**July's Tourism Matters: Get voting, survey request and congratulations**

Dear Tourism Industry colleague

Where is the year going with just a couple of weeks until the school summer holidays start? The weather has definitely been preparing us for it!

In this issue we ask for your assistance in voting for Dreamland in the Seaside Heritage Network Bucket and Spade list and in completing the latest National Coastal Tourism Academy Business Survey. We bring you a wave of congratulations and updates on Council projects.

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**

**New Location for the Broadstairs Visitor Information Kiosk**

Since Saturday 1 July, Broadstairs Visitor Information Kiosk has been operating from its new location above the Chandos shelter on Victoria Promenade.

The kiosk has long been a welcoming hub of knowledge and guidance to visitors and residents alike, thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers who have tirelessly supported the town's tourism initiatives.

In its new location, the volunteers continue to provide a warm welcome and expert information to visitors to Broadstairs, ensuring everyone has a memorable experience exploring our beautiful coastal town.

**Thanet Visitor Information Centre Summer Opening**

The Thanet Visitor Information Centre at Droit House, Margate is open daily throughout July and August from 10am to 5pm.

**Vote in Bucket and Spade List**

Seaside Heritage Network, collaborating with Coast Magazine, has a new competition to find the nation’s best-loved seaside heritage.

Many different things go into making the British seaside a special place. The Seaside Heritage Network has come up with a way to celebrate that variety – but needs your help. They asked people to nominate places and experiences that encapsulate the very best that the seaside has to offer. Now the list needs whittling down to a Top Ten ‘Bucket and Spade List’.

Dreamland is included in the shortlist, along with arcade machines, Blackpool Tower, Babbacombe Model Village and rockpooling.

Find out more about the shortlist and [vote here](https://sway.office.com/lQLnyWDdCjjn0C4l?ref=Link). The final ‘Top Ten Bucket and Spade List’ will be announced in September.

**NCTA Coastal Business Survey Summer 2023**

We would appreciate as many businesses as possible completing the National Coastal Tourism Academy (NCTA) Coastal Business Survey for Visitor Economy. The deadline for the survey is **Sunday 23 July** and you can [complete it here](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NCTA_Thanet)

The survey focuses on business performance so far in 2023, future bookings and challenges.

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 it to update members, to understand the impact of the pandemic over the last few years, and to help plan for recovery and identify the support needed.

**Have you got our Visitors’ Map for summer visitors?**

With the school summer holidays just around the corner, are you displaying copies of our Visitors’ Map for your guests and visitors?

If you would like to pick up a supply of the maps, **please can we ask that businesses contact us before collection to ensure we have supplies available.** Call the Visitor Information Centre team on 01843 577577 or email visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk

Copies can also be collected from Lillyputt Mini Golf in Broadstairs and The Custom House in Ramsgate.

**PR update**

In last month’s Tourism Matters we mentioned we were awaiting coverage for Ramsgate in The Sun’s Fabulous Magazine, plus Margate and Ramsgate coverage in On Yorkshire (online). Please see the links below.

* Fabulous Magazine - [Shore Thing! The UK seaside town that makes the best staycation with stunning marina and fresh fish.](https://www.thesun.co.uk/travel/22746322/ramsgate-staycation-marina-history/ion-marina-history/) (1.3 million readers print, 12.6 million monthly online visitors, 840K Facebook followers, 113K Instagram, 81K Twitter)
* On Yorkshire - [Margate and The Walpole Bay Hotel](https://www.on-magazine.co.uk/travel/uk-reviews/margate-walpole-bay-hotel/), and [Ramsgate and Pegwell Bay Hotel](https://www.on-magazine.co.uk/travel/uk-reviews/ramsgate-pegwell-bay-hotel/) (average monthly unique visitors - 51,092, combined social media and newsletter subscribers - 21,550)

This month we have hosted journalists writing features on Broadstairs and Dickens for the Daily Express, the Irish Daily Mail and the Herald. These visits were as a result of our Dickens-themed press release. Thank you to those who helped to host.

**VisitBritain/VisitEngland Update**

**Award Recognition for ‘England’s Coast’**

At the VisitEngland Awards for Excellence, announced on Wednesday 7 June, the Outstanding Contribution to Tourism Award went to ‘England’s Coast’ (National Coastal Tourism Academy). This was to recognise its valuable role in boosting domestic and inbound tourism to England.

Samantha Richardson MBE, Academy Director said, *“The award celebrates the collaboration and excellence delivered by each of you and all our fantastic coastal businesses as well as the key role that our coast has in the national visitor economy – to be awarded it in Year of the Coast is extra special!”*

Don’t forget we are still in the Year of the Coast, so do please use this in your social media posts #COAST2023

**Thanet District Council**

**Port of Ramsgate update**

Thanet District Council is calling for expressions of interest from commercial port operators to operate a substantial part of the Port of Ramsgate, including two roll-on/roll-off (ro-ro) berths. You can find out more in the [Newsroom](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/council-to-invite-expressions-of-interest-from-commercial-port-operators/).

**Ramsgate regeneration projects on view at public event**

Thanet District Council is inviting members of the public to learn more about Ramsgate’s [Levelling Up Fund](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/campaigns/ramsgate-future-levelling-up-fund-programme/) regeneration projects.

A public drop-in session will take place on Tuesday 18 July, between 2pm and 7pm, at the Crane Shed, West Crosswall near to the West Pier at Ramsgate Harbour.

There will be boards on display showing sketches of the proposed plans. Architects and designers will be on hand to answer questions and there will be an opportunity to give initial feedback on some of the proposals.

Following the event, the displays will move to Discovery Planet where they will be on show for two weeks. It will also be possible to submit feedback during this period, both online and via paper feedback forms.

**‘Ramsgreat’ social media**

The Ramsgate High Street Heritage Action Zone scheme is looking at how to bring local residents back to the high street and help support local businesses.

One of the ideas was to design an ‘identity’ for Ramsgate, to be owned and used by the town, for everyone working, trading, or living there. Votes were collected, and **‘Ramsgreat’** was chosen as the winner.

The Ramsgreat social media pages are now live. Local organisations and community groups will be posting about events and sharing everything that is great about Ramsgate. You can follow Ramsgreat via these links:

Facebook: [@RamsgreatOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/RamsgreatOfficial/) and Instagram: [@RamsgreatOfficial](https://www.instagram.com/ramsgreatofficial/)

Ramsgate businesses are encouraged to include the branding in their activity.

**Closure of West Pier, Ramsgate and Westbrook slipway**

Part of the West Pier in Ramsgate has been temporarily closed due to anti-social behaviour. Marina customers can still access the marina during this time. Thanet District Council is working with the Police to resolve this persistent issue. [Read more in the Newsroom](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/council-temporarily-closes-part-of-the-west-pier-in-ramsgate-harbour/).

Elsewhere, the Westbrook West Slipway has also been closed to pedestrians. Although there have been warning signs, railings added and enhanced cleaning, the closure has been necessary to avoid any risk to the public. The slipway is still open for use by members of the Water User Group.

**Photography Exhibition**

Bird Wise East Kent and Thanet Coast Project have teamed up for this year's ‘East Kent Coast Photography’ exhibition programme. The exhibition celebrates the coast through the images captured by local photographers, across eight categories.

17 - 21 July at The Crab Museum, Margate

2 - 9 August at York Street Gallery, Ramsgate

11 - 29 August at Thanet Visitor Information Centre, Droit House, Margate

Entrance is free, and you can [find out more here](https://eastkent.birdwise.org.uk/photography-exhibition/)

**Your News**

Congratulations to [**Resort Studios, Margate**,](http://www.resortstudios.co.uk/) who celebrated their 10th anniversary on Thursday 6 July. Look out for a series of workshops, events and an exhibition during the summer to mark the occasion.

Congratulations to **Ramsgate Carnival** which will be celebrating its 100th anniversary on Sunday 30 July when the parade takes place. Gadd’s Brewery is producing a special beer to mark the occasion that will be available at the fair on 29 and 30 July.

Congratulations to [**The Chocolate Pig,** **Birchington**](http://www.thechocolatepig.co.uk/) whose ‘Spring Collection box’ was named ‘Kent Confectionery Product of the Year’ in the Taste of Kent Awards.

Congratulations to **T**[**he Granville Theatre**,](https://www.thegranvilletheatre.com) Ramsgate which has been named a finalist in the BBC Radio Kent ‘Make a Difference awards’. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on Monday 18 September. Good luck!

Congratulations to [**Quince Westgate**](https://quincewestgate.co.uk/), named in The Good Food Guide's "Britain's 100 Best Local Restaurant 2023". Well done to everyone involved in the business!

Congratulations to [**Dreamland**](http://www.dreamland.co.uk/) which has been nominated in ThemeParks-UK awards - Best Seaside Park and Best New Attraction for their Rock 'n' Roller family coaster. Voting opens on Saturday 22 July. [Find out more here](https://www.themeparks-uk.com/uk-theme-park-awards)

**Cliftonville Cultural Space Crowdfunder**

[Cliftonville Cultural Space](http://www.cliftonvilleculturalspace.com) is now closed until September, when it will reopen with a programme of events, music, live performance, classes and workshops, including being part of Heritage Open Day festival.

Whilst the space is closed the team will be making some building changes – installing an accessible WC and putting in some heating so that it can be open all year round and be able to welcome everyone.

Community Ownership Fund support is covering much of this work, but the space requires help to go that final mile.

To read about the crowdfunder and to donate, [please click here](https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/cliftonville-cultural-space---a-place-for-everyone) that includes a video from the committee