

November's Tourism Matters: How you can apply for the new Business Grant Scheme

Welcome to November's Tourism Matters

In this issue we have information on how you can apply for the new Business Grant, the latest Government updates, details on VisitBritain/VisitEngland's free Business Recovery Webinars, plus a call-out for information we would like from you to help with our marketing activities.

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 [visitthanel.co.uk/tourismmatters](https://www.visitthanel.co.uk/tourismmatters)

Thanet District Council

Business Grants Information

Thanet District Council has just launched an online application form and is urging eligible local businesses that have been impacted by the national lockdown, to submit their details to receive funding from either the national or discretionary business support grants:

- National: Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum scheme for businesses that pay business rates and have been legally required to close as a result of the national lockdown restrictions.
- Discretionary: Additional Restrictions Grants scheme which is the discretionary part of the above and will provide support for other businesses significantly affected by national restrictions.

Businesses that are in administration, in liquidation or where a striking-off notice has been made will not be eligible for funding under these schemes. Anti-fraud checks will be in place.

Payments will be backdated to Thursday 5th November when the national lockdown began. Local businesses are advised to go to [thanel.gov.uk/business-advice](https://www.thanel.gov.uk/business-advice) and check if they are eligible. If so, please apply now and payments will be processed as quickly as possible

[Apply online for a grant for your business](#)

If you're still unsure if you qualify, please contact the Business Rates Team directly at businesscashgrants@thanel.gov.uk.

Thanet Business Support Facebook page

The council is also supporting the local Thanet business community via a dedicated Facebook group: [facebook.com/groups/ThanetBusinessSupport](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ThanetBusinessSupport). As a member of this group, businesses will be able to access up-to-date guidance from the council, as well as advice from its Business Support consultant who some local businesses may have already met.

Government Advice

Self-employed Grant

The amount of profits covered by the two forthcoming self-employed grants will increase from 20% to 40%, meaning the maximum grant will increase from £1,875 to £3,750.

Other Government updates

- Updates to the [hotels and other guest accommodation guidance](#) including updates on managing risk (section 1.1), keeping your customers, visitors and contractors safe (section 2), and who should go to work (section 3).
- Information on [asking employees for a shielding note](#) or a letter from their doctor or health authority advising them to shield has been added to the employer guidance on claiming employees' coronavirus-related statutory sick pay.

Updates to the working safely during coronavirus guidance

The [guidance for providers of grassroots sport and gym/leisure facilities](#) has been updated in the following sections:

- (Section 2) Keeping your customers and users of sports and gym/leisure facilities safe.
- (Section 4) Social distancing.
- (Section 6.4) Changing rooms and showers.
- (Section 8) Cars, accommodation and visits.

Self Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) update

The [online service](#) for the next grant for SEISS will be available from 14th December 2020. HMRC will provide full details about claiming and guidance in due course.

Other Government updates

- Terms and conditions for the [Kickstart Scheme](#) have been published.

[VisitBritain/VisitEngland](#)

Business Recovery Webinars

VisitBritain/VisitEngland continue their series of FREE webinars for the industry covering a range of topics. Coming up next week is:

- Micro-businesses: Building towards recovery - Tuesday 24th November 11am-12pm
- We're 'Good To Go': What we've learnt and what's next - Thursday 26th November - 11am to 12pm

Further information on these, booking and past webinars can be [found here](#)

Promote your Accessible Experience

As part of their #EscapeTheEveryday campaign VisitEngland is encouraging businesses and destinations to promote their accessible experiences on social media with the hashtag #EscapeTheEveryday. If you run an [accessible business](#), join in the fun on social media by sharing your top tips with them on Twitter [@VisitEnglandBiz](#). Learn more about how to get [involved here](#)

VisitBritain Hub - for all the latest information see

www.visitbritain.org/business-advice/operating-during-covid-19

[Visit Kent](#)

Interreg Experience Project

The free Experience Development webinars run by Visit Kent and Chris Brant from Unmissable England have all taken place, but they are [available online](#) for people who were unable to attend.

Further information on the project, the criteria for Experience Project applications, and the application form can be found [here](#). The application deadline has been extended to Friday 8th January 2021.

[What are you doing for Christmas and New Year?](#)

If you are planning an event for Christmas and New Year, do please let us know so that we can add it to our website, include in social media and answer media and visitor enquiries that we may receive.

Events can be submitted using the online form on [our website](#), from where they will be authorised for publishing or by emailing to visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk

What's New and Anniversaries 2021

We are also compiling a list of 'What's New and Anniversaries 2021' for a press release, response to media enquiries plus for inclusion on our website. If you have something new and newsworthy for 2021 or a key anniversary coming up, please let us know via email tourism@thanet.gov.uk

[Tourism and Visitor Information Service News](#)

Since our last update we have heard the sad news that two of our tourism industry colleagues have passed away, Ian Dickie from Margate Museum and Dr. Dawn Crouch from Westgate Heritage Centre. Please see below links to the tributes paid to them in the Isle of Thanet News, we couldn't put it better ourselves.

- [Tribute to Ian Dickie, Margate Museum Trustee and Town History Stalwart](#)
- [Tribute to Dr. Dawn Crouch](#)

New addition to our Tourism Team family

Congratulations to Lisa Powell, Tourism Services Officer who gave birth to 7lb 11oz Henry Richard Williams at 9.30pm on Thursday 5th November.

Shop local gems online

Thank you to those of you who sent in information for our online shopping page, which is our way of supporting local tourism businesses who have had to close due to the second national lockdown.

The page is now live and can be viewed on www.visitthanet.co.uk/shopping

We would really appreciate you sharing this link through your channels and liking and sharing our social media posts linking to it.

[Your News](#)

Congratulations to [Margate Caves](#) who have been shortlisted in the regional Civic Trust Awards

Turner Contemporary has announced that the [Antony Gormley statue ANOTHER TIME](#) will be staying in Margate until 2030