**Tourism Matters: Have Your Say, Award Applications and FREE training**

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague

We hope for all the businesses that have recently reopened that you have been busy welcoming visitors and residents back. Can you believe we are nearly half way through 2021! Fingers crossed for sunny weather this bank holiday weekend and for half term week.

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](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters)

**Thanet District Council**

**Respect, Protect, Enjoy**

We’re glad to see the council’s Respect, Protect, Enjoy campaign continues to be noticed across our towns. Find out more about the campaign - [thanet.gov.uk/welcome-back](https://2uz0w.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/Wy7PUacw5jw0mTEttBBSa1bC4ui7l7X7AIk8qfMzQRARb30g0awNt5ouRP1FZpRkA8KRsDDOP-S5G2OnYbW5myhSzi2lKb-U8ov7PNT9RMEwBvGD83HK93WLjapYargSwr_aMBkoERIYIzam0MhTx_4pByEqMX2bUVZyCtR1WnpxURQ5)

As the weather starts to warm up, we wanted to remind local businesses that there are posters available to download which include requesting people to social distance or to wear a mask. There is also a poster which can be used to indicate the number of people allowed in premises at any one time or to detail opening times. Finally, there are posters that focus on welcoming people back safely and encouraging people to shop & eat locally. [Download them here](https://2uz0w.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/fPlvol2m_xbrKrAvP6u1wotgSt4OP90lnZ86255L_pk7aVkyGVXnWN_5esy3mjZxufzO8RJhhzYQhRr_Diw4jiHG4cjE_0diW0q3C0OQVXz6G5Bdkdw20VoXCIMKmD1gUKCehvyfr-Ok-4F_iMWyClnahlp4NrOm4QnqZr5otPjfGL-Ohqlpx7JBoiEjDC4avG3qVVjGYeGIqtDk32jeRQpN)

**Ramsgate High Street Funding £2.7 million**

Good news - the Council’s bid to the Future High Street Fund for [Ramsgate](https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/ramsgate?__eep__=6&__cft__%5B0%5D=AZUHgHdLuUIFHvPX7e3S8Mq4PqC1n6FaUpPZSwqes8pH7WUN3hQI_r9bPvoEa0sWH8Y1Eru-AO6ESmVs8F_oZMc_kfGLtvDTeT5fENAubGC-omf_UhgPgiSMEexco2F3tAd4l-6OcTYicdGDFmI6WmjxvSys063mP4Ism9H7wBpKfMvEF3HZgGuHSDgH9eMTrCScNdqrvErKE0MH6QwQr0h-9scLJc6OOfAnnIPUskLMfQ&__tn__=*NK-R) has been confirmed!

The funding has been awarded under a set of very specific criteria, which means it can only be used to support the two submitted projects. The first will provide more workspace in the town centre for creative industries, which will help improve the street scene and bring empty buildings back into use. The second is set to improve the highway, including accessibility from the Harbour into Harbour Street. The aim is to try and reduce the dominance of the road, making it easier for people to access the high street.

Plans have been developed and will shortly be ready for public consultation, so we’re looking forward to seeing what our residents, specifically within Ramsgate, think of them!

Read more: [www.thanet.gov.uk/future-high-street-fund-confirmation/](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/future-high-street-fund-confirmation/)

**Ramsgate Future**

Everyone who lives, works and visits Ramsgate is being invited to join the conversation about the future of the town. The Ramsgate Future initiative is designed to find out opinions from people about what can be done to ensure Ramsgate is a vibrant place with a thriving retail, business and leisure offer.

There are separate surveys for residents, businesses and third sector organisations (the links are all below) and they take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The survey closes on **Tuesday 8th June**

* [**Resident Questionnaire**](https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=162134729846) – If you live, work in or visit Ramsgate please complete this survey.
* [**Business Questionnaire**](https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=162134780950) – We’re keen to understand the perspective of people who own businesses in Ramsgate so if you are a local business owner please complete this survey.
* [**Third Sector Questionnaire**](https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=162141773807)– Third sector organisations who work in Ramsgate, should complete this survey.

Thanet District Council will be hosting digital business discussions at either **7.45am or 7pm on Thursday 3rd June**. For an invitation, please email ramsgate-future@thanet.gov.uk

[Find out more information about Ramsgate Future Initiative](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/campaigns/ramsgate-future/)

**Margate Town Deal People’s Panel**

To anyone living or working in Margate, we need your help to ‘Make it Margate’!

As you may know, the town is set to benefit from up to £22m worth of funding as part of the Government’s Town Deal programme and Thanet District Council are looking to increase and refresh the People’s Panel membership to support the Board during the next phase of the town deal up until March 2022. To find out more information and apply, go to [www.margatetowndeal.co.uk](https://2uz0w.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/G_VwxH1Clyrlq5_PsDh4arqqjs7zJx_Jcd3eJlrHkirJ5w97h5YgKueAUVtKUn8vqay9kke_X_03DQdkG7S1QHmzvuEuiSBwYQAWhwyo9-6vKqFnqX0qnvmhkcWTx-UkAT6Bgf_2Q0Cx1mYTu6dCHcla1T3FukFMlszlR4RKpJxxzw2MBXM9Sdw6Rf7aMVFkpmWH5ZdjTXHYUuYkr3Y)

**Tourism Service News**

We appreciate that most businesses are now open, but that many of you are still unable to trade to a pre-covid level. We would like to know how you are getting on, how is business going, what do future bookings look like? Also, if you are facing any issues that we may be able to help with, or seek advice for you? Please let us know, we are here to help. Responses to [tourism@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@thanet.gov.uk) please.

**Visitors’ Map 2021/22 Reminder**

With the busy summer months approaching, we would like to ensure our Visitors’ Maps are in as many local outlets as possible. If you have not already got a supply, please make arrangements to collect some via [visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk)

Please note that this year, the maps have a handy QR code on the front which links to the reopening pages of our website featuring accommodation and attractions, plus highlighting venues which have signed up to VisitEngland’s ‘We’re Good To Go’ scheme to help with consumer confidence. This is the sort of information your guests will find useful when planning what to do.

**2021 Kent Big Weekend**

Visit Kent’s Kent Big Weekend is back for 2021 bigger and better and running from 26th June until 23rd July. It will be supported by a multi-media marketing campaign.

Kent's tourist attractions, venues, restaurants, experiences and destinations are invited to be part of this popular annual campaign by offering free entry or a special experience for visitors. Plus, in order to accommodate the current restrictions, ticket validity throughout the campaign has been extended to allow businesses to manage capacity and offer tickets for off-peak hours.

The Big Weekend is all about giving Kent residents the chance to discover/rediscover the array of fantastic things to see and do on their doorstep, encouraging them to spread the word about their county and turning them into our best tourism ambassadors. This year the event is being extended to the residents of Essex and East Sussex, inviting them to come and explore our beautiful region too.

Are you a free-to-enter attraction wondering how you could get involved? This year, as part of the Kent Bigger Weekend campaign, Visit Kent will be promoting all free to enter attractions alongside all ticketed attractions.

**To take part you must register your business and upload your ticket allocation before Friday 28th May**

If your business has taken part in previous years, simply log in to your account, update your details and upload your ticket offers. If you're new to the Big Weekend, you'll need to register your business first.

Please contact bigweekend@visitkent.co.uk to check if your business participated previously or to inform Visit Kent if the business main contact has changed. If you have any queries, please get in touch with Visit Kent

**Log in and add tickets** [www.kentbigweekend.co.uk/attraction-account/](https://2uz0w.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/FmV6U02oDNsbAt-Kvbv7vyqT6WZQlWlV8tSFUBj0SYyT5O2aNU358bVle3TBVOjnQhl9k9c9jhwUn-tKXzJ53A4ZdRnex6EesKKW0jS4wHffT38_eJBfpeSilb21UomYVhCdKGwDjCT6zskjUsh9tN3YDf1sbYOM-S-__SQ24gx50Tlyb_mbodTg3xH2LolvoxpUDtEmoAK5)

**Register your business** [www.kentbigweekend.co.uk/attraction-register](https://2uz0w.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/5ePmjRQPX8pvSqVvKrfOldCclNI7jv04zwmi3QYN7fhPfqw9VmS098SnskaOJe625TSoimDNZOOtMNkr9uAy08teXVoA98p0g6n0v5HzQnJliAe19VeeS4gWYo6RkAVUuSWsjkOnivQ0N2N9N0ZHq6HlYLx_xc301KWy2i5l7H5cd_keqey7wzyIwHjPHh5b7qmzfHU4yA)

**How to upload your offer** <https://visitkentbusiness.co.uk/media/65043/kent-big-weekend-admin-instructions.pdf>

**FAQS** [www.kentbigweekend.co.uk/frequently-asked-questions/](https://2uz0w.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/cl/f/dTJ3x2pORW_lAHI-1YgYl2U7XDo6sDiT3Im-C8zlhOPUWV8MTDtlXBjwVPqPBX0wyxv6ZqywmfVVexlkG5re4CpwH1CR58JwGwp0o8CE7zjLZGcLyi-aQzhDyiGWRmmLwD0pM2i07mUcK99Q-t0BxWeUJpoPs35Y3R5YOWsfwnEXZR34aNuDuwkb4tA1LQwVVIsp_HeaPdtoqFerDVS7nXk)

**Government’s new Kickstart Initiative**

The Government’s new Kickstart initiative has recently been launched on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) with a video available to view on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ir8OkmPy9YA)

The Kickstart Scheme provides funding to create new jobs for 16 to 24 year olds on Universal Credit who are at risk of long term unemployment. Employers of all sizes can apply for funding which covers:

* 100% of the [National Minimum Wage](https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates) (or the [National Living Wage](https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates)) depending on the age of the participant) for 25 hours per week for a total of 6 months
* associated [employer National Insurance contributions](https://www.gov.uk/national-insurance-rates-letters#employer-national-insurance-rates)
* any relevant workplace pension contributions (automatic enrolment)

Employers can spread the job start dates up until 31 December 2021. You’ll get funding until 30 June 2022 if a young person starts their job on 31 December 2021 or before.

You can apply for a Kickstart Scheme grant by either:

* applying online yourself
* applying through a Kickstart gateway who is already working with the Kickstart Scheme

You’ll get £1,500 funding per Kickstart job placement. This should be spent on setup costs and supporting the young person to develop their employability skills.

To apply for Kickstart go to [GOV.UK](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-kickstart-scheme-grant)

**Beautiful South Tourism Awards**

Would you like to be recognised as one of the top tourism and hospitality businesses in the South East?

The Tourism South East [‘Beautiful South Tourism Awards’](https://www.beautifulsouthawards.co.uk/) are now open for [applications](http://www.beautifulsouthawards.co.uk/how-to-enter)

There are many different categories e.g. accommodation, food and drink, dog-friendly businesses and attractions, events, and experiences. This year there is a new award for ‘Resilience and Innovation’

If you are a member of [**Tourism South East**](http://www.tourismsoutheast.com/) the awards are free to enter. Non-members are required to pay a fee of £70 (plus VAT). Entries in the New Tourism Business, Resilience and Innovation and Unsung Hero categories are FREE for members and non-members.

**All entries must be submitted online by Tuesday 31st August.**

**Federation of Small Businesses - FREE webinar**

Join The Federation of Small Businesses for a series of virtual events - networking, business surgeries and webinars, designed to help you find advice, support and guidance for your small business during the COVID-19 pandemic. All events are **FREE**

**Wednesday 2nd June - Preparing to bid within the public sector** 11am-12pm

This masterclass will be focusing on showcasing how to find opportunities that are small business friendly, within the public sector. [Further information and register](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/preparing-to-bid-within-the-public-sector.html)

**Tuesday 8th June** **Get started with Digital Advertising with FSB And Google Digital Garage** 11am-12pm

Digital advertising can help your business find new customers online. Join our free, live webinar to learn about search, social and display advertising, and the different ways these channels can support your digital marketing strategy. [Further information and register](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/get-started-with-digital-advertising-with-fsb-and-google-digital-garage.html)

**KEiba Awards 2021**

Kent Excellence in Business Awards (KEiBA) 2021 return in style with even more categories to enter and a new look to the unveiling of the winners, as companies look to bounce back after one of the toughest 12 months anyone could have imagined.

Award categories include

* Business Commitment to the Community Award
* Commitment to the Environment Award
* Customer Service Award
* Employer of the Year
* Entrepreneur of the Year

Full details on how to enter can be found at [www.keiba.co.uk](http://www.keiba.co.uk). **Entries must be received by 5pm on Wednesday 30th June to qualify for judging.**

**Margate NOW Crowdfunder Announcement**

Margate NOW is back for its eighth edition of contemporary art, music, performance and collective action, guest curated by Anna Colin between 25th September - 10th October.

Margate NOW and the Sunken Garden Society are joining forces to commission innovative, functional and sustainable public artworks for the Sunken Garden, a unique biodiverse outdoor space in Westbrook and have launched a Crowdfunder campaign for this project, and they need your help to reach their goal

[To support the project and read more, click here](http://www.spacehive.com/sustainable-public-art-for-sunken-garden)

**Your News**

Congratulations to **Moon Lane Children's Books & Toys**, Ramsgate which was recently announced UK Book Retailer of the Year 2021 and Children’s Bookseller of the Year 2021 in the British Book Awards,

**Active Ramsgate** has launched a new guide for cyclists to travel from Ramsgate to Deal and back, with the opportunity to visit some of the South East’s best examples of architecture, history and nature along the way. Titled the ‘Pier to Pier Cycle Trail’ the leaflet is free to download [here](https://www.ramsgatetown.org/activeramsgate/cycling-kent-holidays)

**Dreamland** has recently announced their plans for 2021, beginning on Thursday 27th May with the reopening of the outdoor Scenic Stage and indoor event venues for a six-month programme of events. From Saturday 10th July and throughout the summer holidays, eight specially selected rides will be in operation. Please see the full press release for further information [www.dreamland.co.uk/blog/reopening-update](https://www.dreamland.co.uk/blog/reopening-update)

**Murky Margate - new guided tour**

A new, guided historical murder town trail in Margate launches this Saturday, 29th May.

Join Johanne Edgington on a guided tour, in and around Margate’s Old Town, to hear tales unfold about the darker side of Margate’s history. Tales include:

* Murder at the Metropole
* Margate’s link to the Chocolate Cream Killer
* A suspicious death off Margate’s jetty
* An unusual discovery in The Parade cinema
* The murder of Mary Ann Bridger

Tours cost £10 per person and will take place each Saturday at 4pm, lasting approx. 90 minutes. Pre-book on [www.murky-margate-tours.business.site](https://murky-margate-tours.business.site/)