**February’s Tourism Matters: Grant Applications Live, Fiver Fest back for 2022 and Volunteers Wanted**

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague

Where is the year going? Already we are just a few days away from the first school holidays of the year and Valentine’s Day.

In this issue we bring you a reminder of applications open for Additional Restrictions Grants, and an opportunity to find out about the Margate Town Deal. Volunteers are needed at Broadstairs Information Kiosk and Dreamland Trust is looking for a Treasurer and Company Secretary.

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)

**Tourism and Visitor Services News**

**Green Tourism Toolkit**

The toolkit, mentioned in previous issues of Tourism Matters, is being finalised and we will be sharing it with you after half term.

**Margate Visitor Centre Half Term Opening**

The Thanet Visitor Information Centre team at Droit House Margate are extending their usual Wednesday-Sunday opening hours to be open daily 10am-5pm during half term (Monday 14th-Sunday 20th February)

**Half Term Ideas**

If you have friends, family or visitors staying with you this half term, we have created a new blog, detailing events going on, places to visit and things to do

Head to our blog to [find out more](https://www.visitthanet.co.uk/visit-thanet-blog/february-half-term/) and don’t forget our blogs can be used as a source of ideas for your guests and shared on social media - please do reshare on your channels to inspire future visits.

**Dog Friendly Venues**

We have been updating the details of attractions, accommodation and hospitality venues in the area that accept and cater for man’s best friend. Updated details can be found on our website at [www.visitthanet.co.uk/dogfriendly](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/dogfriendly) If your business is not on the list, please let us know

**Promote your business with Isle Magazine**

This year's edition of Isle Magazine is now being planned and will come out in mid-May. Kiki and Simon have made the decision to make it an annual publication as a result of the huge, and still rising, increases in the cost of paper and printing (due to the impact of the last couple of years on the industry).

Rest assured that they will continue to produce a magazine of the highest quality, packed with great editorial features and what's on information for residents and visitors. It will be designed to have a long shelf life - taking it into spring 2023, supported by a proactive social media campaign throughout the year.

Over 20,000 FREE copies will be distributed from May to October through more than 300 selected outlets across Thanet. It is known that the magazine is passed on by people, so it will have an extensive readership, with advertisements being viewed multiple times.

Additionally, the magazine has a free online version digital.islemagazine.co.uk (<http://digital.islemagazine.co.uk/>) that enables readers from out of the area to read about life in Thanet, with articles and adverts being linked from the E-edition.

Isle Magazine social media will keep readers up-to-date throughout the year with key events in the area, and will offer advertisers a platform to share their latest news and updates to the thousands of followers.

Isle offers businesses in Thanet a great opportunity to advertise to a large audience. Don't miss out on this year's bumper issue!

Full details and advertising rates can obtained from Simon on simon@islemagazine.co.uk, or call on 07787 163632

**Thanet District Council**

**Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG)**

As announced on Tuesday 21st December, The Chancellor has made available more than £100 million discretionary funding via the Additional Restrictions Grant for local authorities in England to support businesses.

Thanet District Council has received a further £177,000 to distribute on a discretionary basis to businesses that have been severely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions or by the Omicron variant. This funding is in addition to the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Scheme. Any business that is eligible for the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Scheme is therefore not eligible for an Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG).

Many businesses that previously received an ARG have been contacted directly by the council, as they may be eligible for this new Phase Four grant.

**The deadline for submitting applications is 5pm on Friday 18th February** and payments will be made shortly after this date.

To make an application and for further information on the grant please visit the [Thanet District Council website](http://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/business-support-grants/?question=20836-1)

**Margate Town Deal Community Exhibition**

Turner Contemporary will be hosting a Margate Town Deal 'Community Exhibition' on **Saturday 26th February between 10am to 4pm**.

The [Margate Town Deal](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/campaigns/margate-town-deal), organised by Thanet District Council, comprises of a range of exciting and ambitious projects that will help the town to thrive 365 days a year. This exhibition is an opportunity for local people to find out more about these projects, ask questions, share ideas and help turn the plans into reality.

Please book a half an hour slot on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/margate-town-deal-meet-the-projects-tickets-255164713527) and we look forward to seeing you there. More information about the Margate Town Deal can be found at [www.margatetowndeal.co.uk](http://www.margatetowndeal.co.uk)

**Ramsgate Future’s Town Investment Plan**

On Thursday 20th January, Thanet District Council published the ‘Ramsgate Future’s Town Investment Plan’. This is an action plan for the town, created by the communities and businesses of Ramsgate, which sets out a vision to transform the town. To find out more visit the [Thanet District Council website](http://www.thanet.gov.uk/campaigns/ramsgate-future/?tab=2)

**Totally Locally**

Totally Locally, the award-winning shop local campaign, is launching in Thanet this month.

From Saturday 12th to Wednesday 26th March local businesses will encourage shoppers to divert just £5 of their weekly spend to support the small businesses in their communities.

Many of Thanet’s shops & businesses will have special offers - highlighting the Totally Locally message that if everyone spent just £5 a week in local independent shops, it has the power to boost annual spend across our towns.

Totally Locally is an award-winning global initiative that supports traders by promoting the value of local shopping and its benefits for the local economy. There will be a free marketing toolkit and mentoring available to local businesses to help them increase footfall and attract new customers. [Find out more](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/thanet-goes-totally-locally-for-a-28-million-boost/)

**Ramsgate High Street HAZ Cultural Consortium**

Are you passionate about your local high street? Do you believe that culture should be at the heart of them; bringing people together and giving them a feeling of pride in their community? If you can spare a few hours a month, we want to hear from you.

We are looking for people to join a Ramsgate Cultural Consortium to help plan activities that will use the power of culture to celebrate Ramsgate’s high street. This is community-led cultural work so we want to hear from as many people as possible to help encourage the community to enjoy their high street once again and have a say in its future.

To find out more about this voluntary role, contact ramsgate-future@thanet.gov.uk

**Bird Wise East Kent Great Coastal Bird Watch**

Bird Wise East Kent is collaborating with local groups Kent Wildlife Trust, Bird Wise North Kent, Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory, the RSPB and Thanet Coast Project for the first ever Great Kent Coastal Birdwatch this half term

Anyone can take part and you can go out alone, as a family, or go along to a group survey for help with identifying the birds. You have from **Saturday 12th to Sunday 20th February** to complete your bird watch. [Find out more](http://eastkent.birdwise.org.uk/the-great-kent-coastal-birdwatch)

**Event bookings go Digital**

Thanet District Council’s Community Team is excited to announce the new Event App system, designed to make it quicker and easier for event organisers to book their events with the council. Event organisers can now use the app to:

* Interact directly with the Safety Advisory Group via a messaging service
* Make online payments for land hire and other services required to manage an event
* Edit existing applications
* View previously submitted applications

If you or someone you know is planning a public event, you can access the [Event App from the council website](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/organise-an-event/)

**Celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

Later this year, the nation will enjoy a four-day bank holiday to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee with an extensive programme of public events. The traditional May bank holiday weekend has been moved to Thursday 2nd June, with an additional bank holiday on Friday 3rd June to create a four-day weekend. Events in London will be complemented by events in communities across the UK and Commonwealth, allowing people to join together to celebrate the Jubilee.

If you would like to apply to hold a street party as part of The Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5th June, you can find details on all of the information that you need to submit on Thanet District Council’s [website](http://www.thanet.gov.uk/street-parties-jubilee-2022). **Deadline for submission Thursday 31st March**

You can find tips and ideas for a successful street party at [www.streetparty.org.uk](http://www.streetparty.org.uk) or on the [Government website](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party)

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has launched the [Platinum Jubilee website](https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/events), including an interactive map which will display the location of all the events and activities taking place across the UK. The map is open to all, and everyone is encouraged to upload their planned events and activities to mark the Jubilee. The website includes links to possible [funding opportunities](https://platinumjubilee.gov.uk/funding/).

**Actions to take when the cyber threat is heightened**

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has updated the cyber security guidance in response to the malicious cyber incidents in and around Ukraine.

Businesses are urged to bolster their cyber security resilience and to take steps that reduce their risk of falling victim to an attack.

You can find further information on the [NCSC website](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/actions-to-take-when-the-cyber-threat-is-heightened)

**VisitBritain/VisitEngland**

**Google Digital Garage - Get Your Business Visible on Google**

Join VisitEngland for their new webinar, ‘Get your business visible on Google’, held in partnership with Google Digital Garage on Wednesday 16th March at 11am.

Join the [free session](https://visitbritain.webex.com/mw3300/mywebex/default.do?nomenu=true&siteurl=visitbritain&service=6&rnd=0.6255054344188059&main_url=https%3A%2F%2Fvisitbritain.webex.com%2Fec3300%2Feventcenter%2Fevent%2FeventAction.do%3FtheAction%3Ddetail%26%26%26EMK%3D4832534b00000005febae1d45388eaefc608ce5a1665424e7c3cf339b9f6d2ff60d98dc5fd246e59%26siteurl%3Dvisitbritain%26confViewID%3D213671753121008502%26encryptTicket%3DSDJTSwAAAAVIV2prm9mZdkz223l08PPaq2J3dzDSC_VdTmkAlU37WA2%26) to learn more about search listings and how to get your business visible on Google Maps.

**Changes to business rates requirements for self-catering properties**

The UK Government has announced that from 1st April 2023, self-catering business owners will have to provide new evidence that they are eligible for business rates rather than council tax.

Kurt Janson, Director of the Tourism Alliance, provides more information in his regular update on the [Business Advice Hub](https://www.visitbritain.org/business-advice/latest-regulatory-updates)

**Other News**

**Federation of Small Businesses Webinars**

* Tuesday 15 February, 11am - 12.30pm - Negotiation - Structuring better outcomes. For further information and to register [click here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/negotiation-structuring-better-outcomes.html%29)
* Wednesday 16 February, 10am - 11am - Networking - Let's Talk Technical. For further information and to register [click here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/networking-let-s-talk-technical-16feb2022.html)
* Monday 21 February, 11am - 12pm - Making Tax Digital - what small businesses need to know. For further information and to register [click here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/making-tax-digital-what-small-businesses-need-to-know-21-feb.html)
* Tuesday 22nd February 11am-12pm - Commercial insurance: navigating uncertainty for small businesses. For further information and to register [click here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/commercial-insurance-navigating-uncertainty-for-small-businesses.html?utm_source=FEB4&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=InsWebAccs)

**Your News**

Welcome to Clarrie Wallis, the new Director of **Turner Contemporary**, who started in mid- January. [Read more here](https://turnercontemporary.org/news/24/09/2021/turner-contemporary-appoints-new-director-clarrie-wallis-senior-curator-of-contemporary-art-british-at-tate/)

Welcome to Lucy Jones, the new Chair of **Dreamland Heritage Trust**. The Trust is currently advertising for a Treasurer and Company Secretary to join their board of trustees, with details of the roles on [their website](https://dreamlandheritagetrust.org.uk/News/Vacancies/%29). **The deadline for application is Friday 25th February**

Congratulations to **Stonelees Golf Centre,** with the support of the Woodland Trust, they have planted 1,600 native UK trees at the site this month

**Would you like to volunteer atBroadstairs Information Kiosk?**

Join the team..... You can make a difference....

* Do you love Broadstairs?
* Do you enjoy helping people?
* Do you want some fun over the summer season?
* Do you have a couple of hours free every week - weekdays? weekends?

If you are interested in joining the Volunteer Team please email info@broadstairsinfokiosk.co.uk