[Click here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/let-s-grow-business-together-lgbt-led-business-networking17feb23.html?utm_source=FEB11&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WebAccs) for further information and to register

* Wednesday 8 February 10.30am-12pm - International Womens’ Day 2023: Embrace equity

[Click here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/international-women-s-day-2023-embrace-equity.html?utm_source=FEB11&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WebAccs) for further information and to register

The most popular FSB webinars are available [on demand](https://www.fsb.org.uk/knowledge/on-demand.html?utm_source=FEB11&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=WebAccs)

**Your News**

**Dreamland Heritage Trust - Opportunities**

The Dreamland Heritage Trust is looking for a Chairperson to join their board of trustees to drive forward the objectives of the Trust.

The Trust’s mission is to protect and promote the heritage, education, historic and brand proposition of Dreamland in Margate and safeguard them for the future.

For full job description and details on how to apply, [follow this link](https://www.dreamlandheritagetrust.org.uk/vacancies)

Closing date for applications is Monday 27 February 2023.

A **Volunteer Recruitment Day** for the Heritage Trust is being held in the Ballroom at Dreamland on Friday 24 February midday - 2pm.

There are a variety of volunteering opportunities to fit everyone’s availability, interest and skill set. From meeting and greeting visitors in their exhibition, to organising and displaying the archives, developing free talks and tours for the general public and schools, helping to organise volunteer rotas and social activities and supporting fundraising.

To find out more about the trust visit [www.dreamlandheritagetrust.org.uk](https://www.dreamlandheritagetrust.org.uk/vacancies)

**Southeastern - new podcasts**

Southeastern has launched a new podcast series - ‘Hop On Board’. The podcasts take listeners on a whistlestop tour of some of the best places to explore on the Southeastern network.

Episode two features the wonderful Ed Byrne, as the comedian makes his way from Margate to the beaches of Broadstairs to ramble with locals and explore attractions and the coastline.

Listen now, wherever you get your podcasts, or visit [www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/hoponboard](http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/hoponboard)

**Pie Factory Music**

Pie Factory Music is looking for a new Chief Executive Officer to lead this dynamic and highly effective creative youth charity. The role will provide the overall strategic and operational leadership of Pie, to deliver safe, positive and inspirational programmes for children and young people in East Kent.

To find out more about the role and apply, [please visit their website](https://piefactorymusic.com/chief-executive-officer/). Applications close 12pm Friday 24 February.