

Dear Colleague

Welcome to September's Tourism Matters - Information, Training and Voting

Tourism News

Get voting – Dreamland shortlisted for Best Family Theme Park

Last month we nominated Dreamland for the 'Best Family Theme Park' in the Family Traveller Awards and the fantastic news is that they have been shortlisted alongside the likes of Disneyworld, Universal Studios and Legoland.

Now we would like as many people as possible to vote for them before the voting closes at midnight on 20 October. What's in it for you? Everybody who votes will be automatically entered into a competition to win a £4,000 family holiday to Malta with Prestige Holidays, with Avis car hire and two Kodak PixPro cameras for adults and children to capture their best moments.

Voting is simple and will take a couple of seconds – so please [vote for Dreamland](#) yourself and encourage others to vote – how amazing would it be if our very own Dreamland beat Disneyworld!!

Thanet in the news – again!

The press visit coverage continues to roll in, this month we have received two more articles:

Valery Collins – [‘Why I love to go on a Staycation in the United Kingdom’](#) the article features Ramsgate and appeared on travelbusy.com, which gets 10,000 new visitors each month.

Gillian Thornton – [‘Boutique Hotel near the Turner Contemporary’](#) featuring the Sands Hotel and Turner Contemporary, plus other Thanet venues. This appeared in Silver Travel Advisor's e-newsletter which is sent to 50,000 subscribers.

Valery and Gillian have produced multiple articles from their visits – in fact this is Valery's fifth and Gillian's third, lucky us.

There has also been a lovely blog by Twins That Travel - [‘Exploring the Kentish Coast: Margate & beyond’](#) from a visit organised by Visit Kent in partnership with VisitEngland. Twins That Travel has 7,000 website visitors and a social media following of almost 64,000.

Other trips organised by Visit Kent include Travel GBI, who visited last week and Le Monde and Elle Paris who are visiting later this week.

Which FREE training courses would you like to attend?

Feedback from this year's workshops is that you would prefer them to run before Christmas or early in the New Year. With this in mind, we would like to hear which subjects you are interested in as soon as possible so that we can start looking at trainer options and venues. Contact [Julie](#) and she will add your suggestion to the list already fed back from this year's workshops.

Thanks to Dan and Lloyd at KPS Digital Marketing, you can also find out what those who attended this year's courses thought – check out our [new video here](#).

Please note, these free training courses are available to tourism businesses only.

Visitor Information Service

Remember, if you require a supply of the Visitors' Map and are able to collect them from Droit House this would be helpful. Just let us know in advance so we can get them from the store on 01843 577577 or visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk..

Visitors Map feedback

It will soon be time to start work on the Visitors Map for 2018/19, so if you have any suggestions for improvement or comments on the map which you would like to feedback for consideration, please send them in to [Julie](#)

We need your help - What's New and Anniversaries 2018/19

We are pulling together information on 'What's New and Anniversaries 2018/19'. This information will be used in a press release, taken to media events between November and the end of March and also circulated to Visit Kent, Tourism South East and Visit England/Visit Britain for their information. Being included is a great promotional opportunity, so if you have something relevant, please supply details to [Julie](#) as soon as possible, including a good quality image if you have one.

Heritage Watch Conference

Being held on **Wednesday 7th February 2018 10am at Leeds Castle**, this conference aims to help those that own or manage heritage properties within Kent to keep up to date with the latest trends in regards to security, fire and the protection of these important assets that we look after for future generations.

To find out more and to register [please click here](#)

Taste of Kent Awards - Voting Open

Produced in Kent's prestigious Taste of Kent Awards 2018 are now open to public voting until 2nd January 2018. This is a unique opportunity to nominate and vote for your favourite producers, retailers, restaurants, pub/bistro and drinks. Let's make sure we support our Thanet venues in this and nominate or vote at www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk

Your News

Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards 2017

Congratulations to the following Thanet businesses that have been named as finalists. The winners will be announced on Monday 16 October

- Newcomer of the Year - Houdini's Magic Bar, Broadstairs
- Chef of the Year - Anil Kumar at Flavours by Kumar, Ramsgate
- Product of the Year - Curiously Kentish, Birchington and Kent Crisps & Kentish Oils, Ramsgate
- Family Dining Award - Roost Restaurant & Cafe, Margate
- Best Independent Food and Drink Retailer - Curiously Kentish, Birchington
- Farmers' Market of the Year - Cliftonville Farmers' Market

Good luck to you all

Broadstairs Information Kiosk

The volunteers at the kiosk have enjoyed the season so much, they have decided to open full time to the end of September, after that it will return, as planned to weekends only and October half term. After this time the kiosk will close for the season until Easter 2018. If you are in Broadstairs please pop by and say hello. Full details of opening times can be found on the [kiosk website](#)

Events

Here are just a few of the events taking place across the area in the next few weeks

- 16 - 24 September: [Then and Now in Margate](#), Droit House
- 21 – 24 September: [Roundabout Festival](#), Margate
- Until 24 September: [Every Day is a New Day](#), Turner Contemporary
- 24 September: [Harlots and Hangers-on](#), The Pavilion, Broadstairs
- 24 September: [Cliftonville Farmers Market](#)
- 29 September - 1 October: [Broadstairs Food Festival](#)
- 29 September – 1 October: [By the Sea Festival](#), Dreamland and Margate Winter Gardens
- 8 October: [Ramsgate Handmade Fair](#), Harbour Parade
- 13 October: Opening of [Arp: The Poetry of Forms](#) and [Tracey Emin: My Bed](#), Turner Contemporary

For more events happening in the area go to www.visitthanet.co.uk/whats-on