

## February's Tourism Matters – Training, Tickets and Awards

Dear Colleague

February is here with a distinct chill in the air and we've noticed the days are drawing out, which we like. This month we have news on some more free training courses for you, the Kent Big Weekend and our lovely Lisa Powell, Visitors Services Officer.

### **Destination Management Plan**

Since January's Tourism Matters we have been busy encouraging as many attractions as possible to take part in the Kent Big Weekend (further information below). Twenty-one Thanet venues have signed up, which will give them and Thanet great exposure throughout the county.

The Collaboration Workshop, held at Mama Feelgood's at Quex on 31 January, was well attended and we have received positive feedback from those who came along. The aim of the workshop was to get people talking and looking at opportunities to work together for mutual benefit

During February we will be busy planning industry familiarisation visits, one each for Margate, Broadstairs, Ramsgate and the villages and as soon as we have confirmed dates and itineraries, we will let you know so you can get the dates in your diary.

### **Press and PR**

Coverage we have picked up in the last month includes:

The Bay Tree Hotel - '[Top 20 New UK Hotels and Hostels 2018](#)', The Guardian  
Turner Contemporary – '[Journeys with the Wasteland](#)' in numerous national and art publications, here's just one  
Stark, Broadstairs – [Menu Watch](#), The Caterer

### **Visitor Information Service – Maternity Leave**

Some of you may be aware that Lisa Powell, Visitor Services Officer, will be going on maternity leave from Friday, 2 March to have her first baby.

However it will be business as usual at the VIC whilst Lisa is away and the team will be taking on certain parts of Lisa's role. Those of you who have direct contact with Lisa on certain projects or elements of work, will receive an email before Lisa's departure advising you of your key contact in her absence. For all other enquiries please contact the team at [visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk) and the team will be able to deal with your query.

### **FREE Tourism Training Courses**

There are still places available on some of the courses we mentioned last month:

- Thursday, 15 February - Intermediate Social Media at Droit House
- Thursday, 27 February - Content and Storytelling at Royal Temple Yacht Club
- Wednesday, 14 March - Travel Trade at Dreamland

Plus we have three additional courses for you:

- Tuesday, 20 March – How to Recruit and Manage Volunteers
- Tuesday, 27 March – How to Recruit and Manage Volunteers
- Wednesday, 11 April – Business Advice

These are all free courses and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To find out more about the courses, [click here](#)

### **Kent Big Weekend – Get Your Tickets**

The free ticket ballot for the 2018 Kent Big Weekend taking place on 24 and 25 March is now open. Over 120 Kent tourist attractions and related business, including 21 in Thanet, are offering Kent residents the chance to visit for FREE

To see the venues in Thanet taking part visit [www.visitthanet.co.uk/kentbigweekend](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/kentbigweekend)

To see all venues taking part and to apply for tickets visit [www.kentbigweekend.co.uk](http://www.kentbigweekend.co.uk) before Sunday 11 March

### **KEiBA 2018**

2018 marks the 10th anniversary of the KEiBA awards, which recognise and reward excellence in businesses in Kent and Medway. There are 16 categories available for entry including Family Business, Manufacturer, Commitment to the Environment and Tourism and Leisure.

The deadline for entries is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February with full details of the award categories and entry form on <http://keiba.co.uk/>

### **Your News**

Good luck to the following Thanet businesses that have made the top 3 in their category for the Taste of Kent Awards. The winners will be announced on Thursday 8 March

- Gadds No 3 by Ramsgate Brewery - Kent Beer of the Year
- Bessie's tea Parlour, Broadstairs - Kent Food Producer
- The Chai Stop, Minster - Kent Food Producer
- Buoy & Oyster, Margate - Kent Restaurant of the Year

### **Events**

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

- 10 February: [Made in Ramsgate](#), Customs House
- 11-18 February: [Beginners Skate and Scoot](#), Revolution Skatepark
- 16-18 February: [Broadstairs Blues Bash](#)
- 16-18 February: [GEEK](#), Dreamland
- 17 February: [Trash and Treasure Sale](#), St Nicholas Church
- 25 February: [Cliftonville Farmers Market](#)
- 7 -11 March: [POW! Power of Women](#) across Thanet

For more events happening in the area go to [www.visitthanet.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/whats-on)