**June’s Tourism Matters: Accessibility, Awards and Your Input**

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague,

In this issue we bring you details of VisitEngland’s ‘AccessAble’s Your Accessibility Guide’ project and ask for your assistance with the latest National Coastal Tourism Academy survey. There is still time to enter the Beautiful South Tourism Awards and we bring you the latest updates on a number of council projects.

If you know somebody who would like to read our e-news, please forward it on, or better still let them know they can register to receive the newsletter first hand at [www.visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/tourismmatters)

**Tourism and Visitor Services News**

**Visitor Information Services Opening Hours**

The Thanet Visitor Information Centre at Droit House, Margate is open Tuesday to Sunday 10am-5pm throughout June before daily opening in July.

**Beautiful South Tourism Awards - a great PR opportunity for your business!**

There are just 10 days left for tourism and hospitality businesses to enter The Beautiful South Tourism Awards.

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

**The deadline for entries is Sunday 23 June.** Find out more and enter via the [Beautiful South Awards website](https://www.beautifulsouthawards.co.uk/)

Winning businesses will progress to the national [VisitEngland awards](https://www.visitbritain.org/business-advice/visitengland-awards-excellence), in the same category.

**Visit Britain / Visit England**

**AccessAble’s Your Accessibility Guide portal launches**

Many disabled people are put off visiting somewhere new if there is no accessibility information available online. To try to overcome this barrier, VisitEngland has joined forces with online accessibility guide [AccessAble](https://www.accessable.co.uk/). Together, they aim to support hospitality and tourism businesses across England to provide detailed descriptions of their venue’s accessibility for visitors.

Businesses can now use the new [Your Accessibility Guide portal](https://visitengland.youraccessibilityguide.co.uk/), to get a quote and book either a guided or on site assessment of their venue, where a professional access surveyor will create a quality-assured detailed access guide. All guides will be hosted on AccessAble’s website, used by more than six million people a year.

VisitEngland is providing [discounts to English tourism businesses](https://www.visitbritain.org/business-advice/make-your-business-accessible-and-inclusive/update-accessibility-information), subject to availability, including a Detailed Access Guide for just £1 + VAT for the smallest businesses.

For more information see the [VisitBritain website](https://www.visitbritain.org/visitengland-joins-forces-accessable-promote-new-tourism-accessibility-guides)

**National Coastal Tourism Academy (NCTA) Survey**

Ahead of the general election on Thursday 4 July, NCTA would be very grateful for your input into their [business survey](https://uk.surveymonkey.com/r/NCTA_Thanet). Your feedback will help them to provide politicians with an accurate reflection of the coastal business landscape.

The survey is live until Sunday 30 June and should take no more than five minutes to complete.

**Thanet District Council**

**Ramsgate Market Returns**

Ramsgate Market is set to open for the first time on Friday 14 June. It will be sited in its former location on Ramsgate High Street, Queen Street and King Street every Friday, between 9am and 3pm.

Bray Associates has been appointed to manage the market, and is on the lookout for stallholders to add to the list of traders who’ve already expressed an interest. If you know anyone who might be interested, please share Bray’s contact details, which you can find in the [council’s newsroom](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/new-ramsgate-market-launches-on-friday-14-june/).

**A new trust for Margate’s Theatre Royal**

At a meeting on Thursday 30 May, the council’s Cabinet approved recommendations to set up a new trust to run and manage the Theatre Royal and 19 Hawley Square in Margate. The next steps will depend on the success of funding applications, totalling £7.5m. Find out more in the [council’s newsroom](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/cabinet-to-consider-recommendation-to-set-up-a-new-trust-to-run-and-manage-the-theatre-royal-in-margate/).

**Your News**

**Opportunity with the Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum, Manston**

The Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum in Manston is looking for a person with social media expertise to manage their social media accounts and take their online presence forward, including across other platforms. Content, draft text and images will be supplied. This opportunity offers up to £25 per hour for up to 2 hours per week. Please contact enquiries@spitfiremuseum.co.uk for further information

**Margo in Margate Gallery Opening**

On Friday 21 June, artist Margo McDaid AKA ‘[Margo in Margate](https://margomcdaid.com/)’, will open a gallery on Margate’s lower High Street, showcasing her work.

Margo will be in the gallery every week selling her works on canvas, paper, ceramic

and wood, alongside limited edition prints.

**Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens Award**

Congratulations to the [**Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens**](https://powell-cottonmuseum.org/) which recently won 'Team of the Year' at the ‘Museums + Heritage Awards’.

**Taste of Kent Awards 2024**

Congratulations to the Thanet businesses who have been announced as finalists in the Taste of Kent Awards 2024. The winners will be announced later today (Thursday 13 June) at a ceremony at The University of Kent.

The Thanet-based finalists are:

* Kent Savoury Bakery Product of the Year - Dark Chocolate Sourdough, Madre Margate, Margate
* Kent Fish or Seafood Product of the Year - Blue Oceans Blanchbait (Panko), Blue Oceans, Ramsgate
* Kent Free-From Business of the Year - Marc-Pierre's Kitchen, Ramsgate

**The Kent Press & Broadcast Awards**

Congratulations to the following who have been announced as finalists in the The Kent Press & Broadcast Awards. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on Friday 26 July.

* Kent Magazine of the Year - Broadstairs Beacon and Margate Mercury
* Kent News Website of the Year - The Isle of Thanet News
* Kent Story of the Year - Kathy Bailes, The Isle of Thanet News