

December's Tourism Matters - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Dear Colleague

Welcome to December's Tourism Matters. 'Tis the season to be jolly and this month we have lots of feel-good, positive news to share with you.

Thanet Tourism Superstar

Our Thanet Tourism Superstar, Stephen Darrer from Cliftonville Townhouse, has now been nominated for VisitEngland's Tourism Superstar award. We're crossing our fingers that Stephen gets through to the final ten and hope to hear within the next fortnight. We'll keep you updated.

Press and PR

This month we have received coverage from Kris Griffiths who visited the area in response to our press release 'Six things to do in Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate in the Autumn'. [Australian Times](#) which has almost a million monthly visitors and [The South African](#), which has an impressive four million and a feature on The Sands Hotel and Margate in [Luxury Lifestyle Magazine](#) which receives 70,000 monthly visitors and has 25,000 newsletter subscribers.

There has also been coverage in the [Sunday Times](#) as a result of a visit by Andrew Eames, organised through Visit Kent

If you have any plans or news relating to Mother's Day or Easter, please let us have it as soon as possible for our PR activity and ongoing media enquiries. Please send to Julie on julie.edwards@thanet.gov.uk

Visitor Information Service - Christmas Opening

The **Thanet Visitor Information Centre** at Droit House will be operating the following opening hours over the Christmas period

- Monday 24th – Wednesday 26th and Sunday 30th December - Tuesday 1st January: CLOSED
- Thursday 27th - Saturday 29th December OPEN 10am to 5pm
- Return to winter opening Tuesday - Saturday 10am -5pm from Wednesday 2nd January

Ramsgate Visitor Information Centre will be closed between Tuesday 25th December and Tuesday 1st January. It will reopen on Wednesday 2nd January winter hours 11am-3pm

#CoastalChristmas

Margate, Broadstairs, Ramsgate and the villages are amazing all year round! We want to see your festive photos this season! Use the hashtag #CoastalChristmas on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook and we'll repost our favourites from @visitthanet. We'd love to see wintery village scenes, harbour Christmas lights and your festive seaside walks to give just a few examples. We'll be taking part too.

Turner Prize Update

In case you haven't already heard, the Turner Prize is coming to Turner Contemporary from 28th September 2019 to 12th January 2020. This is a major opportunity for us all, so from January we will endeavour to include a monthly update for you in Tourism Matters to help keep you in the loop with news, plans, opportunities and training.

Visit Thanet Blog

Our next blog will be going live on 2nd January 2019 at www.visitthanetblog.com and is all about the wonderful opportunities there are on the isle for health and wellbeing, particularly after the excesses of the festive season. We are hoping this will help to stimulate a few off-peak stays.

Kent Tourism Awards

On Monday 3rd December the Visit Kent Tourism Awards ceremony was held at Dreamland, in which four Thanet businesses were shortlisted - Turner Contemporary, Dreamland, The Ravensgate Arms and The Minnis Bay Bar and Brasserie.

Congratulations to Dreamland who were winners of the 'Lasting Impression' category. Well done to you all

Kent Big Weekend - 6th and 7th April 2019

The Kent Big Weekend is back for 2019 celebrating the leisure, tourism and hospitality industry by offering thousands of **FREE** tickets to Kent residents. This allows residents to experience first-hand all that the county has to offer them, so they in turn can show their friends and relatives when they visit.

If you participated in 2018 you can [login into your account](#) to update your details and upload your ticket allocation

If you are new to Kent Big Weekend, please [register your business first](#)

To check if you participated in 2018 or if the contact has changed, please email [Jim Dawson](#)

The deadline to register your business, update and upload your ticket allocation is **Friday 25th January 2019**

For more information on Kent Big Weekend, visit the [Visit Kent Business website](#)

Your News

Over the weekend of 1st and 2nd December, Turner Contemporary welcomed their 3 millionth visit to the gallery since opening in April 2011. For more information on this and their programme for 2019, see the [Turner Contemporary website](#)

Remember that this section is for you to share your news, so if you have won an award, will be celebrating an anniversary or have a job vacancy or business development you would like to share, let us know. Please email through to tourism@thanet.gov.uk before the second Thursday of the month

Events

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

- [Christmas Events](#)
- 27th - 30th December: [Chill on the Hill](#), The Micro Museum
- [New Year's Eve Events](#)
- Until 6th January: [Patrick Heron and Akram Zaatari: The Script](#), Turner Contemporary

- Until 7th January: [Fire and Frost](#), New Kent Art Gallery
- 10th January: [Old Ramsgate-A Trip Down Memory Lane](#)
- 25th - 27th January: [Broadstairs Folk Week Winter Festival](#)

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