**October’s Tourism Matters: What's in it for you?**

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague,

The seasons are definitely changing with a nip in the air, the days getting darker earlier plus Halloween and Bonfire Night just around the corner.

In this issue we bring you details of our Creative Isle promotional film, provide seasonal content that you can share with your guests and visitors, and give you an update on a number of Thanet District Council projects.

**Tourism and Visitor Services News**

**Visit Kent update**

In September’s Tourism Matters we mentioned that Visit Kent / Go to Place had ceased trading. This was followed by news that Locate in Kent, an organisation that promoted Kent as a business destination, had also ceased trading.

Yesterday we heard that Kent County Council and Medway Council are planning to join forces to continue the work of Visit Kent and Locate in Kent. You can find out more [here](https://news.kent.gov.uk/articles/brand-kent-reinstating-a-visitor-economy-and-inward-investment-service#:~:text=Brand%20Kent%20%2D%20reinstating%20a%20visitor%20economy%20and%20inward%20investment%20service,-8%20October%202025&text=Kent%20County%20Council%20and%20Medway,went%20into%20liquidation%20last%20month.)

**New Kent’s Creative Isle Films**

The Tourism team, supported by Ramsgate Town Council, has created a film as part of their activity to encourage visits to Thanet out of the summer season. The film encapsulates a short creative break to the Isle for single people or couples in their 20s to 40s, our ‘free and easy mini-breaker’ audience.

You may have spotted a short version of the film across the Visit Thanet social media pages, on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. You can check out the full length version on [www.visitthanet.co.uk/creativeisle](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/creativeisle). We would appreciate you liking and sharing our posts to help us reach more people and encourage more visits in the coming months.

The Ramsgate sections of the film have been edited into a separate long film and shorter version for Ramsgate Town Council, who have been sharing on their social media accounts.

**Seasonal Content**

We have put together a dedicated web page of October half term events information for sharing with your visitors [www.visitthanet.co.uk/halfterm](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/halfterm)

Alongside this we have a dedicated Halloween event page [www.visitthanet.co.uk/halloween](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/halloween)

If you have an event not currently listed on these pages, please let us know by emailing visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk with the event name, date, time, cost (if relevant), contact details for further information, event description and an image (landscape/horizontal format).

**Special Offers**

If you are running any special offers that you would like us to help promote, please send details to visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk

**Visitor Information Services opening hours**

The **Thanet Visitor Information Centre** at Droit House is open between 10am and 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday during October as well as daily during October half term (Monday 20 October to Friday 24 October). From November the centre will be open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm.

**Ramsgate Visitor Information** at The Custom House, Harbour Parade, Ramsgate, is open every day between 10am and 2pm through to the end of March.

**Broadstairs Information Kiosk** on the promenade is now closed until the start of the 2026 season.

**Skills and Training**

**Exciting News – Stronger Together – UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

We’re thrilled to share that the Thanet Tourism and Visitor Services team has secured additional funding to continue the Stronger Together project.

Earlier this year, the project focused on supporting our hospitality sector. With this new funding, we’re taking the next step - shining a spotlight on accessibility and inclusivity. This isn’t just about making Thanet more welcoming for visitors - it’s about giving you and your business the tools to thrive and become a more inclusive employer.

We’ll be launching a programme of training and support designed to:

* Build your understanding of accessibility and inclusivity
* Show how small, simple changes can make a big impact
* Help position Thanet as a truly inclusive destination

To make sure this programme really works for local businesses, we need your insights. What challenges do you face? Where are the gaps? What support would help you most?

We would appreciate it if you could take just a few minutes to complete our [short survey](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnNLeyrXDm2mQnz3hZdbK2kjc1Gyly0qSo9VTlTFJWPafyJg/viewform) and help shape the future of accessibility in Thanet.

Your feedback will directly influence how we design training and resources - so that together, we can make Thanet a place where every visitor feels welcome and every business can benefit. [**Complete the survey now**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnNLeyrXDm2mQnz3hZdbK2kjc1Gyly0qSo9VTlTFJWPafyJg/viewform)

**Thanet District Council**

**Community Champions Awards 2026**

The Community Champions Awards, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, celebrate the people and voluntary, charity and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations dedicated to improving life in Thanet.

Nominations are open for the next round of awards, and can be made on the Social Enterprise Kent ([SEK) website](https://sekgroup.org.uk/support/support-for-people/thanet-community-champions-awards-2026/) until the closing date of Friday 31 October 2025. The winners will be announced at a special event in January 2026.

**The Teenage Market: celebrating enterprise, creativity and community**

The latest Teenage Market happened at Pierremont Hall in Broadstairs on Saturday 20 September. A total of 58 young people took part, selling a wide range of products as well as performing live music.

The next Teenage Market happens at The Centre in Margate on Saturday 29 November.

**Walpole Bay Projects**

There’s a whole package of projects happening at Walpole Bay in Cliftonville, supported by the government's Margate Town Deal funding.

Projects include restoring the Grade II Listed Cliff Lift, improving the steps and Listed Tidal Pool, and creating better provision for cyclists and walkers with new beach facilities.

The planning application for a new café, toilets and showers at Walpole Bay has been submitted, with a decision expected in the autumn. Thanet District Council also expects to announce a contractor for the skatepark project later in 2025.

**Theatre Royal Update**

Plans to refurbish and reopen the Theatre Royal in Margate reached an important milestone in September.

The architect and design teams have been appointed, along with specialist consultants and project managers. Thanet District Council expects the tender process for the main contractor to start in early spring 2026, subject to approval by Cabinet.

**Green Campus Update**

The Green Campus in Ramsgate will provide new facilities for green energy and maritime businesses, as well as training, office and work space.

The planning application for the Green Campus at the Port of Ramsgate was published on Friday 15 September. The application is for three buildings, access, landscaping and parking.

Thanet District Council plans to deliver two of the three buildings using government funding already allocated to the town. The third building will require alternative investment for it to be delivered.

You can read the planning application on the [Planning Portal](https://planning.thanet.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple) , using reference number: F/TH/25/0961

**Other News**

**Museums + Heritage Awards 2026**

The annual [Museums + Heritage Awards](https://awards.museumsandheritage.com/) celebrate the very best in the world of museums, galleries and cultural and heritage visitor attractions.

Entries for the 2026 Awards open in November. To find out more and sign up to their newsletter head to the [website](https://awards.museumsandheritage.com/)

**Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce Networking Event**

Kent Invicta Chamber Connections is hosting a networking event at Chapel House Estate near Ramsgate on Wednesday 12 November.

The informal event gives businesses the opportunity to promote themselves and make invaluable connections with local businesses in Kent.

You don’t need to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce to book a place. You can, find out more on the [website](https://www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk/events/chamber-connections-chapel-house/)

**King Charles III England Coast Path - promote your business for FREE**

National Trails would like to see more venues, in particular accommodation providers, listed on their website [www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk), which has over a million visitors each year.

This is a free opportunity which could help encourage people walking or cycling the King Charles III Coast Path to spend more time in Thanet, to the benefit of the local economy and potentially your business. To add your business visit the [website](https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/add-your-business/)

**Your News**

**New - Portable Powell-Cotton Museum in your palm** The Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens can now be accessed on the free Bloomberg Connects app. Enjoy a curated tour of the seven museum galleries; an audio trail through the grounds, walled gardens and glasshouses with the head gardener; plus the history of the museum and stories from Quex House from wherever you are in the world. [Find out more here](https://powell-cottonmuseum.org/new-digital-guide-on-bloomberg-connects/)

Congratulations to [**Buoy and Oyster’**](https://www.buoyandoyster.co.uk/)**s** Head Chef Craig Edgell who received the ‘Best Presentation Award’ in the National Chef of the Year competition, hosted by the Craft Guild of Chefs.