**January’s Tourism Matters: Help shape the future of hospitality in Thanet, Job Opportunity and Get Involved**

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague

Welcome to our first Tourism Matters of 2025. We hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year.

In this issue we bring you a reminder of our upcoming hospitality workshop, how to get involved in Railway 200 celebrations and the Kent Big Weekend. There is also information on how to enter the 2025 East Kent Coast Photography Competition.

**Tourism and Visitor Services News**

**Dickens House Museum Job Alert**

Thanet District Council is looking to recruit a Visitor Manager for the Dickens House Museum in Broadstairs.

The museum attracts around 8,000 visitors each year and is staffed by a team of enthusiastic volunteers. The museum opens from Easter to the end of October half-term, with occasional group visits and events.

The Visitor Manager will be responsible for leading the volunteers and ensuring the smooth running of the museum. We’re looking for someone who is motivated and enthusiastic, ideally with an interest in Charles Dickens. This is a fixed-term contract on an annualised hours basis.

For further information and to apply, visit the job vacancies section of [Thanet District Council’s website](https://ce0551li.webitrent.com/ce0551li_webrecruitment/wrd/run/ETREC179GF.open?WVID=3353121Vyj)

**Stronger Together - Shaping the future of hospitality in Thanet**

**Monday 27 January 2025**

**9.30am - 1.30pm**

**The Yarrow Hotel, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs**

The Stronger Together event is hosted by Thanet District Council in partnership with East Kent Colleges Group. It is part of our UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme, and is your opportunity to shape the future of hospitality in Thanet.

* Hear from leading industry voices including UK Hospitality, Perfect Place to Grow, Visit Kent and East Kent College.
* Get the latest updates on national changes impacting businesses and the support available.
* Collaborate and connect with local professionals to tackle challenges and explore opportunities in the tourism sector.
* Enjoy a delicious lunch and explore the college’s hospitality facilities.

Whether you’re looking to gain insights, grow your skilled workforce or collaborate with others, this workshop has something for you.

Seats are limited, so secure your [FREE ticket now](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stronger-together-shaping-the-future-of-hospitality-in-thanet-tickets-1115185492829)

**Visitor Information Services Seasonal Opening Hours**

The Thanet Visitor Information Centre at Droit House, Margate is open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm throughout January and February. During February half term (Monday 17 - Sunday 23 February) the Information Centre will be open daily.

**The Ramsgate Visitor Information Centre** at The Custom House, Harbour Parade, is open October to March, Monday - Saturday, 11am - 3pm.

**Visit Kent**

Kent Big Weekend takes place on **Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 April**. It is a fantastic way to reward and encourage residents to visit or to rediscover what's on their doorstep.

Residents will have the opportunity to win free tickets to explore attractions that they might not have otherwise visited. The ambition is to instil a sense of pride in their home county and inspire them to share their enthusiasm with visiting friends and family.

Attractions and businesses are invited to offer complimentary tickets exclusively to Kent residents to use on the Big Weekend only. You can offer as many tickets as you wish, for one or both days.

To find out more about the event and how to get involved [click here](https://www.visitkent.co.uk/media/118013/kent-big-weekend-onboarding-doc-2025.pdf) or visit the [Kent Big Weekend website](https://www.kentbigweekend.co.uk). **Please sign up before Friday 20 February if you’d like to take part.,**

If you would like your business to be included in the Kent Life Magazine feature piece, register your business and submit your ticket entry online, and send an email to enquiries@visitkent.co.uk with the subject line “**KBW – Kent Life feature”** **by Monday 20 January.**

**Inspire the Future of Tourism Talent**

Visit Kent is looking for the unsung heroes of the tourism, leisure, and hospitality industry to inspire the next generation. If you’ve built a rewarding career in this sector, they want to hear from you!

Your input will help Visit Kent to share their Tourism Talent Hub, launching in 2025. This will be a platform dedicated to inspiring success stories, providing resources, and encouraging jobseekers to explore opportunities in our vibrant industry.

If you know a colleague or industry friend with an inspiring career path, encourage them to get involved. Visit Kent can highlight the diverse career opportunities in tourism and hospitality and celebrate the incredible individuals shaping the sector.

This is your opportunity to:

* Showcase your achievements
* Inspire future talent
* Celebrate the success of your industry peers

For more information or to submit your story, [click here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdA3A8US0GWboRPxPAevCW7bmOuM4Z8lq93y_57se4Sxyt6KA/viewform)

**Thanet District Council**

**2025 East Kent Coast Photography Competition**

Bird Wise East Kent and Thanet Coast Project have teamed up to host the East Kent Coast photographic competition for 2025. The competition celebrates the coastal environment and wildlife, and winning entries will be shown in local exhibitions. The competition is open to adults, with two categories for younger photographers. Participants can enter a maximum of two images, these can be for the same or different categories.

Adult categories:

* Daring Dozen
* Coastal Wildlife
* Coastal Landscape
* Human Impact on the Environment: The Good and the Bad
* Savvy Sea Dogs

Young photographers can submit up to two images in the same categories as above.

* Up to 11 years
* Ages 12-18 years

The deadline for all entries is Sunday 16 February. For full details of the categories, terms and conditions and how to submit your photos, visit the [Bird Wise East Kent website](https://eastkent.birdwise.org.uk/photography-competition/)

**Office space at the Kent Innovation Centre**

Do you run an SME or startup business? Are you looking to move away from the kitchen table or spare room in 2025? The Kent Innovation Centre in Broadstairs offers fully serviced offices for flexible rent, at competitive prices. There are a range of unit sizes available to suit small and growing businesses. [Find out more on the council’s website](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/services/kent-innovation-centre/).

**Other News**

**Railway 200**

2025 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of the modern railway, bringing change to Britain and the UK. The ‘Railway 200’ campaign will celebrate the past, present and future of rail.

We are gathering together information on the history of the railway in Thanet, any connections e.g. Thomas Crampton, that we can use on the website, in social media and for press enquiries. If you have any information or connections that you’d like to share, please let us know at tourism@thanet.gov.uk

Find out more about the celebrations, how you can get involved and access a useful toolkit here <https://railway200.co.uk/>

**An Evening of Business Networking**

The Federation of Small Businesses is hosting a Thanet Networking event on Wednesday 5 February 5pm - 7pm at Olby's Soul Café in Margate.

Tickets are free and the café will be selling refreshments. [To book and find out more click here](https://www.fsb.org.uk/event-calendar/thanet-networking-5thfeb25.html)

**Your News**

**Ramsgate Festival of Sound - invitation to artists**

Ramsgate Festival of Sound will commission artists to create sound-based installations for their Sonic Trail.

There’s an event on Tuesday 21 January, between 10am and 11.30am at the San Clu Hotel, Victoria Parade, Ramsgate CT11 8DT.

Anyone who is interested in taking part is invited to discuss their ideas over a complimentary tea or coffee. Please RSVP to gemmadempseylondon@gmail.com.