

Your Weekly Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber

Thanet & East Kent Insider

29th January 2011 Issue No.: 141

1. Hartsdown Technology College

At the invitation of Connexions Partnership Kent & Medway, Thanet & East Kent Chamber was invited to speak yesterday to pupils of Hartsdown Technology College. Eight classes in succession heard the Chamber's presentations on the acceptable face of business and the importance of wealth-generation in a modern society. Responding to the invitation to start a business, pupils produced some innovative ideas that included multi-coloured furry footballs and new-age mascara to be sold in pyramid-shaped packaging. The Thanet & East Kent Chamber is receiving an increasing number of requests to speak to schools and colleges. We welcome the opportunity to encourage young minds that hard work, good presentation and an entrepreneurial spirit can produce a satisfying and successful career. We offer a range of initiatives at all levels from primary school to university including formal speeches and BBC Question Time style presentations. For more information, please email manager@tekc.co.uk with the subject line "Enterprise in Education".

2. All Men Are Equal But

We are grateful to Vanessa Wolfman of VisitKent for news of a short course on the Equality Act 2010 which will replace the existing anti discrimination laws in October 2011. The new legislation is expected to remove some inconsistencies and make the provisions easier to be understood by hard-working business people without the need to refer to a legal dictionary. The changes include new provisions on direct and indirect discrimination as well as dealing with disability and harassment. Any business with a tourism element will have particular obligations under the Equality Act 2010. Starting at 0930 hrs, the course runs until 1630 hrs and will take place at The Village Inn Maidstone on Wednesday 9th February 2011. All delegates are invited for lunch. At the time of writing, there are still some places left. To book or for more details, call Vanessa tel: 01622 696936 or email Vanessa.Wolfman@kent.gov.uk with the subject line "TEKC WelcomeAll One Day £25"

3. Prince's Golf Club

Prince's Golf Club is scheduled to host the first Chamber golf event of the year on Friday 1st April. General Manager, Michael Lovett, is looking forward to showing players and visitors all the changes and improvements at the Club. The renovation work on all bunkers on the Shore/Dunes course is now completed and is receiving excellent reviews. The new Lodge development is expected to open later in the year, an update will be available at the Prince's Chamber Golf Day.. There will be a firm focus on Sandwich golf this year with the Open Championship being played at Royal St Georges next July. Prince's is offering Chamber members the opportunity to host corporate events during the week. The team at PGC can create bespoke packages which promise an exciting day in close proximity to the entrances to Royal St Georges. For more details about Prince's, please call David Holder on 01304 611118 or

email d.holder@princesgolfclub.co.uk with the subject line “Chamber Golf Enquiry”. For details of the Chamber Golf Days, email manager@tekc.co.uk with the subject line “Chamber Golf Days”.

4. Thanet Youth Strategy

It will not have escaped data watchers that Thanet is officially ranked as the most deprived district in Kent. The future of our local economy will depend very much on retaining the best school leavers and improving the skill levels of our workforce. If you have an interest in the Thanet Youth Strategy, Sarah Phippin invites you to send your comments to her before 31st March 2011. For a copy of the consultation papers email Sarah to sarah.phippin@thanet.gov.uk with the subject line “TEKC Thanet Youth Strategy” or you can call her or her line manager Nedine Watson-Cutts, tel: 01227 284408.

5. Young People Today

Do you ever hear anyone describe young people living near you with these words: "The children now love luxury; they show disrespect for their elders and betters, they chatter instead of exercising. Children are tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer get up when their seniors enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up their food at the table, cross their legs and tyrannise their teachers". Thus spoke Socrates over 2,400 years ago. If you did hear these words at the time, you have obviously made the most of your pension contributions. On the other hand, if you are under retirement age, you might like to contact one of our Chamber pension experts. Please email manager@tekc.co.uk with the subject line “TEKC Pension Consultant”.

6. Turner Contemporary Update

Chamber member the Turner Contemporary has announced details of its opening exhibition which runs from 16th April to 4th September 2011. As previously mentioned in the Thanet & East Kent Insider, the show will be centred on JMW Turner's extraordinary painting *The Eruption of the Souffrier Mountains, in the Island of St Vincent, at Midnight, on the 30th April, 1812, from a Sketch Taken at the Time by Hugh P. Keane, Esq 1815*. It depicts a volcanic eruption. The Turner Contemporary tells us that the exhibition will also feature new commissions with an overall theme. “The works in the exhibition play at the borders between what we can see and know and the truly fantastic. This dynamic relationship between imagination and reality also reflects the process of realising our long-awaited new gallery, starting from ideas and drawings to a physical building.” The Turner Gallery is expected to play a central role in the regeneration of Margate. All Chamber members will surely be wanting to see a successful future for this iconic building located at end of Margate's Harbour Arm in front of the house where England's greatest artist lived from the age of 11 years when he started at a school in Love Lane, Margate.

7. How Are We Doing?

Here is some core data relating to the district of Thanet collected from the latest available public sources. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) information is reproduced under the terms of the Thanet & East Kent Chamber

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Population of Thanet	130,900	ONS 2009
Area	10,329 Hectares	KCC, Dec 2008
Median Gross Weekly Pay By Workplace	£368.90	ONS 2010
Median Gross Weekly Pay By Residence	£401.50	ONS 2010
Public administration workers	35.3%	NOMIS 2008
Hotel, restaurant, distribution workers	27.7%	NOMIS 2008
Managers & senior officials	12.1%	NOMIS 2010
Manufacturing workers	9.3%	NOMIS 2008
Total companies	4,200	TEKC Estimate, Dec 2010
VAT registered businesses	2,835	NOMIS 2007
Companies fewer than 25 workers	92.5%	ONS 2007
Adults of working age no qualifications	13.6%	NOMIS Dec 2009
Households with no working parent	23.4%	Thanet Works March 2009
Indices of deprivation	1 st in Kent	Out of 12: KCC, Jan 2008
Indices of highest level of deprivation	65 th in England	Out of 354: KCC, Jan 2008

8. Choose Your Margate

Louise Askew, Economic Development Officer at Thanet District Council, has contacted the Thanet & East Insider to ask readers to choose their favourite typeface to be used to promote Margate. There are three options presented. Your vote will count if it registered by close of play on Friday 4th February 2011. To view the choices and have your say, click on <http://www.thisismargate.co.uk/culture/this-is-margate-toolkit/public-vote-for-margate-typogr.aspx> Further details on the overall approach can be found at <http://www.thisismargate.co.uk/culture/this-is-margate-toolkit.aspx>. These are exciting times for Margate. There will always be cynics who are only too willing to criticise any development that does not accord precisely with their recollection of the seaside town of their youth. But, Margate is at last promising to burst out of the torpor that has bedevilled its recent past and the majority of local business will be keen to be part of the transformation.

9. London Array Update

The London Array welcomed the Thanet & East Kent Chamber to a closed briefing at the Royal Temple Yacht Club last week. We were delighted to receive confirmation of the twenty-five local suppliers engaged by the company. One Chamber member recently awarded a contract for over £600,000 has a particular reason to welcome the London Array to Ramsgate, but readers can be assured that we will be promoting the products and services of all our Chamber our members with equal vigour.

10. Website for £99

If you want to know how you can have a website to promote your organisation for as little as £99, then prepare one page of text with your logo now and read next week's edition of the Thanet & East Kent Insider to find out. The edition of 5th February 2011 will also feature an item on branding and what Starbucks can do for you.

11. Thanet Local Board

Thanet Local Board met last Tuesday evening in Westgate-on-Sea. Seated under instructional posters intended to guide the growing minds of St Saviour's Church of England Junior School pupils, the Kent County Councillors of Thanet presented an update on local matters and answered questions from the floor. After the obligatory procedural items, Thanet Youth Council outlined its activities. We learned that there are 60 elected Youth Councillors, 4 from each of the 12 districts plus 12 community members. More details are available on the website at www.thaneyouthmatters.co.uk. Next on the agenda was Kent Savers Union when loan sharks received the sharp end of the tongue of Chief Officer, John Fowler. Annual Percentage Rate interest charges in excess of 2,000 are apparently not uncommon. The unwary and the vulnerable in our community can acquire a huge debt through the precipitous signing of a loan agreement with nationally advertised providers. Credit Unions offer an alternative where modest rates of interest and professional counselling can provide a fast track back to financial probity. Mr Fowler gave the floor to Dr John Pritchard, President of the Isle of Thanet Credit Union, who outlined the credit and savings regime at Wantsum Savers located at 1 Duke Street, Margate. With a characteristic fluency and oratorical mastery that betray his background as an international lawyer, Dr Pritchard gave a brilliantly incisive account of the work of Wantsum Savers. When your public supporters include the Archbishop of Canterbury, you can fairly claim to have good long-term prospects.

12. What's The Point Of Thanet Local Board

TLB provides an opportunity for KCC Councillors to explain to the local community what County Hall is doing, funding and providing. The voluntary sector received some welcome attention. Nigel Furley gave a fulsome account of the work of Funding Buddies and the support available to charities and allied bodies in Thanet. The audience also received details of the grant recommendations for 2010/11. Questions from the floor included undiluted comment supporting the expansion of Manston Airport and the ensuing prospects for job creation; this and the prospect of a Manston Parkway Station in the next few years received warm enthusiasm from the KCC Councillors. Dry matters of public finances and second homes were somewhat overshadowed by the entertainment provided by the Platform Theatre Company. A thoroughly professional performance of the short play "Shakers" delighted everyone in the hall. There was even a suspicion that a smile crossed the lips of the religious figures in the posters on the wall. We understand that Kent Community Organisation supplied the secure environment for the actors to flourish and Cllrs Chris Wells and Mike Jarvis of instrumental in arranging the public funding. As Michael Wheatley-Ward has demonstrated for many years, theatre can provide a positive force for good among young people

13. More On Retirement

Thanet & East Kent Chamber member, John Harrington, has some sound advice to add to our recent articles on retirement. Here are his words: "No doubt we have all read the reasons why the age limit on retirement has been removed and like the article points out there are a number of organisations that benefit from an older workforce. However, in these organisations there will be a professional HR department dealing with the policy and management of staff following the change. In the majority of SME's that department does not exist and is normally left to the owner. When staff have decided to retire it can be a major step in their life and it should be a time to remember, pleasantly. With this change there is a risk that staff who decide to continue will be forced to leave if their employer

decides to dismiss on the grounds of capability as the employer may not have an alternative if the person concerned has not been performing but the employer has “lived with it” as they were approaching retirement age. An employer can, of course, have a discussion with the employee to understand what their future plans are. In my experience consultations do not take place as a matter of course and where no formal appraisal scheme is in place it can make a discussion of this type even more difficult. As you would expect there are guidelines on what can be addressed in the meeting with the employee to avoid a claim on age discrimination grounds. If handled correctly this can be a time where that valued member of staff can retire feeling good about the business having given many years of good performance both prior and post the previous retirement age. I do however feel that we will see an increase in claims as employers mismanage the consultation and execute the termination outside of the guidelines. I hope I am wrong. “So do we, John. John Harrington can be contacted direct by telephone to 07810 713023 or by email to johnharrington@iib.ws with the subject line “TEKC Enquiry”.

13. Do You Know What Ethics Is?

This week’s end piece is sent from Chamber member Jon Cleverdon of J Cleverdon Chartered Accountants of Broadstairs, tel: 01843 866599. He proves to doubters that accountants do have a sense of humour, unless of course, they live near Chelmsford. Why is that? You can see for yourself in the following contribution. “The managing partner in an accounting firm is very annoyed with one of his employees and calls him in to reprimand him. Managing Partner: ‘How could you possibly advise the client in the way you did? That was completely unethical. We are always conscious of Ethics in this firm. You do know what Ethics is, don’t you?’ Employee: ‘Of course, I know what Ethics is. It’s a county in southern England.’”

13. Our Sponsors

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David Foley
Chief Executive, Thanet & East Kent Chamber Limited
Industrial Professor, Thanet College
Fellow, Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce
Tel: +44 (0) 1843 609289
Fax: +44 (0) 1843 609291
Email: davidfoley@tekc.co.uk
Mobile: +44 (0) 7967 284850

It's happening now, it's happening in Thanet & East Kent.
For details of membership, email admin@tekc.co.uk

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