

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

Welcome to December's Tourism Matters. 'Tis the season to be jolly (oh, yes it is) and our last Tourism Matters for 2019.

Save the Date - Visitor Survey Workshops

Following the [Visitor Survey Research](#) carried out in 2018, we will be working with BeeBee Communications to share key visitor insights and know-how with you to help enhance your business promotion and increase visitors to Thanet. These engaging and creative workshops will include a focus relevant to the town they are in.

Margate - Wednesday 12th February, 10am to 1pm

Broadstairs - Thursday 27th February, 2pm to 5pm

Ramsgate - Thursday, 13th February, 10am to 1pm

Further details on the workshops and registration information will follow in the New Year.

Visitor Information Services - Christmas Opening

Thanet Visitor Information Centre at Droit House will be open as follows.

- Monday 23rd - Thursday 26th, Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st December: CLOSED
- Sunday 22nd and Friday 27th - Sunday 29th December OPEN 10am to 5pm
- Wednesday 1st January: OPEN 11am-4pm
- Return to winter hours Wednesday - Sunday 10am -5pm from Thursday 2nd January

Ramsgate Visitor Information Centre will be closed from 12noon Tuesday 24th December until Sunday 5th January. It will reopen on Monday 6th January for winter hours 11am-3pm daily

In the Media

On Tuesday 3rd December the Turner Prize Award took place at Dreamland with live coverage on the BBC News. You can view some of the [coverage here](#)

Last weekend, The Bay Tree in Broadstairs hosted Solange from www.pebblesoup.co.uk, you can see her hotel and restaurant review [here](#)

Unique Space for Hire

The unique 'The Drum' room, within the Thanet Visitor Information Centre on Margate's Harbour Arm has been very popular this year. The space is suitable for small exhibitions, meetings, training and workshops and is suitable for up to 40 depending on layout requirements. We are currently looking to work closely with local organisations to offer events, family workshops and arts opportunities in this space. Please get in touch to discuss how we can work together on visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk

Further details can be found on our [Business website](#)

We need information - can you help?

Learning something new whilst on a short break, or indeed travelling to a destination to participate in a short course or workshop is becoming increasingly popular - think beach cleans, creative workshops, surf lessons, etc. We would love to be able to include more information like this on our website as a hook to encourage visits or get people to stay

longer. If this is something you do, or know somebody who does, please let us have details - tourism@thanet.gov.uk

Vote Local in the Taste of Kent Awards

Voting for the Taste of Kent awards closes on Monday 6 January 2020, so [vote NOW](#) and support our nominated Thanet businesses, there's an amazing 57 to choose from.

- Kent Beer of the Year (3)
- Kent Butcher Shop of the Year (5)
- Kent Coffee Shop of Tea Room of the Year (13)
- Kent Dining Pub or Bistro of the Year (5)
- Kent Food Business of the Year (7)
- Kent Local Food Retailer of the Year (4)
- Kent Restaurant of the Year (20)

2020 Event Planning

Are you holding or planning an event in 2020? Submit your event details for the [Visit Thanet website here](#). In addition to the website, this information can be used for social media, media enquiries and Isle Magazine listings. Most listings on the Visit Thanet website will also be included on the Visit Kent website.

Please note that events planned on public land will need to go through events@thanet.gov.uk and applications should be in 14 weeks prior to the event date. Further details can be found on the [Thanet District Council website](#)

Sign Up to Kent Big Weekend 2020

The Kent Big Weekend is back for 2020, 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 2019 you can [log 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 2019 or if the contact has changed, please email [Jim Dawson](#)

The deadline to register your business, update and upload your ticket allocation is **Friday 24th January 2020**

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

Read our Blog image and link

Do you need a print quote?

Did you know that the print team at Thanet District Council can now supply business cards, flyers, signs, banners, posters and canvas pictures, so if you are updating your marketing materials for 2020 or want a poster to help promote an event, contact them for a quote - 01843 577693 or printing@thanet.gov.uk

Your News

As mentioned in our November issue a number of Thanet businesses were shortlisted in the Kent Life Food and Drink Awards. We are pleased to announce the results below and congratulations to you all

- Cliftonville Farmers' Market - Winner Farmers' Market of the Year
- Cliffs, Margate - Winner Cafe/Tearoom of the Year
- Roost, Margate - Winner Family Dining of the Year
- Quex Barn, Birchington - Winner Farm Shop of the Year
- Houdini's Magic Bar, Broadstairs - Winner Outstanding Customer Service
- Arya, Ramsgate - Runner-Up Restaurant of the Year
- Buoy and Oyster, Margate - Runner-Up Outstanding Customer Service the Year

Events

- [Christmas Events](#)
- Until 29th December: [Aladdin](#) at Theatre Royal Margate
- Until 29th December: [Fire and Frost Exhibition](#) at New Kent Art Gallery
- [New Year Events](#)
- 5th January: [Ramsgate Blitz Walk](#)
- Until 12th January: [Turner Prize](#) and [Margate NOW](#)