**Tourism Matters: Opportunities for your business**

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague,

There is a feeling of spring in the air and a certain amount of optimism, now that we have a plan for recovery and businesses have an idea of when they may be able to open again.

In this e-news we have an update on payments to businesses and some free workshop opportunities for you.

**Self-Catering Reopening Clarification**

Following enquiries after the Prime Minister's Roadmap announcement, the following has been clarified with regards to Self-Catering accommodation reopening

*Self-contained holiday accommodation in which all facilities (including for sleeping, catering, bathing, and indoor lobbies and corridors for entry and exit) are restricted to exclusive use of a single household/support bubble can reopen on Monday 12th April*

**Thanet District Council**

**Update following latest Government roadmap announcement**

There's a lot to take in from the Prime Minister's announced roadmap out of lockdown. Thanet District Council wants to help local businesses to navigate the months ahead and has been working through the new guidance. The web pages have been updated with the latest information on grants. www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/business-support-grants/

In summary:

There will be a further 44 day LRSG payment available for businesses required to close (and in the business rates list) as part of the national lockdown, between Tuesday 16 February and Wednesday 31 March. These payments will be as follows\* -

* £2,096 for businesses with a rateable value of £15,000 or less
* £3,143 for businesses with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
* £4,714 for businesses with a rateable value over £51,000

\*The new period is 44 days rather than the 42 day period previously, so payments are slightly higher than previously.

Payments will be made regardless of the national 4-stage approach to recovery. This means, if your business is allowed to open before Wednesday 31 March and you have received a payment you do not have to repay it.

Please note the application deadlines for all schemes:

* There is no new ARG scheme. The application deadline is Sunday 28 February.
* Third lockdown payment (Tuesday 5 January - Monday 15 February 2021), 42 days, and bonus payment (CBLP) - applications will close on Wednesday 31 March and final payments made by Friday 30th April 2021.
* Third lockdown payment (Tuesday 16 February - Wednesday 31 March 2021), 44 days, - applications close Monday 31 May 2021 and final payments made by Wednesday 30 June 2021.

At this early stage, Thanet District Council does not have a definite timescale for when the next round of payments will be made. They will be working as fast as they can to ensure the money reaches local businesses quickly.

There will be further guidance when the Budget is announced next Wednesday (3rd March).

If you have any questions relating to your business, do get in touch within the Thanet District Council Facebook group [www.facebook.com/groups/ThanetBusinessSupport](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ThanetBusinessSupport) and they will do their best to answer.

Further updates will be given as guidance from the Government is received. Please continue to visit the council’s [Business Advice](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/business-advice/) web pages for updates.

**Streetscene Superhero Competition**

Thanet District Council has launched its latest Streetscene Superhero competition, asking people to design a storyboard focusing on the work the team undertake on a daily basis, to keep Thanet clean. The winning storyboards will feature across street scene work - leaflets, e-magazine, and work in local schools.

To find out more about taking part in the competition and how to enter, [click here](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/educational-resources/)

**VisitBritain/VisitEngland**

VisitEngland and Google Digital Garage present their latest FREE webinar.

**Get your Business Visible on Google - Tuesday 16th March 11am**

In this session you will learn

* What is search and how does it work
* How to build your online presence and where it appears in search results
* Ways to optimise your online profile with Google Maps

[To find out more and book, click here](https://visitbritain.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=visitbritain&service=6&rnd=0.1416170103368466&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fvisitbritain.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26%26%26EMK%3D4832534b000000046714b7e5abc8d42bc92aa52adba9469cd9f35582a60685996800e0be0ef27dac%26siteurl%3Dvisitbritain%26confViewID%3D185063128115972521%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAAAQ19DHnNoqeILN12mAumG0MG-ufmtjwoIqmUqqRy7kg2A2%26)

**Changes to Food Labelling Laws**

From October, businesses that prepare and sell pre-packed food need to provide a full ingredient list and allergen information on the product.

Read VisitBritain/VisitEngland’s [latest regulatory update](https://www.visitbritain.org/business-advice/latest-regulatory-updates) in the Business Advice Hub that provides an overview of the new legislation and what you need to do.

**NCTA Free Coastal Businesses Experience Tourism workshops**

The National Coastal Tourism Academy (NCTA) is running two **free workshops** to help coastal businesses / destinations as visitors are increasingly looking for more genuine ‘authentic experiences’ as part of their holiday.

Presented by the [England’s Coast](http://www.englandscoast.com/) project and Tourism Business Advisor Chris Brant from Unmissable England, the first short workshop will provide an introduction to Experience Tourism, where visitors engage in new activities or pursuits to create lasting memories. Chris is an Experience Maker himself and runs a series of visitor experiences, including baking scones in a thatched cottage and running vineyard tours with wine and gin tasting. You’ll hear first-hand from a panel of coastal businesses, how they tapped into new markets and built growth in the off-peak season. This is a great starter session for any coastal business!

In the second workshop, Chris will delve a little deeper into the key components of experiences and take participants through an interactive workshop on how to create new experiences, get them to market and top tips needed to be successful.

**Wednesday, 10th March 10-11.30am -** [Book your free ticket here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-introduction-to-experiential-tourism-workshop-for-businesses-12-tickets-141808429831)

**Tuesday, 23rd March 10-12.30pm -** [Book your free ticket here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-unique-experience-development-workshop-for-businesses-22-tickets-141814995469)

**Visit Kent - Art Homes Workshop**

**Wednesday 10th March 10am-12pm**

Do you currently let your property on the Kent Coast to short-stay visitors? Are you looking at ways to rebuild your business once travel restrictions have eased?

The Art Homes Pilot project can help your property to stand out from the crowd and connect you to the local creative industry, as well as providing you with support for ensuring your property is Covid secure. [Click here to find out more](https://www.visitkentbusiness.co.uk/get-involved/englands-creative-coast/art-homes/)

Join Visit Kent to find out how you can get involved. At this webinar you’ll hear the latest guidance and advice on how to operate a home-stay property in a pandemic from the experts, Quality in Tourism.

To register your interest in attending, [please click here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/art-homes-workshop-tickets-142106015919)

**Your News**

Congratulations to **Moon Lane Children’s Books and Toys, Ramsgate** and **The Margate Bookshop** who are shortlisted Regional Finalists for ‘Independent Bookshop of the Year 2021’ in the South-East England Region of The British Book Awards.

The winners will be announced at an award ceremony on Thursday 13th May. Good luck to you both