



Your Weekly Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber

Thanet & East Kent Insider

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1. Preparing for Profit: Business Networking Breakfast

We are pleased to confirm our speakers for our Business Networking Breakfast "Preparing For Profit" scheduled to take place from 0730 to 0900 hrs on Thursday 30th June 2011. Penelope Kimber, Head of Business Relations at Thanet College, will confirm the amount of discretionary spending that Thanet College has switched from national providers to local companies. We are expecting a figure of around £450,000 for which Chamber members are most grateful. Penelope will also use the occasion to announce details of another innovative scheme backed by the Thanet & East Kent Chamber. Matthew Bartlett, the Head of Dover Girl's Grammar School and winner of a record five awards in the recent 2011 Good Schools Guide, will speak of his plans to work more closely with the East Kent coastal business community. Ian Johnson, Head of the Marlowe Academy, will describe how he and his team have met the formidable challenges in one of Kent's most deprived areas and brought new hope and enrichment to the lives of his charges through pioneering business-focused initiatives. We expect him to mention the on-site Academy FM radio station and Marlowe Innovation Centre. Andy Somers, Head of Hartsdown Technology, said recently: "It is about self-belief, getting the staff and students to believe they can achieve", a prescription that would heal the ills at many private sector companies. Perhaps Andy will also give us an insight into the reasons for the remarkable successes of late which have drawn so much praise from government at this non-selective school in George V Avenue, Margate. Cllr Simon Moores, a Cabinet member at Thanet District Council, will comment on the current policies of the council and its support for local business. A keen pilot, Simon was one of the authors of the UK Online initiative and is an acknowledged expert on doing business over the Internet. Booking is essential. There will be plenty of time for networking. A full English breakfast is included in the price of £12 for members and £16 for non-members. To reserve your place at the Walpole Bay Hotel, Cliftonville on 30th June 2011, email manager@tekc.co.uk with the subject line "Business Networking Breakfast 30 June 2011". Priority is given to Chamber members.

2. Pfizer Latest

Our Business Advice Clinics have revealed that all is not as it should be at Pfizer. We have found that the support for staff looking to establish new companies is too little and too late. The Thanet & East Kent Chamber's Co-President, Laura Sandys MP, has publicly upbraided Pfizer for not doing enough and for being too slow with assistance. As she put it recently to the BBC, "Pfizer is exiting or creating redundancies too quickly for us to be able to secure that finance and that investment from private sector companies." With our sister Chamber in Dover, we have also gone public in support of our membership suggesting there might be a difference between what is said and what is done by the company. For the full Chamber interview on BBC radio, click on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/console/p00h7fk7> and fast forward to 2:12:15. The recording will be available until Friday 23rd June 2011.

3. Calm Down Dear

We do not know if Michael Winner had the Belmont Centre in mind when he came up with his famous phrase, "Calm down dear", but it was sufficiently current for David Cameron to use it in the first Prime Minister's Questions after Easter which led to the so-called 'Winnergate' affair. All of this anxiety could have been avoided through one of the short courses at the Belmont Centre. Among the many Thursday evening sessions offered by Jean Murton and her team are Past Life Regression, Know Your

Mind, Stop Smoking and Did Your Parents Screw You Up? For a modest £30 a session, clients are assured of the services of a practitioner accredited by National Board of Ethical and Professional Standards. So, the next time you are tempted to say, "Calm down dear", resist the urge and instead say: "You should contact Jean Murton at the Belmont Centre in Ramsgate, telephone 01843 587929 or email belmontcentre@btconnect.com". There, that wasn't so bad was it? Feel better now?

4. Wantsum and Want Some More

Following our recent article about Kent Crisps, see item 4 "Unique & Local" in edition 158 of 4th June 2011, we are pleased to present another Chamber member with a decidedly East Kent focus on the naming of his products. We have a feeling that the Oyster & Vinegar crisps produced by Chamber member Quex Park Estates might find the perfect partner in Hengist, a bottled pale ale produced by James Sandy, the hugely talented brewer at Chamber member Wantsum Brewery of Lakeside near Canterbury. Billed as a "golden coloured pale ale with flavours of biscuit malt balancing a long fruit hop profile", this Chamber is pleased to confirm that this drink is perfect as an aperitif before a meal. We would like to add that it tastes wonderful after a meal as well. We should also note that it can be drunk in delicious felicity between meals. You might also like to try some of his other brews. James has fashioned his beers with a keen eye on local taste and sentiment. The Hengist brand is of course named after the fifth century ruler of Thanet who also gave his name to the Sealink ferry that operated between Folkestone and Boulogne from 1972 to 1991. Miller's Mirth is a best bitter that is indebted to Chaucer's Merry Miller who enjoyed his ale. Wantsum Brewery's Turbulent Priest is named after the famous words of King Henry II. Even if you believe the historian Simon Scharma who claims that King Henry did not refer to Archbishop Becket with the words "Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?" but in fact referred to a "Low-born cleric", you can still enjoy this full-bodied bitter which James tells us has a 'bitterness tempered with deep fruity hop aromas'. Feeling thirsty? You might like to sip the Dynamo which gets its name from Operation Dynamo, the amazingly successful evacuation from Dunkirk which enjoyed its 70th anniversary last year. After celebrating this "miracle of deliverance", Prime Minister Winston Churchill said at the time that "Wars are not won by evacuations". But they might be if the soldiers were fortified with this ale which has a strength of ABV 4.6%. The range of beers is completed with Black Pig, reference Spanish Armada, 1381, ref: Peasants Revolt and More's Head, ref: St Dunstan's Church Canterbury. Wantsum Brewery is gaining new customers from outside the area who are attracted by its excellent beers and intriguing East Kent names. Pubs from Dover to Dartford now stock at least one of the beers and there has been strong interest from overseas. To find out what all the fuss is about, give James a call, telephone 0845 040 5980 or better still, email wantsumbrewery@googlemail.com. After all, we do not want to keep him from his beer-making, do we?

4. Barriers To Trade

As we have often stated in this publication, your views are more important than our assumptions. Please do keep the Thanet & East Kent Chamber informed of any barriers to trade of any description that you encounter. Next week, we will publish a list of these in the Thanet & East Kent Insider. We welcome contributions from members. Please send these comments to admin@tekc.co.uk and let us know if you are happy for your name to be quoted as the author.

5. Disability Forum

We are grateful to Fred Nye of Thanet Disability Forum for letting us know of the Thanet Disability Forum Road Show due to be held at Margate Winter Gardens on Thursday 23rd June 2011 from 1300 to 1600 hrs. Stallholders may set up shop from 1130 hrs. There are still some stands available. Prices start at £12 for a 6ft table. Margate Mayor Iris Johnson will open the event in the company of Cllr William Hayton. Entrance is free for the public. There is easy access for the disabled from the seafront side of the building. For more information, contact TDF Secretary Fred Nye, tel: 01843 584393 or email thanetdf@hotmail.co.uk. More details are available from the multi-coloured website at www.thanetdisabilityforum.org.uk

6. The Fonz Speaks

Henry Winkler, the actor known as The Fonz to a generation of fans of Happy Days, was in Kent last week and interviewed by our good friends at BBC Radio Kent. A wise commentator on the education of children, he made some pertinent comments on how dyslexia impeded his own progress as a child. As he put it: "School was very hard for me. Spelling was hard. English was hard. I was great at lunch." Winkler's dyslexia was not diagnosed until he reached the age of 31. Nevertheless, in 1996, Winkler was the Class Day speaker at Yale, a rare and much prized honour that he shares with Tony Blair and Bill Clinton. As football manager Harry Redknapp might say: "The boy done good."

7. More About Dyslexia

Here is a list of famous people. See if you can guess which of them suffered from dyslexia? Orlando Bloom, Tom Cruise, Albert Einstein, Michael Faraday, Leonardo Da Vinci, Pablo Picasso, Nigel Kennedy, Steve Redgrave, Jackie Stewart, Michael Heseltine, George Washington, Richard Branson, Henry Ford and Walt Disney. Answer: all of them. We can add to this list John Lennon and Mohammed Ali. It makes you think, doesn't it?

8. Wake Up Call For Dover

Readers will recall that the Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond, has suspended the privatisation proposals of Dover Harbour Board (DHB) and announced a consultation period of six weeks to end on 27th June 2011. He stated that the government is seeking new ownership that would bring "a significant level of community participation". Described by the Financial Times, see www.ft.com/cms/s/0/a4efeb8-7f21-11e0-b239-00144feabdc0.html#ixzz1PeSnuNhO as "a significant victory" for Dover MP Charlie Elphicke and the campaign of the Dover People's Port Trust (DPPT), it has provoked distinct signs of animation among the venerable members of DHB's senior management. The rejection of DHB's plans in a local

referendum by 97.5% of the voters may also have something to do with it, as might a similar result in favour of DPPT in polls conducted by the Unite Union and the Dover Society. There has been an overwhelming majority supporting DPPT's plan for the mutualisation of the Port of Dover, an innovative scheme that puts the interests of local people and the East Kent business community fairly and squarely at the top of the agenda, see [www. www.peoplesport.org.uk](http://www.peoplesport.org.uk). On the other hand, it could just be a coincidence that the DHB has circulated a publication introduced by its Chief Executive with the words: "It is with great pleasure that we send the first Dover Harbour Board newsletter." One newsletter between the years 1606 and 2011 suggests that the next edition might appear in 2416. If it does, you can sure that we will report it in the Thanet & East Kent Insider, East Kent's premier weekly business bulletin now in its 160th edition.

9. The Venerable Elvis Speaks Again

Following requests from established Chamber members, we have bowed to pressure and duly sought a rare interview with the Venerable Elvis. For the benefit of new members of Thanet's largest business support agency, the Venerable Elvis is Thanet's own ancient hermit who lives in the remote hinterland between the redundant power station at Richborough and the disused quarry near Manston. He maintains a humble lifestyle, living off the land, deprived of modern aids and yet miraculously up to date with the latest anxieties and problems of modern living. The Venerable Elvis's age has been a matter of much conjecture. His last public appearance was in 1822 when he purchased a cabbage from a shop in Broadstairs. It is claimed by many in Thanet that the Venerable Elvis is so old that he remembers the First of the Mohicans. We have also learned that he can recall when the Dead Sea was merely critically ill. The sayings of the Venerable Elvis have become household proverbs in Thanet. Who can forget his firm grasp of realpolitik in edition 49 of 19th February 2009 when he commented on the position of bankers about to appear before a parliamentary commission with the words: "Always be sincere, even if you don't mean it". Edition 117 of 24th July 2010 revealed the Venerable Elvis's guidance to the incoming Prime Minister: "My advice is for him to learn from the mistakes of others, because he won't have time to make them all himself". All communication with this saintly man is solely through one Thanet & East Insider reporter who knows the secret pathways to his hovel. It was thus with great excitement that our staff member eased his way through the early morning mist last week and asked the great man his views on what attitude local traders should adopt in the face of the uncertainty following a prolonged recession. After stroking his long grey beard in silent contemplation, the Venerable Elvis declared in a quiet confident voice: "Change is inevitable" and then he added "Except in the case of vending machines". We are blessed indeed to have such a wise man in our midst.

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

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Thanet & East Kent Chamber Limited

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