**March’s Tourism Matters: Heritage Open Days, Award Nominations and Green Initiative**

Dear Tourism Industry Colleague

It’s hard to believe we’re nearly a quarter of the way through 2025 already.

In this issue we bring you details of opportunities around going green with Thanet District Council. Visit Kent and Low Carbon Kent that are available to Tourism Businesses. There’s information on how you can get involved in Heritage Open Days and an update on council projects. We congratulate businesses who’ve been shortlisted for awards.

**Tourism and Visitor Services News**

**Easter Happenings**

The school Easter holidays are still a few weeks away, but in preparation, we have created a dedicated page on our [website](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/easter), with events across the isle.

If you would like us to list an event, please complete the [online submission form](http://www.visitthanet.co.uk/submit-your-event/) or send details (event name, date, description, cost, contact details and a landscape image) to visitorinformation@thanet.gov.uk

**Dickens House Museum Seasonal Opening**

Broadstairs' Dickens House Museum is gearing up to reopen for the 2025 season on Wednesday 2 April. The museum will be open Wednesday to Sunday and on bank holidays, 1pm - 4.30pm (last entry at 4pm) until Sunday 2 November. Work is underway to prepare the museum to welcome visitors once again.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Museum, please email dickenshouse@thanet.gov.uk for more information.

**Visitor Information Services Opening Hours**

The Thanet Visitor Information Centre at Droit House is open throughout March. The opening hours are Wednesday - Sunday, 10am-5pm. From Wednesday 2 to Sunday 27 April, the centre will be open every day.

**Ramsgate Visitor Information** at The Custom House, Harbour Parade, is open October to March, Monday to Saturday, 11am - 3pm with the addition of Sunday 10am-2pm from Sunday 16 March. From April to September, the Centre is open Monday to Saturday, 10am-4pm and Sunday, 10am-2pm.

**Heritage Open Days**

This year’s Heritage Open Days take place from Friday 12 to Sunday 21 September, with FREE entry to participating venues. This year the theme is ‘*Architecture*’ - from buildings and bridges to beehives, exploring how we’ve designed and built the world around us.

This is a great opportunity to promote your attraction to local residents, as well as new and returning visitors.

Please note the following deadlines if you would like to participate:

* March: Event registration opens
* April / May: Press releases issued
* June: Event directory launches
* August: Event registration closes
* Friday 12 - Sunday 21 September: The festival!
* Early October: Evaluation deadline

To find out more about the scheme and to register your interest, please visit the [Heritage Open Days website](https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/)

**Simpler Recycling Legislation**

From Monday 31 March 2025 (or 31 March 2027 for micro-firms with fewer than 10 employees), all workplaces (businesses and non-domestic premises) in England have a legal duty to separate their waste into

* dry recyclable materials - plastic, metal, glass, paper and card
* food waste
* general waste - non-recyclable

The aim is to help reduce contamination, to increase recycling and help reduce landfill. Full details can be found on the [government website](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/simpler-recycling-workplace-recycling-in-england)

**Visit Kent**

**Growing Green Initiative**

[Growing Kent & Medway](https://www.growingkentandmedway.com/) has launched the Growing Green initiative in partnership with [Low Carbon Kent](https://lowcarbonkent.com/). This is a sustainability training programme, aimed at horticulture and food businesses in Kent and Medway. The programme offers tailored support to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint, achieve net-zero goals, and find value in waste materials.

The training spans three months, includes an accredited qualification, and a personalised action plan. This flexible programme is designed to fit around busy schedules, with opportunities to join a network of sustainable businesses. Participants can also apply for an innovation grant of up to £7,000 to support their sustainability efforts.

Application deadline is Monday 1 September. [Find out more here](https://www.growingkentandmedway.com/growing-green)

**Become a Disability Confident Employer with Free 1-2-1 Support**

Visit Kent is working with The Education People to support employers across Kent to join the Disability Confident scheme. They provide dedicated guidance and hands-on support to make the process seamless.

**Why Engage with the Disability Confident Scheme?**

* Demonstrates a commitment to **diversity, equality, and inclusion**.
* Enhances your **brand image**, making your business more attractive to **customers, partners, and potential employees.**
* Creates a workplace where employees feel **valued and included**, with better **retention, morale, and productivity.**
* Strengthens credibility and **opens doors to new business opportunities**.
* Gives access to a **wider talent pool**, bringing valuable skills and fresh perspectives into your workforce.

**How to Get Involved**

The Disability Confident Scheme has three levels:

* **Level 1 – Disability Confident Committed** (Pledging to take action)
* **Level 2 – Disability Confident Employer** (Demonstrating inclusive recruitment practices)
* **Level 3 – Disability Confident Leader** (Championing disability inclusion across industries)

If you’d like to get involved or find out more, please contact: Shane Forster – Employer Engagement Lead.

**Thanet District Council**

**Regeneration Project Updates**

Regeneration projects are moving ahead in both Margate and Ramsgate.

In Margate, Councillors will consider a proposal for a preferred partner to refurbish and reopen the [Winter Gardens](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/thanet-district-council-identifies-preferred-partner-for-margate-winter-gardens/) on Thursday 20 March. Progress has been made on the Margate Digital project and new accessible public toilets at Margate Main Sands have planning permission. The Margate Creative Land Trust has bought its first property.

In Ramsgate, a contractor has been appointed to deliver three key projects (Green Campus, Clock House and Harbour projects (including changes to Pier Yard and nearby roads)) and the Clock House building project has moved to the next phase. [Read more about these projects here](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/update-regeneration-projects-in-margate-and-ramsgate/)

**Madeira Walk Waterfall in Ramsgate**

Work to repair Ramsgate’s Madeira Walk Waterfall started on Monday 10 March. The waterfall has been out of action since 2022 as the two large ponds had developed leaks.

The project will take place in two stages. During the first phase, the ponds will be drained so the necessary repairs can be identified. The surrounding plants will be cut back, and invasive species removed. Once this work is complete, the ponds will be repaired and the pumps and control system that power the waterfall will be overhauled, together with the feature lighting.

It is anticipated that the work will be completed ahead of the summer season. [Read more about this project here](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/work-starts-to-repair-ramsgates-madeira-walk-waterfall/).

**Green Business Event**

The council is holding a free event about green initiatives to support business, in partnership with the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce. Local companies can find out about free courses on subjects including sustainability in the workplace, retrofitting and air source heat pumps.

The event is on Thursday 27 March, 10.30am - 12.30pm at Sea Cadets Ramsgate and Broadstairs, Port of Ramsgate Terminal Building, Military Road, Ramsgate CT11 9FT. [Book your place here](https://www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk/events/chamber-connections-sustainability-special/)

**Baton of Hope**

The Baton of Hope tour is coming to Margate on Monday 22 September 2025. The charity event will help raise awareness of suicide, and the support available to help prevent it. Thanet District Council is supporting the event and the Community team is working with the charity to make it an event to remember.

The organisers are looking for local baton bearers - to qualify you will have lost someone to suicide, or be a survivor.

To apply to take part, [please fill out the online form](https://batonofhopeuk.org/become-a-baton-bearer/), by Monday 31 March.

**Your News**

Congratulations to [**Dreamland**](https://www.dreamland.co.uk/), which is a finalist in the [Access All Areas Magazine](https://accessaa.co.uk/event-production-awards-2025-shortlist-revealed) ‘Event Venue/Space of the Year’ award category. The results of the awards will announced on Friday 21 March.

Congratulations to [**The Margate Bookshop**](https://www.themargatebookshop.com/), announced as a regional finalist for the British Book Awards Independent Bookshop of The Year. This is the fifth year running the shop has been shortlisted.

The awards cover nine different regions and countries, with shops vying to win their region before a ceremony on Monday 12 May when the overall winner is announced.

Congratulations to those Thanet voluntary, community and social enterprise groups that were recognised at the [Thanet Community Champions Awards](https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/community-champions-programme/) on Wednesday 12 March including Ark Cliftonville, Broadstairs Town Team, Dreamland Heritage Trust, Rise Up Clean Up Margate and Thanet Coat Project

**Powell-Cotton Museum extends opening days**

Exciting news! The [Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens](https://powell-cottonmuseum.org/) is now open on Fridays, as well as Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays. Visitors will have even more time to explore the refreshed interpretation of the museum's amazing natural history dioramas and newly displayed Eastern African and Ethiopian collections. The museum is open between 11am and 4 pm. Adults £5, concessions £4.50, children (4-16 yrs) £4, and infants (0-3 yrs) free.

**Broadstairs Folk Week sign unveiling**

A new sign was unveiled at Broadstairs Station on Thursday 6 March. It announces the town as 'Home of Folk Week since 1966'. Find out about the festival in this its 60th year at <https://broadstairsfolkweek.org.uk/>

**FLINTS needs your help**

FLINTS community group meets every week on Newgate Gap beach and at project space in Cliftonville. The group has until Tuesday 1 April to raise £15,000. This is to match the pledge from the NHS and Kent County Council to fund another year of their fully accessible community offerings of coastal literacy, marine stewardship and weekly support for adults, children and caregivers.

Something for you: Visit www.flints.earth/rewards to pledge and help them reach their target and choose from a range of rewards when you pledge £10+. You can also follow them on Instagram [@flints\_newgategap](https://www.instagram.com/flints_newgategap/)