

March's Tourism Matters – Final Chance to Vote

Dear Colleague

Tourism Superstar – Vote for Sam now

Thank you to those of you who have already voted for Sam in VisitEngland's annual Tourism Superstar competition. The most recent update said that Sam is in second place, so we would really like you all to give another push for encouraging votes for Sam before the **voting deadline of 20 March.**

Just to update you, Sam won our Pride in Thanet Tourism Superstar Award last year, so we nominated him as VisitEngland's Tourism Superstar and he made the final ten. The winner is now decided by public vote – but there is **something in it for you too** – if you vote you can be entered into a prize draw to **win a UK holiday break worth £1,000.**

Sam is the only person from Kent to be shortlisted, so a win for Sam would be a win for Thanet and Kent too.

Please support Sam and vote for him now on the link below, it will take a couple of clicks and a couple of seconds of your time. When the page opens, scroll to the bottom and click next to Sam's name.

[VisitEngland Tourism Superstar](#)

If you have a bit of time, please also pass on to friends, colleagues and any groups or associations you know that may like to support Sam, and by association Thanet. Please also feel free to share on social media, including #tourismsuperstar, @VisitThanet and Sam's name - or retweet the VisitThanet posts

Good luck Sam

Kent Big Weekend

The free ticket ballot for the 2018 Kent Big Weekend taking place on 24 and 25 March **closes on Sunday 11 March.** Over 120 Kent tourist attractions and related business, including 23 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 and for all Kent venues and to apply visit www.kentbigweekend.co.uk before Sunday

Destination Management Plan

We will be running another series of familiarisation trips in Thanet for front line staff in tourism businesses. The aim is for them to discover first-hand what there is to see and do in the area, so that they can then relay this to their guests and visitors. It is hoped that this will encourage visitors to explore more of Thanet, stay longer, or make a repeat visit.

Final afternoon itineraries will be sent out soon, but if you are interested in attending, please save the following dates:

Broadstairs – Wednesday 25 April
Margate – Wednesday 2 May
Ramsgate – Wednesday 9 May
Villages – Wednesday 16 May

Visitor Information Service

As of Sunday 1 April, the **Visitor Information Centre at Droit House** will be on high season opening hours of 7 days a week 10am – 5pm.

Broadstairs Information Kiosk is looking forward to opening for the 2018 season on Thursday 29th March at 10am. Come and say hello. For information on the kiosk and opening times visit www.broadstairsinfokiosk.co.uk

Ramsgate Visitor Information at The Custom House is open 7 days a week 10am – 4pm

FREE Tourism Training Courses

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

- Wednesday 14 March - Travel Trade
- Tuesday 20 March – Volunteer Management 1 – Volunteer Overview
- Tuesday 27 March – Volunteer Management 2 - Recognition of Excellent Volunteer Management & Practice
- Wednesday 11 April – Business Support (Quality in Tourism, Business Planning, Accessible Statements, Data Protection Act 2018 (GDPR))

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](#)

Your News

The Dreamland Trust has announced a series of roadshows allowing the public to talk to representatives, find out about the work of the Trust and share their memories of Dreamland.

The drop in roadshows will be held at the following locations 2.30-4.30pm

- Tuesday 13 March - Royal Temple Yacht Club, Ramsgate
- Wednesday 14 March – The Centre, Birchington
- Tuesday 20 March – St Peter’s Church Hall, Broadstairs
- Wednesday 21 March – Minster Village Hall, Minster
- Wednesday 28 March – Turner Contemporary, Margate

To find out more about the Trust and their events visit www.dreamlandtrust.org.uk

For the 2018 season, the **Open Top Bus** will run between Ramsgate Boating Pool and Stone Bay Broadstairs from Easter to September (weekends, Bank Holidays, Event Fridays and School holidays)

Full details on the service can be found on the [Stagecoach website](#)

As mentioned in last month’s Tourism Matters four Thanet businesses made the top 3 in their category for the **Taste of Kent Awards**. The winners were announced last night (Thursday 8 March) and we are pleased to say

- Gadds No 3 by Ramsgate Brewery - Winner Kent Beer of the Year
- Bessie’s Tea Parlour, Broadstairs - Winner Kent Food Producer
- The Chai Stop, Minster - Runner Up Kent Food Product
- Buoy & Oyster, Margate - Winner Kent Restaurant of the Year

Congratulations to you all

Events

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

- 10 March: [Vintage Market](#), Dreamland
- 10 March: [No Cunning Plan](#), Broadstairs Pavilion
- 15-18 March: [Ramsgate International Film and TV Festival](#)
- [Easter Events](#)
- 30 March: [Dreamland Opens for Season](#)
- 30 – 31 March: [Thanet Beer Fest](#), Margate Winter Gardens
- 30 March – 2 April: [Shoot](#), The Micro Museum
- 31 March – 2 April: [Broadstairs Spring Fair](#)
- 1 April: [Celebrating 100 years of the RAF](#), Spitfire and Hurricane Museum
- 1 April: [Ramsgate Easter Event](#)
- 1 & 2 April: [Easter QuExtravaganza](#), Powell-Cotton Museum

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