**May's Tourism Matters: Accommodation Consultation, Heritage Open Days and Free Workshops**

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague

With two bank holidays behind us and one to go, May is turning out to be a busy month and it's hard to believe we are nearly half way through the year.

In this issue we bring you details of how to get involved in Heritage Open Days 2023, information on the consultation of England's accommodation registration scheme and Ramsgate Cultural Consortium free workshops.

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

**Tourism and Visitor Services News**

**Opening Hours Change**

The Visitor Information Service at Droit House Margate will be open seven days a week during May half term (week commencing Monday 29 May) before changing to Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm in June (closed on Mondays).

**Heritage Open Days (HOD) - Friday 8 to Sunday 17 September**

If you plan to be part of Heritage Open Days this year and would like to be considered for inclusion in the leaflet, please contact Sue Gyde. Sue is kindly coordinating this for the whole of Thanet on behalf of The Ramsgate Society. **The deadline for inclusion in the leaflet is Thursday 1 June**. Sue can be contacted on [suegyde@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:suegyde@hotmail.co.uk).

The theme this year is ‘Creativity Unwrapped’ and the criteria for venues who wish to take part can be [found here](https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/organising/how-to-get-involved/entry-criteria). The website includes information on how to get involved and useful tips if you are a new participant.

**Important** - if you are participating, make sure that you add your event to the [Heritage Open Days website](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk), which will give you even more exposure. **The deadline for this is Thursday 10 August.** The information will be used for a dedicated page on [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk)

**Consultation on a registration scheme for short-term lets in England**

A Department for Culture, Media & Sport consultation has been launched looking at three high-level possible approaches to a registration scheme with detailed questions about the design.

This follows on from the call for evidence by DCMS in September 2022 where an analysis of 4,000 responses showed support for a light-touch scheme. Three possible approaches of what type of scheme could be implemented are:

1. **An opt-in scheme for local authorities, with the framework set nationally**: this option is a targeted approach, recognising that any negative housing and community effects of short-term lets are felt more in some localities than others. An opt-in scheme would provide for local authorities to decide whether or not to participate in the scheme based on the needs and challenges of their area. However, it would not ensure a level playing field and ensure consistent adherence to existing health and safety regulations across England.
2. **An opt-in scheme for local authorities with the framework set nationally, and a review point to determine whether to expand the scheme to mandatory**: as above, but with the flexibility to expand the scheme to cover all of England if there is a case to do so following an evaluation.
3. **A mandatory national scheme, administered by either the English Tourist Board (VisitEngland), local authorities, or another competent authority:** this option recognises the need for a level playing field in the guest accommodation sector across England, particularly in respect of the application of existing health & safety regulations. It will also provide data at a local level, which will (i) help to provide local planning authorities with information about which premises are being let out in their area and (ii) support development of policy to address housing and community impacts.

The consultation seeks views on a range of questions relating to how the scheme should be set up and administered. Further details on the consultation can be found on the [government’s website](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-a-registration-scheme-for-short-term-lets-in-england)

**The consultation closes at 11:59pm on Wednesday 7 June**. [You can respond here](https://dcms.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4T0bgUqgX19joKG)

**2023/24 Beautiful South Tourism Awards**

The Beautiful South Tourism Awards are now accepting entries from tourism and hospitality businesses from across the south east of England.

Categories include pubs, cafes and restaurants, accommodation, spa, wedding and business venues, attractions, events and experiences. There are also awards for unsung heroes, new businesses, dog-friendly, accessibility and sustainability.

**The deadline for entries is midnight on Sunday 18 June**. [Find out more and enter here](http://www.beautifulsouthawards.co.uk/how-to-enter)

Limited places are available for [online workshops](http://www.beautifulsouthawards.co.uk/workshops) on Wednesday 17 and Tuesday 23 May for anyone who would like help to complete their forms or has questions. Booking is essential

Winning businesses can progress to the national VisitEngland awards, in the same category.

**Have you got our Visitors’ Map for half term visitors?**

With half term just around the corner, are you displaying copies of our Visitors’ Map for your guests and visitors?

If you would like to pick up a supply of the new maps, please call the Visitor Information Centre team on 01843 577577 or email [visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk). We can then make sure that we have a supply ready for you to collect.

Copies can also be collected from Lillyputt Mini Golf in Broadstairs and The Custom House in Ramsgate.

**Half Term Events**

Take a look at our dedicated page [www.visitthanet.co.uk/mayht](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/mayht) so that you can

advise your guests and visitors on events taking place during half term.

**VisitBritain/VisitEngland Update**

**New fire safety guidance released**

The Home Office has published fully updated guidance for small accommodation businesses to help them comply with fire safety law.

The new guide **‘**[**Making your small paying guest accommodation safe from fire**’](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-your-small-paying-guest-accommodation-safe-from-fire) replaces the previous ‘Do you have paying guests?’ guide.

VisitBritain/VisitEngland have published a new downloadable [**Fire Risk Assessment template**](https://www.visitbritain.org/business-advice/complete-your-fire-risk-assessment)in their free Business Advice Hub that aligns with the new guidance.

**Visit Kent Update**

**Kent Big Weekend Ballot**

Visit Kent’s Big Weekend is taking place on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June. The public ballot opens on Monday 15 May, and will close on Monday 12 June.

To find out which businesses are participating, head to [www.kentbigweekend.co.uk](http://www.kentbigweekend.co.uk). A page dedicated to Thanet’s participants including Dreamland, the Open Top Bus, Gadds’ Brewery and Dickens House Museum will be available on [www.visitthanet.co.uk](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk)

**Thanet District Council**

**Night Time Economy Public Survey**

Thanet District Council is working with consultants Counterculture, to review and develop a strategy for Thanet’s night time economy. This is part of the work to develop a new future for the Winter Gardens building in Margate.

The public survey is now live. From bars and clubs, to cinemas, live music and entertainment, we are collecting views from members of the public on what Thanet’s nightlife has to offer, and what people would like to see more of.

**The survey is open until Sunday 21 May,** and you can [share your views here](https://form.typeform.com/to/pJU3bONe?typeform-source=www.google.com)

**Theatre Royal Margate**

Thanet District Council has been awarded £10,000 of grant funding from Theatres Trust’s Resilient Theatres: Resilient Communities project, in recognition of Theatre Royal Margate’s heritage and ‘at risk’ status.

This award follows an allocation of £2m in April 2022 for renovations at the theatre which came from the Margate Town Deal. The Town Deal funding for the Theatre Royal will cover the extensive repairs that have been identified as essential to secure the existing building. [Read more](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/theatre-royal-margate-awarded-new-grant-funding-from-theatres-trust/)

**Register for a free workshop**

The Ramsgate Cultural Consortium, which is part of the Ramsgate High Streets Heritage Action Zone, is holding free workshops for people who work in the not-for-profit sector. This includes charities, voluntary organisations, sports and social clubs and more.

The sessions each have a different theme and will all be held at Discovery Planet, 47 High Street, Ramsgate CT11 9AG from 9.30am to 1pm on the following dates:

* Tuesday 6 June - Volunteer Management
* Tuesday 4 July - Strategic planning: Processes and tools for direction and decision making
* Tuesday 8 August - Safeguarding

Register for your [place here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11D__N4L2Bhrw4TZCqY7AxwabsOVi44Pg_lutsd8CLuM/viewform?ts=63ea686f&edit_requested=true), and find out more about the [Ramsgate Cultural Consortium on our website](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/campaigns/ramsgate-future/?tab=5).

**Trialling eco bins**

As part of Thanet District Council's commitment to keeping the district clean, it is going to install five new compacting bins on a trial basis. They’ll be appearing in town centre and seafront locations soon.

These eco bins use solar power to crush rubbish. It means that each bin can hold up to five times more waste than a traditional bin, between each collection

**Your News**

**POW 2024 Festival Submissions**

Submissions are now open for the 2024 Power of Women Festival. The theme is ‘REST’ and how it relates to gender equality.

There are a variety of ways that you can get involved, including hosting a community project, outdoor family festival, music and performance, art trail or a digital day. The festival will run Friday 1 to Sunday 31 March 2024 and will include free and paid for activities, in person and digital events, as well as a programme for all ages, genders and backgrounds.

**The deadline for submissions is Sunday 21 May 2023 and Sunday 1 October for the art trail.**

Read more about the theme and how to get involved on the [POW website](http://www.powthanet.com/2024-open-call).

**Thanet Disabled Riding Centre needs your vote**

Thanet Disabled Riding Centre has been shortlisted for the chance of a £63,000 grant from The People’s Projects. If successful, the centre will be able to expand, to provide ongoing support for people with mental health issues and the disabled community for another 12 months.

Voting opens at [www.thepeoplesprojects.org.uk](https://www.thepeoplesprojects.org.uk/) on Monday 15 May and runs until Friday 26 May.

As a thank you to voters, the centre is holding a 25th birthday party for pony Henry on Saturday 20 May with games, music, cakes and a raffle. [Find out more here](http://www.disabledridingcentre.com/)

**Pie Factory Music Job Opportunities**

Pie Factory Music is advertising for two roles to join their team, Project Manager (Music & Creative Arts) and an Operations Administrator.

Details of the roles can be found here

* [Project Manager (Music and Creative Arts](https://piefactorymusic.com/project-manager-music-and-creative-arts/))
* [Operations Administrator](https://piefactorymusic.com/operations-administrator/)

The application deadline is 5pm on Friday 19 May with interviews taking place on Thursday 25 May.

**Margate Civic Society Town Pride Awards**

The 2023 Margate Town Pride Awards take place on Thursday 18 May at Holy Trinity Margate Hall, St Mary’s Avenue, Margate CT9 3TN from 7.30pm (seated by 7.15pm). Non members are welcome, with an entry fee of £4.50.

Nominees for awards are

* 85 Dane Road, Margate (new development)
* 50 Hawley Square, Margate (renovation)
* 28 Ethelbert Crescent, Cliftonville, Margate (new development)
* Fort Road Hotel, 18 Fort Road, Margate (full restoration)
* Olimpia Bakery, 67 High Street, Margate (renovation)
* Former Thanet Press, Union Crescent, Margate (restoration)
* 1 Union Crescent, 1 and 2 Cecil Street, Margate (restorations)

Members’ notices and a community update will follow the award presentations. There will be a fundraising raffle and refreshments. For more information visit the [Margate Civic Society website](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk/)

**Oasis Charity Literary Event**

Oasis Domestic Abuse Service in partnership with Broadstairs Lit is holding **‘In Conversation with Mark Billingham**’ on Sunday 11 June at The Yarrow in Broadstairs. There will be a Q&A between Mark, the Sunday Times bestselling author and Broadstairs Lit’s Denise Martin-Harker.

Tickets are £25 which includes a prosecco cream tea and book signing. They can be purchased [online here](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/oasisdomesticabuseservice/861958). All money raised will go towards the work of Oasis in providing refuge and support to those affected by domestic abuse.