**November’s Tourism Matters: New Coastal Path, Festive Season and Project Updates**

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague

The clocks have gone back and there is definitely a change in the air as the days get cooler, the nights darker earlier and talk of Christmas.

In this issue we bring you news on a range of subjects - new VisitBritain Industry website, the relaunch of Ramsgate Market, the opening of a new section of the King Charles III England Coast Path. We update you on Christmas events across the Isle and the latest council projects.

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 better still let them know they can register to receive the newsletter first hand 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 November and December, with exception of the festive period:

OPEN: Wednesday 20 to Saturday 23 December and Wednesday 27 to Saturday 30 December. 10am to 5pm

CLOSED: Sunday 24 to Tuesday 26 and Sunday 31 December

REOPEN: Wednesday to Sunday from Wednesday 3 January 2024, 10am to 5pm

**Christmas Events and Blog**

So many events have already been announced in the lead up to Christmas that we have created a dedicated page on our website [www.visitthanet.co.uk/christmas](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/christmas). You can share this with your guests, visitors, friends and family or use it for further information.

If you know of an event taking place that is not yet listed, please let us know by completing the online event registration form www.visitthanet.co.uk/submit-your-event/ . Events will go live on the site once they have been processed by the team.

Please let us know if your attraction will be open over the festive period so that we can include details on our website and advise visitors. Please email visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk

We have updated our ‘[A Dickensian Christmas on the Isle](https://www.visitthanet.co.uk/visit-thanet-blog/dickensian-christmas/)’ blog that you can share with your guests, visitors, friends and family.

**Sustainability Offering**

To help in our sustainability promotion for visitors we are gathering details on what businesses offer to add to their website records and would appreciate businesses letting us know which of the following sustainable provisions they provide:

* Organic food
* Fair trade products
* Eco friendly cleaning products
* Low consumption lights
* Zero waste approach
* No plastic

Please send details to tourism@thanet.gov.uk with the name of your business

**PR Update**

Since our PR update in July, we have hosted journalists from the following:

**Unknown Kent and Sussex**

* [Margate: Fun, History, Music, Art, Delicious Food and Fresh Sea Air](https://unknownkentandsussex.co.uk/margate-fun-history-music-art-delicious-food-fresh-sea-air/) - Part 1 [Margate: Fun, History, Music, Art, Delicious Food and Fresh Sea Air](https://unknownkentandsussex.co.uk/margate-fun-history-music-art-delicious-food-fresh-sea-air-part-2/) - Part 2
* [So Much More Than a Hotel: Walpole Bay Hotel, Living Museum and Napery](https://unknownkentandsussex.co.uk/so-much-more-than-a-hotel-walpole-bay-hotel-living-museum-napery/)
* A separate feature on Dreamland will be published in Spring 2024

**Travel and Leisure Magazine**

Margate feature with a stay at Selina, Margate - coverage will be published in April 2024

**Traveller James** (micro-influencer)

* [Ramsgate Tunnels](https://www.instagram.com/p/CyB4o4gsXox/?hl=bg&img_index=1)
* [Focus on Selena](https://www.instagram.com/p/Cx3qdHusvRq/)
* [Margate and Selena](https://www.instagram.com/p/Cxv-w7TsQdI/)
* [Margate and Ramsgate](https://www.instagram.com/p/CxycRtwMqek/)

**Pebble Soup**

[Review of the Botany Bay Hotel](http://www.pebblesoup.co.uk/2023/10/the-botany-bay-hotel-broadstairs.htm)

**Guanxi (Chinese market)**

Through our partnership with Visit Kent, we hosted **Guanxi** social media manager for a day in Margate

* [In The Offing at Turner Contemporary](https://www.xiaohongshu.com/explore/65212883000000001d017185). Thank you to the team at Turner Contemporary for extending an invitation to their press preview.
* [Things to do in Margate](https://www.xiaohongshu.com/explore/6526810a000000001f039d09) - including Turner Contemporary, No.42, Peter's Fish Factory, Shell Grotto and Margate Caves.

Thank you to everyone who helped us to host these visits.

**VisitBritain/VisitEngland**

**New VisitBritain industry website launched**

VisitBritain has recently re-launched their industry website, [VisitBritain.org](http://www.visitbritain.org)

Key features include:

* The latest [**data and research on tourism**](http://www.visitbritain.org/research-insights), including data visualisation tools, making it easier to draw relevant insights to inform decision-making;
* News about tourism trends and products;
* Information about [**training and events**](http://www.visitbritain.org/training-and-events) offered by VisitBritain/VisitEngland, including opportunities to attend domestic and international industry events;
* A wide range of training and support materials for tourism businesses, available through the [**England Business Advice Hub**](https://www.visitbritain.org/business-advice)
* [**Resources for travel trade**](https://www.visitbritain.org/resources-travel-trade) , including destination content to inform and inspire tour operators and travel advisors looking to sell tourism to Britain;
* News and [**royalty-free images**](https://assets.visitbritain.org/) available to help media and tourism businesses promote Britain as a destination to book now.

**FREE webinar on saving energy for your business**

VisitBritian is holding a new FREE webinar for businesses focusing on how to cut energy, reduce carbon emissions and save money this winter.

The webinar is taking place on **Tuesday 14 November from 11am – 12.30pm.** Itwill feature experts including John Devine from TCD Energy and Matt Breakwell from Kimpton who will be discussing issues around energy tariffs and contracts and sharing tips on how to be more energy efficient. [To book a place and find out more information click here](http://link.visitengland.com/c/7/eyJhaSI6MTgzODk4NTgsImUiOiJlbW1hLmRhZGRzQHRoYW5ldC5nb3YudWsiLCJyaSI6ImNvbnRhY3QtNzc2ZDIwODg0MmYxZWIxMTk0ZWYwMDIyNDgzZjVhMWMtYTIxMDM0NDViOTg3NDE2M2E4YjlhM2Q0N2VlY2I3ZjYiLCJycSI6InAxLWIyMzMwNC03N2JhZTc2NGVkYzg0M2VmYmQ3OTk2ZWZiOTczNzNjNiIsInBoIjpudWxsLCJtIjpmYWxzZSwidWkiOiIxIiwidW4iOiIiLCJ1IjoiaHR0cHM6Ly92aXNpdGJyaXRhaW4ud2ViZXguY29tL3dlYmxpbmsvcmVnaXN0ZXIvcjMyODI1NDcwNzUzODlmYWRmNWJiNjkzZWVjYzlmMjkzP19jbGRlZT1NV3FWQWJYay1qYWRwNzhuV29LS21kOGdCMDA2Q1c5V1Y2dk1pLXFxLXlRWlZZcFdkdW83TDFxZjZqTjk3SENjJnJlY2lwaWVudGlkPWNvbnRhY3QtNzc2ZDIwODg0MmYxZWIxMTk0ZWYwMDIyNDgzZjVhMWMtYTIxMDM0NDViOTg3NDE2M2E4YjlhM2Q0N2VlY2I3ZjYmZXNpZD1mMTIxODNjOS1hMTZmLWVlMTEtOWFlNy02MDQ1YmRkMmM4OTYifQ/guIRR_4_6-9D9iDWaKu1cg)

**Thanet District Council**

**Reducing single use plastics**

As part of Thanet District Council’s pledge to tackle climate change, it has recently installed a new drinking fountain at Margate Main Sands, in partnership with Rise Up Clean Up and City to Sea.

Beach users and passersby can fill up their water bottles here, instead of buying drinks in single use plastic bottles, which often end up littering the sand and promenade. The water fountain will be in operation from next year.

**Relaunching Ramsgate Market**

Thanet District Council has selected a new operator, Bray Associates, to relaunch the weekly Ramsgate Market.

The new market will be launched in the spring, with between 15 and 30 traders. It will be held on Ramsgate High Street, King Street and Queen Street. [Read more in the council’s newsroom](http://www.thanet.gov.uk/thanet-district-council-appoints-new-operator-for-ramsgate-market/)

**Ellington Park wins Building of the Year at Ramsgate Design Awards**

This year’s Ramsgate Design Awards took place on Friday 15 September at Radford House, in association with Ramsgate Town Council. We are delighted that Ellington Park was named ‘Building of the Year’.

The Friends of Ellington Park won the prestigious award for their renovation of the park, which was carried out in partnership with the council in 2021. The judges said that the landscaping, bandstand and new café all combine to make this project "*an outstanding feat of community effort".*

Since its renovation, Ellington Park has been awarded two prestigious Green Flag Awards. You can read more about Ellington Park in the council’s [newsroom](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/ellington-park-wins-a-prestigious-green-flag-award/).

**Thanet District Council receives over £380,000 funding for local leisure centres**

Thanet District Council has been awarded £380,561 of funding through the government’s Swimming Pool Support Fund.

Hartsdown Sports and Leisure Centre has received £162,566, with £217,995 going to Ramsgate Leisure Centre. The funding will be used to help support maintenance costs, heating and pool chemicals. Read more in the council’s [newsroom](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/thanet-district-council-receives-over-380000-funding-for-local-leisure-centres/)

**Other News**

**King Charles III England Coast Path Opened**

On Wednesday 25 October, a new section of the King Charles III England Coast Path opened, between Ramsgate and Whitstable. This creates a continuous 117 mile coastal walking route in Kent between Camber and Iwade near Sittingbourne.

The King Charles III England Coast Path offers fabulous coastal walking through historic, scenic and majestic landscapes. From Roman ruins to nature reserves, pristine Blue Flag beaches to working harbours, colourful beach huts to picturesque pubs, the trail will take you on an amazing journey.

Signs showing the route of the path have been installed. [Learn more about the route here](https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/england-coast-path/)

**The Sea Link Project Statutory Consultation**

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) has launched a consultation on the proposed Sea Link project.

The Sea Link project includes the installation of a new cable link between Suffolk and Kent.

If approved, a new underground high voltage cable will be installed from Pegwell Bay, linking to a new converter station near Minster. There will also be a new 2.25 km overhead line connecting the station with the existing overhead electricity line.

The consultation is open until Monday 18 December 2023, and you can take part on the [National Grid website](https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/sealink).

[Read more in the council’s newsroom](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/national-grid-launches-public-consultation-on-sealink-proposals/).

**Your News**

Congratulations to [**Ramsgate Music Hall**](http://www.ramsgatemusichall.com) which celebrated its 10th anniversary on Monday 30 October.

Congratulations to Margate’s [**Skinny Dip Coffee**](https://www.facebook.com/skinnydipcoffee) that has been named as the most innovative coffee shop in the UK by [BRITA Professional](https://www.brita.co.uk/grounds-of-innovation-winners) recognising those coffee shops that are the most innovative and creative.