**October's Tourism Matters: Survey Request, Congratulations and Project Updates**

Dear Tourism Industry colleague

Autumn is here and with it cooler, crisper air, shorter days and talk of Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas. The busier summer season may be over, but there is still lots going on.

In this issue we ask for your assistance in completing a survey from the National Coastal Tourism Academy and your support in updating the Visitors’ Map for next year. There is an opportunity to supply information for your business relevant to our upcoming content themes, and the RNLI is looking for local ambassadors - could this be you?

Keep up to date with the latest event information and seasonal content on our website [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk)

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 Services Autumn Opening Hours**

The Thanet Visitor Information Centre at Droit House, Margate is open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm throughout October and November with daily opening during October half term (Monday 23 - Friday 27 October).

**Visitors’ Map 2024/25**

We will shortly start updating entries for the Visitors’ Map 2024/25.

Businesses will be contacted by email in the first instance. We would be grateful if you could help by checking your information and responding within the given timeframe. Please pay particular attention to opening times, prices and contact details.

If you have suggestions for how we can improve the Visitors’ Map, please email these to julie.edwards@thanet.gov.uk

**National Coastal Tourism Academy Business Survey**

We would encourage as many businesses as possible to complete the National Coastal Tourism Academy (NCTA) Coastal Business Survey for Visitor Economy.

The survey focuses on performance over summer 2023, future bookings and challenges.

[The survey can be found here](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NCTA_Thanet). The deadline for completion is Sunday 22 October.

Any information you provide is strictly confidential. If we achieve a large enough sample size, we receive a general report for Thanet (no individual business information is shown). This information helps us to see how Thanet compares to national figures. NCTA uses the survey results to update members and to identify any support needed.

**Exciting news…..WonderWorks MARGATE!**

Located in Margate, The WonderWorks is a re-energised and reimagined experience showcasing the world-famous hobby, toy and collectable brands of Hornby Hobbies; Airfix, Corgi, Hornby, Scalextric and Pocher.

With adult tickets at £5 and child tickets just £2.50, WonderWorks offers an engaging, educational, and affordable experience for visitors of all ages. The attraction opens on Monday 30 October.

Keep your eye out for announcements #WonderWorksMargate

**Halloween Events**

With just a few weeks until Halloween we have put together a dedicated page of events [www.visitthanet.co.uk/halloween](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/halloween) happening in the area that you can share with your guests, visitors, friends and family.

Events include - trails, parties, crafts and ghost hunting.

If you have an event you would like included, complete our online event registration form [www.visitthanet.co.uk/submit-your-event/](https://www.visitthanet.co.uk/submit-your-event/) Events will be processed by the team before they are live on the site.

**Content Call Out**

Over the coming months we will be developing and promoting a number of themes across our website and social media channels. These include:

* Local producers, independent shopping, gifts for Christmas
* Christmas events
* What’s new and key anniversaries for 2024
* Winter wellness
* Experiences

If you have any suggestions relevant to these themes, please let us know at tourism@thanet.gov.uk

We are keen to reach as many people as possible with our social media content. Please support us by liking and sharing our posts.

**Thanet District Council**

**Margate Town Deal plans for Walpole Bay**

Members of the public were recently invited to a drop-in event to learn about the regeneration projects planned for Walpole Bay, as part of the Margate Town Deal. These include improved access and new beach and wellbeing facilities.

The proposed concepts for Walpole Bay were on display and members of the project team, architects and designers were present to answer questions. Over 300 people attended and 120 paper surveys were collected on the day.

The project boards will remain on display to give anyone who was unable to attend the in-person event the opportunity to view the boards and share their feedback. The boards are available to view at Walpole Bay Hotel, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville, every day between 10am and 7pm, until Monday 23 October.

You can also view the design concepts and fill out the online survey on [Your Voice Thanet](https://yourvoice.thanet.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/walpole-drop-in?hasAccess=true).

**Have a say on the future of walking and cycling in Thanet**

Thanet District Council is working with Sustrans to develop a walking and cycling plan for the district.

An [online consultation tool](https://communitymap.uk/project/217) is now live, which highlights the draft cycling and walking routes. You can give your feedback until Monday 16 October.

**Community Groups invited to take part in UK Shared Prosperity Fund survey**

Thanet District Council has been given £1.15m though the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), to address the inequalities between communities in the district.

Thanet’s voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations are invited to complete an online survey. These groups will be key to how the funding is used, and once they have completed the survey, will be contacted with information on how to apply for UKSPF grant funding.

If you have links with any VCSE groups, Thanet District Council would be grateful if you could encourage them to fill out the [survey](https://jsjvlcrqs0n.typeform.com/to/egzNvr8w?typeform-source=www.google.com) , which will be open until midday Monday 6 November. You can find out more in the council’s [Newsroom](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/council-invites-community-organisations-to-take-part-in-uk-shared-prosperity-fund-survey/).

**Free activities for Margate residents**

Thanet District Council is running six weeks of free activities at Walpole Bay, as part of the Margate Town Deal ‘Coastal Wellbeing’ project.

The activities range from belly dancing to martial arts and social singing, and are aimed at Margate residents who don't usually go to gyms or paid classes.

Visit the council [website](https://thanet.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ab28309033e381a95b7d8ecb7&id=d62a2f0114&e=16946afb53) for more information and to book a place.

**Other News**

**Could you be an RNLI Ambassador?**

#### Monday 4 March 2024 marks the [200th anniversary of the RNLI](https://rnli.org/about-us/our-history/2024), and to celebrate, they are developing a year-long programme of events.

As part of this, the RNLI is looking to recruit local ambassadors – people who work or operate a business near the water. Ambassadors are asked to download and display their water safety campaign resources. The campaign explains what you should do if you see someone in trouble, and how to offer advice to visitors informally. [Find out how you could become an ambassador here](https://rnli.org/support-us/volunteer/volunteering-opportunities/rnli-local-ambassador)

**Federation of Small Businesses event**

The Federation of Small Businesses is hosting an event on Tuesday 24 October, from 11am to 12pm. It will focus on the **Cost of living: How employers can support staff and boost retention.** It is open to all small businesses and the self-employed.

Click [here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/cost-of-living-how-employers-can-support-staff-and-boost-retention-241023.html?utm_campaign=1497655_Monthly%20Newsletter%20-%20Account%20Holders%20-%20OCT5&utm_medium=email&utm_source=National%20Federation%20of%20Self%20Employed%20%26%20Small%20Businesses%20Limited&dm_i=6TOT,W3LJ,452RK3,3Y6YB,1) for further information and to book your place.

**Your News**

Congratulations to [**The Palace Cinema**](https://thepalacecinema.co.uk/), Broadstairs, which has been shortlisted in the ‘Cinema of The Year (24 Screens or Under)’ award at [Screen International Big Screen Awards 2023](https://www.bigscreenawards.com/). The winners will be announced on Thursday 23 November.

The **Walpole Bay Hotel, Margate** features in a new, fictional crime/thriller/mystery book by Richard Savin - ‘The Man at the Walpole Bay Hotel’. Copies are available to purchase at the hotel.

‘1914 is going to be a momentous year. WWI is declared, Britain is gripped by ‘spymania’ and Robson, the barman at the Walpole Bay Hotel, has invented a new cocktail: the *Walpole Bay Slammer.* Meanwhile a murdered German diplomat is found in a London flat, a body is discovered on a Margate beach, and a suspicious guest arrives at the fashionable Walpole Bay Hotel. When a third body is found, the mystery deepens.’