

**From:** davidfoley@tekc.co.uk [mailto:davidfoley@tekc.co.uk]  
**Sent:** 10 June 2008 22:44  
**To:** 'admin@tekc.co.uk'  
**Subject:** Thanet & East Kent Chamber weekly bulletin "The Insider"

**\*\*\* Welcome to the Thanet & East Kent Insider \*\*\***

Your Weekly Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber

Thanet & East Kent Insider

10 June 2008

### **1. Predict and Prevent with EmployAssure**

Chamber member, Boys & Maughan, has launched a new product to assist employers with all aspects of employment law. Responding to calls from companies for specialist advice on a range of employment issues, Boys and Maughan is offering EmployAssure, a fixed-fee service that allows subscribers the freedom to run their businesses and leave the problems of litigation, employment contracts and tribunals to experts. This is a local service from local solicitors targeted specifically at companies in Thanet and East Kent. For details, contact Andrew Baker in Ramsgate, tel: 01843 595990 or Paul Reeves/Katie Marsh in Margate, tel: 01843 220288.

### **2. Skills & Kent**

Last week, the Kent Economic Board (KEB) hosted a workshop at the Hilton Hotel, Maidstone entitled "Skills for the Economy: Task Force Employer Workshop". Roger Gabriel, Manager of the Local Skills for Productivity Alliance, and Roger Gough, the cabinet member of Kent County Council responsible for Regeneration and Supporting Independence, gave short presentations. Dr Lee Stoddart, head of strategic planning at Saga Group Ltd, followed with a succinct account of the cultural changes undertaken by the company to address rapid staff turnover and an aversion to training by staff. The workshop sessions provided KEB with feedback from employers. The concerns of Thanet & East Kent Chamber members were voiced direct to KEB. Among the ideas mooted from the floor was that schoolteachers in secondary schools should undertake a short period of work experience, especially if they have never previously been employed in a non-academic post.

### **3. Why is Thanet like Manchester United?**

Seven years ago, the South West won the accolade for having the cleanest beaches in the UK. After the BBC published the results of the Blue Flag awards on 5 June 2001, tourists flocked to Torbay and Teignbridge. Fast forward to 5 June 2008 and the BBC reports that Thanet now heads the list. The blue flag awards are independent of government and are administered by Encams on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education based in Denmark. Encams has praised ten Thanet beaches unreservedly with a declaration that "the performance was the best anywhere in the country for a decade". Blue flags are awarded to beaches that have "good access, top notch facilities, are litter free and have clean sea-water". Thanet football teams may not appear in football's top division, but, Thanet beaches can now justly claim to be top of the Premier League – just like Manchester United.

### **4. Dave Lee in Dover**

Popular local comedian, Dave Lee, will be entertaining dinner guests at the Ramada Hotel, Dover on Friday, 12th September at 7.30pm. Appearing in aid of the Deal-based charity, Martha Trust, Dave Lee is guaranteed to keep your chuckle muscles busy. Full details of the evening, ticket prices and background information on Martha Trust are available from Rose Osborne by email to [contact@marthatrust.org.uk](mailto:contact@marthatrust.org.uk) or by telephone to 01304 615223.

### **5. Is Thanet closer to Hollywood or Cannes?**

The best person to answer this question is Carl Tooney. From 20 June to 27 June, Thanet will be hosting an international film festival. Film-makers from around the world have been invited to present their wares.

Building on the success of the Tenerife International Film Festival, which is now approaching its 6th year of operations, organiser Carl Tooney is determined that the Thanet festival will have broad appeal and not targeted solely at film buffs. "There will be everything from run-of-the-mill films to independent movies and short animations". Hotels, restaurants and a variety of local traders stand to benefit from the venture. Carl is confident of the long-term success of the festival. "There's a five-year plan for this. It will be a truly international event". Speaking exclusively to the Thanet & East Kent Insider, Carl said, "From 400 entries we have selected 50 films for the festival. One of the highlights will be the film 'Hello Panda' scheduled to be shown on 26th June at Westwood Cross". The awards night on 27th June will bring the festival to a close. For full details, email Carl at [info@filmmakerfestival.com](mailto:info@filmmakerfestival.com) or telephone 01843 224924.

## **6. Petrol Inflation & BPI**

The Chamber Broadstairs Petrol Index measures the price of a litre of unleaded fuel at Tesco Broadstairs, see Thanet & East Kent Insider of 20 May 2007 for details. This week: BPI Tracker: 5.4 BPI Annual: 56.4. This shows that there has been a price increase of 5.4% since 6 May 2008, unchanged from last week. The projected annual increase has fallen by 14%.

## **7. Barron Lords it over the Mediterranean**

"Practise what you preach" is a rule that is often more honoured in the breach than the observance. But, nobody can accuse Richard Barron, Kent Marine Project Manager at Marine South East, of not following his own advice. At the time of writing, this intrepid resident of Ramsgate is on his yacht somewhere between Barcelona and Turkey. Richard is a good friend to this Chamber. We wish him favourable winds and a safe return home.

<<END>>

---

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

---

Thanet & East Kent Chamber Limited  
Thanet & East Kent Chamber Limited (TEKC) is a company registered in England and Wales with company number 4518138. Thanet & East Kent Chamber Limited, Kent Innovation Centre, Thanet Reach Business Park, Millennium Way, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2QQ. Tel: 01843 609289 Fax: 01843 609291 TEKC is not VAT Registered. Important: This e-mail may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient it may be unlawful for you to read, copy, distribute, disclose or otherwise use the information used in this e-mail. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, please telephone, fax or e-mail us immediately. Errors and omissions may occur in the contents of this e-mail arising out of or in connection with data transmission, network malfunction or failure, machine or software error or malfunction, or operator error. TEKC accepts no responsibility for any such errors or omissions and you are advised to confirm the accuracy of the contents of this e-mail before relying on it for any purpose.