

# Your Weekly Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber

## Thanet & East Kent Insider

**12<sup>th</sup> February 2011      Issue No.: 143**

### **1. Life After Pfizer**

The next Chamber business networking breakfast will take place from 0730 to 0900 hrs at Pfizer Social & Sports Club Sandwich on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Entitled "Life After Pfizer", it will feature a series of short talks from senior figures who will advise on the business opportunities in East Kent following the announcement of the closure of the Pfizer site in Sandwich. We expect a large number of delegates to attend this event. More details will be available in the next week's edition of this bulletin. Bookings will open on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Cost: £12 for Chamber members, £16 for non-members. To reserve your place, telephone 01843 609289 or email [manager@tekc.co.uk](mailto:manager@tekc.co.uk). The event is being organised jointly by the two largest business support organisations in the East Kent coastal business community, the Thanet & East Kent Chamber and the Dover District Chamber of Commerce.

### **2. Wanted 6 MW Power Station**

An associate of the Thanet & East Kent Chamber is looking to purchase a 6MW power station for export to East Africa. The ideal generator might consist of daisy chained caterpillar 1.5 MW 3516 engines, V16s. The buyer is particularly interested in any generator that has been used on stand-by applications with low hours completed. If you are able to assist, please email [davidfoley@tekc.co.uk](mailto:davidfoley@tekc.co.uk) with the subject line "TEKC 6MW Power Station".

### **3. Dramatic Profits**

Chamber member Sarah Thorne Theatre Club reports a 28% increase in paid admission receipts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. Director Michael Wheatley-Ward must be the envy of heavily subsidised public theatres which have mostly struggled in recent years, despite considerable public subsidies. What's his secret? It must be to balance artistic taste with commercial knowledge. Of course, it helps if you are supported by Sarah Thorne's official patrons, Dame Judi Dench and David Suchet. Anyone who can call on the services of the redoubtable M and the mercurial Hercule Poirot is not going to have much trouble with sponsors changing their minds or anyone sneaking in without paying.

## **4. Public Lecture By Sports Minister**

Canterbury Christ Church University will be holding a public lecture on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 6pm at the Old Sessions House at the Canterbury Campus. Entitled “London 2012 and the opportunity for British Sport” delegates will hear the Minister for Sports and Olympics, Hugh Robertson MP, outline the benefits of the Olympics for Kent. Free parking is available on site in North Holmes Road after 5.30 pm. For more details, telephone 01227 782266.

## **5. More About Petrol**

One topic which has exercised those little grey cells of members more than any other in the past year has been the price of petrol. The Thanet Surcharge remains at 3p per litre of unleaded. This means that the cheapest litre of unleaded petrol still costs 3p more in Thanet than in Canterbury. There may be no imminent prospect whatsoever that motorists and business in Thanet will take Egyptian-style umbrage at this injustice. We note however that on the last day of February the Facebook group ‘Keep Fuel Below £1’ is planning a Go Slow procession through the Dartford Tunnel to protest at the rising cost of fuel. The Thanet & East Kent Chamber could not possibly support any illegal activity of this nature and advises members not to join the group which is meeting at 8.00 am on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at A2/M2 Farthing Corner Moto Services in Medway.

## **6. News From Dover**

What Is The Big Society? It seems as if everyone who defines The Big Society has a different definition. But how about this one from Philip Blond in The Independent of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011? “The Big Society agenda is still not as widely grasped or realised across all departments as it should be – one important indication of the government's vision will be if the proposal from the Tory MP Charlie Elphicke to mutualise the port of Dover is accepted by the Department of Transport.” Does this matter for the rest of East Kent? It does when you consider that Ramsgate and Whitstable are also publicly owned ports. The Dover mutualisation plan involves establishing an immediate fund of £50 million to be invested in the local economy with another £50 million to follow. This would surely help to fulfill some of the holes in the commercial landscape occasioned by the withdrawal of Pfizer.

## **7. Energy Costs**

We are grateful to Chamber member Martin Young of Atlantic Business Resources, tel: 08456 185088 mob: 07813 537456, for information on energy costs and trends. The latest E.ON Market Report comments on changes in the 12 month period to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011. The average front month power contract price increased by 25% over the twelve months. For gas, the increase was even higher at 36%. Oil prices over the year also rose sharply with the average front month contract price up 21% since January 2010. Civil unrest last month produced a spike of over USD 100 /bbl. There was little comfort for coal users. The average forward coal contract price was 25% higher last month than one year previously. E.ON informs us that: “more than 70% of UK power stations use coal or gas”. In a government publication, we learn from HM Revenue & Customs that

“Suppliers of taxable commodities and others” are liable to account for Climate Change Levy (CCL). The increases will come into effect on 1 April 2011. For details of the new charges call the HMRC helpline tel: 0845 010 9000 or email [admin@tekc.co.uk](mailto:admin@tekc.co.uk) with the subject line “TEKC HMRC CCL Changes 2011”.

## **8. Thinking Of A Holiday?**

Kent Trading Standards regularly reminds us of the deviousness of man, with the occasional woman joining in to complete the picture of infamy, or as Kenneth Williams put it in Carry On Cleo: “Infamy, infamy! They’ve all got it in for me”. To avoid anyone deceiving you over free health care during your next holiday in Europe, you might like to keep well away from any dubious websites offering to charge you for a European Health Insurance Card. Medical treatment in EU countries is available for free or at reduced cost to UK residents visiting European Union countries or Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland if you have an EHIC card. To apply for your free card, visit [www.ehic.org.uk](http://www.ehic.org.uk). More details are available by telephone to 0845 606 2030 or from your local Post Office. For greater peace of mind, you might prefer comprehensive travel insurance cover to take account of a much wider range of eventualities. Contact Terry McDowell at A Class Insurance of Hersden tel: 0844 5449855 or Phil Day or David Brown at Millards of Sandwich, tel: 01304 613072.

## **9. Golf In April**

Bookings for the Chamber Spring Golf Day at Prince’s Golf Club, Sandwich on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 are arriving steadily at the Chamber. Teams of four players are invited to join the group of over 50 players already registered for this inaugural event which complements the established and now international Chamber Golf Day at the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011. For details, email [manager@tekc.co.uk](mailto:manager@tekc.co.uk) or telephone Graham Rayner direct, tel: 07899 873535.

## **10. A Class Insurance**

Terry McDowell a partner at Chamber member A Class Insurance would like to advise all readers of the Thanet & East Kent Insider that as from 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011, the company’s new address will be Unit 30, Evans Business Centre, Sparrows Way, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4AL. Terry welcomes enquiries from clients new and old by telephone to tel: 0844 5449855 or by email to [Terry@aclassinsurance.com](mailto:Terry@aclassinsurance.com).

## **11. Have Your Say**

Thanet & East Kent Chamber members are not famous for keeping quiet when their interests are at stake. If you live or work in Thanet, here is an opportunity to make your views known on crime to those in a position to do something about it. The Chief Inspector of Kent Police and the Community Safety Enforcement Manager invite you to one of a series of evening meetings to find out all about local crime and what you think should be done about it. All four events start at 1830 hrs and are scheduled to finish at 2000 hrs. We are grateful to Louise Askew of Thanet District Council for confirming the following dates and venues:

Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2011	Birchington Village Centre, Alpha Road, Birchington CT7 9EG
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2011	Comfort Inn, Victoria Parade, Ramsgate CT11 8DT
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2011	Christ Church Campus, Northwood Road, Broadstairs CT10 2WA
Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2011	Margate Media Centre, King Street, Margate CT9 1DA

More details are available direct from Thanet District Council, tel: 01843 577120.

### **13. Young Sports Leaders**

We are grateful to Roz Franklin, the super competent cricket administrator and sports centre manager at Kent County Cricket Club for sending the Chamber details of a course for future sports leaders. Designed as leadership training for young people interested in organising team activities, the programme will take place from 0900 to 1500 hrs on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 at Kent Spitfires Study Centre at the Kent Cricket Ground in Canterbury. There is a charge of £25 for the two days. For more details, contact Hannah Ladd, Programme Manager; by telephone to 01227 473619 or by email to [info@ks-studycentre.co.uk](mailto:info@ks-studycentre.co.uk) with the subject line “TEKC Young Sports Leaders”.

### **14. Happy Union**

One Chamber member has related to the Chamber a story of a happy union at his hotel. We have our doubts about this account, but you must make your own judgement. As this hotel manager put it: “Funnily enough a similar thing happened in Dublin a few years ago when I was looking after a 4-star in the city centre. A couple, both called Leslie, got married. He was a Leslie O’Reilly and she was called Leslie Shaughnessy, if I remember correctly. Of course, weddings are big business for all of us in the trade these days. Anyway, I was still surprised when I read that the engaged couple had made a booking, but there it was written in our register for the first Saturday in January, ‘Wedding of Mr Ariel Abrahams and Miss Ariel Worthington’. Anyway, the marriage went ahead as planned in our main ballroom. The ceremony was not up to much, too much modern music for my taste; but, as you can imagine, with two Ariels, the reception was terrific”.

### **13. Our Sponsors**

Girlings Solicitors has been managing the legal affairs of commercial and private clients for over a century. Twenty-six partners and one hundred and twenty members of staff ensure a comprehensive range of services from the local offices in Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone, Herne Bay and Margate. Offices in France and Spain complement specialist departments for charities, individuals and companies. For details, telephone 01843 220274. Express By Holiday Inn took on the daunting task of restoring the former Prospect Inn at Minster. The result is a spectacular hotel that combines the best of Oliver Hill’s 1930s design with ultra modern facilities and technological support. Conveniently located for business guests and holiday makers in East Kent, the meeting rooms and 105 bedrooms are available at competitive prices throughout the year. For details, telephone 01843

820250. Adecco is the world's largest HR solutions company offering a comprehensive service of temporary and contract staffing, permanent recruitment, outsourcing, outplacement, career services, training and consulting. Officially designated as a 2009 British Superbrand, Adecco is represented in Thanet and Dover by its Broadstairs office, tel: 01843 609292. CARISS design, install and support education and business computing systems as East Kent's leading specialist company in Open Source Software. To lower your carbon footprint, reduce your power consumption and adopt a thin client system, call CARISS, tel: 01843 823724. Mach Associates are the high-fliers in providing Internet technologies and specialist software solutions with a particular expertise in servicing the travel industry. A Microsoft Gold Certified Partner and with ISO9001 accreditation, Mach Associates also offers reduces telecom operating cost through VOIP/PBX phone systems. tel: 0870 321 9986. Sota Connect offers a comprehensive IT service covering best-value voice, data and Internet services for companies of all sizes as well as public sector organisations. The company operates two state-of-the-art data centres of over 10,000sq ft. Sota Connect owns and operates a unique 200km fibre network from London to Ramsgate with high bandwidth Internet access giving superfast Internet connections, tel: 0800 072 2420.

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***It's happening now, it's happening in Thanet & East Kent.***

**For details of membership, email [admin@tekc.co.uk](mailto:admin@tekc.co.uk)**

Thanet & East Kent Chamber Limited

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