

Coronavirus Update and Tourism News

We hope you are managing to keep well and stay safe as lockdown continues. There are fewer COVID-19 updates this week, so we have included a bit more on the activity we have been undertaking, plus details on some great initiatives in the 'Your News' section.

If you know somebody who would like to read our e-news, please forward it on, or let them know they can register to receive it themselves on www.visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters

Thanet District Council

The most recent figures show that Thanet District Council has successfully delivered £26m of COVID-19 Business Cash Grants to 2,350 businesses.

There is still funding available and the aim is that everyone entitled to a grant receives one, to be in the best position possible for recovery.

Further information on the emergency funding and a link to the online application can be found [here](#) . Read the press release [here](#).

Government Information

Support Finder Tool

A new [support finder tool](#) has been launched to help businesses and self-employed people across the UK to determine what financial support is available to them during the COVID-19 pandemic. The tool on GOV.UK asks business owners and the self-employed to fill out a simple online questionnaire. Users are then directed to a list of all the financial support they may be eligible for. [Read more about the tool here](#)

New Bounce Back Loans scheme for small businesses

The Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced on 27 April a [new Bounce Back Loans scheme](#) that will be made available to small businesses from 9am on Monday 4 May. The loans will be 100% government-backed. Businesses will be able to borrow between £2,000 and £50,000 and access the cash within days. Loans will be interest free for the first 12 months and businesses can apply online through a short and simple form.

VisitBritain/VisitEngland

New dates for English Tourism Week

English Tourism Week will now take place on 25-31 May, encompassing the second bank holiday in May. This year, the campaign's focus will be on engagement with Government, MPs and other stakeholders, to support the recovery of English tourism and raise awareness of the importance, quality and value of the sector to the UK economy. [Click here](#) for further information and details on how you can get involved.

VisitKent

COVID-19 Impact Survey

The survey will look at the impact that COVID-19 has had on tourism businesses and the information you provide will be fed into various government groups, including the DCMS Select Committee to improve the support offered to the industry. Your feedback will also be invaluable in helping to inform the recovery strategy.

Please [click here](#) to access the survey and submit your responses by **Friday, 8 May**. Responses will be confidential and this survey will replace the March Business Barometer. We would like as many Thanet tourism businesses as possible to complete the survey. We hope to get a large enough sample size to enable a bespoke report for Thanet. Please ensure you mention that you are a Thanet business in one of your responses.

Other Information

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce - Free webinars recordings

If you missed last week's webinars you can catch up by watching the recordings below.

- [Furloughing - Job Retention Scheme](#)
- [How to utilise your crisis communications, digital footprint and social media](#)

Produced In Kent - #HelpKentBuyLocal campaign

We have mentioned this before, but thought it worth mentioning again. Produced in Kent is focussing on the online promotion of food and drink businesses, both members and non-members, through their social media channels, their www.HelpKentBuyLocal.co.uk website and #HelpKentBuyLocal e-newsletter, which you can sign-up to [here](#).

For inspiration - in the last month an incredible 16 businesses have launched new products, 128 businesses have started home delivery, 10 businesses have been supporting NHS workers, 80 now offer call and collect service, 33 are offering click and collect service, 3 have been making sanitiser, 1 has employed a new member of staff, 3 are creating wellness videos, 4 virtual events have been hosted, 15 businesses are regularly supporting vulnerable people in the community and countless recipes have been generated.

If you work in some way in the food and drink industry, it may be worth you checking their website and [good news stories](#) for ideas. Produced in Kent will promote all brave initiatives put forward to boost business sales.

Tourism Service News

New Destination Management Framework

The new Destination Management Framework was formally adopted by Cabinet last Thursday evening.

The Framework sets out shared key priorities for strengthening and growing our visitor economy for the next five years and builds on the success achieved through the first Destination management Plan, which was developed in 2012/13

Whilst the Framework was prepared prior to the current COVID-19 crisis, the approach and content is still relevant and will help inform the recovery of Thanet's tourism sector.

The priorities and actions in the Framework include making Thanet's town centres more attractive to visitors; providing more of the right kind of accommodation; looking at year-round experiences, activities and facilities at key sites along the coast; and using strong themes to develop brilliant experiences and a brilliant welcome.

Thank you to those of you who input your views through the workshop held at Quex or via the survey we sent out as this helped to form the new Framework.

You can view the Destination Management Framework [here](#)

Consumer e-newsletter

We wanted to highlight some of the activity we have been doing to keep the destination in people's minds during lockdown, but also supporting and using the materials many of you have developed to do the same. We thought the best way to do this would be to show you our most recent consumer e-newsletter, so you can see the content we are putting out at the moment, but also links to the new pages we have developed on our website. You can view the e-newsletter [here](#).

Please ensure you keep us up-to-date with your news and activities as we will do our best to incorporate these in our activities. Send updates to tourism@thanet.gov.uk

VE Day

If you have any virtual events or activities planned for the VE Day celebration on Friday, 8 May, relevant to our consumer market, or even local 'did you know?' facts, please let us know so that we can add it to our website and include in our social media activities. Email to tourism@thanet.gov.uk

Your News

Tom Thumb Theatre

The Tom Thumb Theatre has live streaming events on Sunday evenings at 8pm as part of their 'A month of Sundays' activities. Find out more on www.tomthumbtheatre.co.uk/

Creative Distance Festival

The Creative Distance Festival continues in its quest to bring fabulous adventures in (online) performance.

This week there is a 'Lockdown Adventure Challenge' - "we are looking to find new ways to create #AdventuresInPerformance and we don't intend to stop just because we're all locked up inside SO we challenge you to create a 60 second video of your own 'Adventure in lockdown! There will be a £100 prize for the winning entry and the clips will be shared on social media and our websites, with a compilation at the end. What will your adventure be?"

The deadline for entries is 11pm on Thursday, 7 May and the winner will be announced on Friday, 8 May Midday! Send your video entries to creativedistancefest@gmail.com

To find out what else is on, check their [Facebook page](#)

Marine Studios - Back and Fill

Back and Fill is a coastal call to arms. A direct response to the coronavirus crisis inspired by a need to support the fragile economy of seaside towns.

Back and Fill will invite people to come back to the coast for the October half-term holiday, bringing people together to demonstrate the power of arts-led regeneration by supporting

small local businesses. The aim is to create a vibrant celebration of coastal communities at the end of what looks to be a rough summer season.

Find out more about Back and Fill and how you can get involved [here](#)

Turner Contemporary

Turner Contemporary are today launching a new virtual tour of their exhibition, 'We Will Walk - Art and Resistance in the American South' #MuseumfromHome. It will be available to view from 12pm on www.turnercontemporary.org and on YouTube.

We Will Walk brings together sculptures, paintings, quilts and installations by more than 20 African American artists from Alabama and the Deep South.

The exhibition addresses issues of race, class and resistance through a diverse range of works developed outside of the mainstream.

The virtual tour is led by lead exhibition curator Hannah Collins with co-curator Paul Goodwin. It features soundbites from civil rights photographer Doris Derby and writer and critic Greg Tate.

POW! Thanet is recruiting new Trustees

Following five very successful festivals POW! Thanet is actively seeking new Trustees for its board. At a pivotal moment of development for the organisation they are seeking skilled individuals who can work with the current board members to guide the future work of the charity.

This is a voluntary position and normally a Trustee would be expected to remain on the board for up to three years. They would particularly welcome applicants with expertise in one or more of the following areas: Fundraising - Marketing - Legal - Performance based arts.

[Click here](#) to find out more about POW, and to find out more about the role and how to apply go to powthanet.com/opportunities

Applications close at 5pm on the 13th May and interviews will take place in the week commencing 18th May, via zoom.