



## **Your Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber**

### **Thanet & East Kent Insider**

**9<sup>th</sup> December 2011    Issue No.: 176**

#### **1. British Beer**

Is British food and drink appreciated more overseas than at home? Certainly, that might be the impression from some of the tourists who travel from far and wide to eat and drink in our East Kent pubs. Chamber members Shepherd Neame and the Wantsum Brewery are just two of the many British brewers that receive a definitive thumbs up in the short film to be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QANARINMQzc> One domestic producer of malt for British beer sums up this attitude with the words: "We do not always appreciate how good we are or the good of what we do". Among the comments on the You Tube site is one from a Scandinavian enthusiast: "I'd like to thank all you lovely British people for bringing your delicious, refreshing liquid to Norway. Thank you for giving us an alternative to our shoddy, measly, tasteless beer (Albeit a somewhat expensive alternative, Norwegian politics at blame). I'm proud to be drinking real beer, YOUR beer. Enjoy it moderately and savour it. Three cheers from Norway." We do not know if it was the tasteless beer of Norway that inspired one Bjørge Lillelien. Football enthusiasts may recall the Norwegian victory over England in a World Cup qualifier in Oslo in 1981 when Norwegian football commentator Bjørge Lillelien displayed an amazing knowledge of English culture with his famous rant: "Lord Nelson, Lord Beaverbrook, Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Anthony Eden, Clement Attlee, Henry Cooper, Lady Diana, Maggie Thatcher, your boys took a hell of a beating." We may have lost one football match, but we obviously produce the better beer and given the choice, which would you prefer?

#### **2. Where Can I Find Good Beer In And Around Thanet?**

Chamber members selling quality beer can be found at The Royal Albion Hotel in Broadstairs, The Fayrency in Kingsgate, the Bell Hotel in Sandwich and any one of the many Thorley Taverns, see the full list at <http://www.thorleytaverns.co.uk/pubs.asp>. In addition, you can be assured of a warm welcome and a good pint at the Holiday Inn Express at Minster, Stoneless Golf Club at Ebbsfleet, the Walpole Bay Hotel in Cliftonville and the Powell-Cotton Museum in Birchington. Anyone looking to avoid the horrendous embarrassment of running out of beer in front of their friends and family at Christmas might like to contact the Wantsum

Brewery in Hersden, tel: 08450 405980, to enquire about their 9 pint micropins billed as “ideal for parties”. Another supplier to the trade with a fast growing reputation among bulk buyers is the Drink Warehouse UK in Margate, tel: 01843 297773. An impressive wine list complements the extensive choice of spirits, mixers and soft drinks.

### **3. Business Networking Breakfast**

We remind members of the Chamber Business Networking Breakfast on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011 which will feature speakers from the BBC, ITV and Kent Regional Newspapers. The speakers will outline their own experiences in the media and advise on how businesses can best interact with television, radio and the press. The event will take place at the Pegwell Bay Hotel, Ramsgate from 0730 hrs to 0900 hrs. Booking is essential. Tickets cost £12 for Chamber members. There is a surcharge for non-members. To reserve your place, email [manager@tekc.co.uk](mailto:manager@tekc.co.uk) or telephone 01843 609289.

### **4. Ladies Take Note**

G Casino has announced the return of its popular “Ladies Nights” every Tuesday from 27<sup>th</sup> December 2011. For just £12.95 each, ladies can enjoy “a two-course meal, glass of bubbly, £5 gaming voucher and tuition”. G Casino also gives advance notice of a Charity Quiz Night on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at £5 per person with a first prize of £200 and a networking lunch on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012. For details of these, the Thursday Big Night Out programme and corporate packages from £15 per person, give Sherrill Hawker at G Casino a call, tel: 01843 579999 or 01843 579999.

### **5. Airport Noise**

We understand from the EU News of 2 December 2011 that the European Commission is currently considering proposals relating to noise levels at European airports. Elements under discussion include the importance of “the needs of those who wish to travel” and that “it is necessary to take into account costs in terms of lost capacity and the impact on economic growth in a region.” The Thanet & East Kent Insider has often reported on the opportunities for job creation and development offered by the expansion of activity at Manston Airport. Having invited anyone to provide any proposal other than Manston Airport expansion where 3,000 jobs can be produced from a development in Thanet, we note that so far no one has come forward. The development of Manston Airport and its immediate surroundings remain the best prospect for regeneration in Thanet in the medium term. The Chamber and the 4,587 adults currently registered as unemployed in the district will be keeping a close eye on what measures are taken to keep the current owners of the airport happy. Just about every business trading in Thanet could benefit from a flourishing local airport. We note in the latest Kent County Council policy document, see Kent Vision below, that it may become official doctrine to “Offer inducements (financial and other) for inward investment and expansion”. Surely Infratil must be at or near the top of the list.

### **6. Kent Vision**

The Kent Forum is chaired by Paul Carter, Leader of Kent County Council and John Gilbey, Leader of Canterbury City Council. It is supported by 14 district and borough councils in Kent. The Thanet & East Kent Chamber has contributed to the Kent Forum policy document “Vision For Kent 2012-2022” which is now in its final draft. As always, we have reflected the views of our members across the East Kent coastal business community. The laudable desire “to create a prosperous, strong and sustainable society” is matched by some practical suggestions and a definition of priorities. In brief, three ambitions are at the heart of the policy. These are to grow the economy, to tackle disadvantage and to put citizens in control. With our sister body, the Dover District Chamber of Commerce, we represent the largest business support organisations in the area. We look forward to working with our elected representatives at every level of government to promote the interests of the East Kent coastal business community. Chamber members will be encouraged by the clearly stated emphasis on “Minimising the bureaucracy placed on business and champion the removal of unnecessary regulation”. The full text is available on-line at <http://www.kentforum.org.uk/visionforkent/consultation>.

## **7. Budget Priorities At TDC**

Thanet District Council is looking to set its priorities for spending for the period from 2012 to 2016. As part of a consultation exercise, we have been asked to encourage readers with a business interest in Thanet to complete an on-line survey. We have been informed that "The council needs to save £1.5 million in 2012/13". A similar budget consultation last year produced 372 returns. The results showed economic development and regeneration as the top non-statutory service with a 92% approval rating. Bottom of the list was Benefits advice and events. Of the statutory services, waste and recycling and clean streets were considered to be the most important. Members may feel that business support should be a priority in order to protect and enhance the sources of revenue that the council currently enjoys. Similarly, there is an opportunity to comment on the economic aspects of the Turner Contemporary, Manston Airport, beaches, pubs, rail links and so on. To register your views, click on [www.thanet.gov.uk/budget](http://www.thanet.gov.uk/budget) before Thursday, 5th January 2012.

## **8. Arlington House & Tesco**

As noted in our edition no. 173 of 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011, we have received some pointed comments on the proposals to build a Tesco supermarket on Margate seafront next to Arlington House. Several Chamber members have drawn our attention to a letter to Thanet District Council of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011 from Dr Christina Malathouni of the Twentieth Century Society. In championing the architectural merits of Arlington House, Dr Malathouni states: "We are disappointed to see that insufficient appreciation is presented in the scheme currently submitted to the Council and deeply concerned about its impact on the building, its urban setting and neighbouring heritage assets." Founded in 1979 as "The Thirties Society", Dr Malathouni's organisation has since broadened its remit to include all townscape architecture and design since 1914. Residents of Margate and visitors tend to have strong opinions about Arlington House ranging from a sincere appreciation of the architectural merits of this 1964 Russell Diplock Associates tower block to a more Jeremy Clarkson-like call for direct action: "Blow it up with the architect inside". Please let us know your thoughts by email to [admin@tekc.co.uk](mailto:admin@tekc.co.uk) with the subject line "Arlington Tesco".

## **9. Academy FM**

The Station Manager of 107.8 Academy FM is Pete Willson. Ever since his opening broadcast on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010, Pete can be heard each weekday morning from 0600 hrs to 1000 hrs. So how does he make such a success of managing the station if he is on the air for half the working day? The answer might be in his claim that if he ever writes an autobiography, it would be called: "There's Always a Way". Pete's daily slot is followed by Mike Stephens who hosts the popular "In The Armchair" session which usually profiles a local personality with a message for listeners. More news about Pete and his team can be found on the website at <http://academyfmthanet.com> together with a Contact Us page where you can post comments on broadcasts, local news and any other matters that provoke your interest.

## **10. Sportsman's Dinner**

Timothy Lambert of the Kent Invicta Charity has contacted the Chamber with news of a 'Sportsman's Dinner' to be held in Maidstone on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012. Among the speakers are Jason Leonard, England's most capped rugby player, and Geoff Miller, Chairman of the selectors of the England cricket team. Tickets cost £125 per person. More details are available at [http://kentinvicta.org.uk/?page\\_id=75](http://kentinvicta.org.uk/?page_id=75).

## **11. Derek Hatton Defeated At Christmas**

In a seasonal message, one Chamber member has contacted us with a story recalling one of the names from the turbulent political times in Liverpool of some twenty-five years ago. Readers may recall that at the time Derek Hatton was in office as Deputy Leader of Liverpool City Council. A renown supporter of the Militant Tendency, he was the darling of the hard left Trotskyists in the North West. One bright morning on Christmas Eve 1985 at the height of his fame, he and his wife Shirley decided to go for a leisurely walk beside the Liverpool Canal. They parked their Jaguar XJ6 in Spencer's Lane and ... but we will let our Chamber member tell the tale. We have our doubts about this story, but we leave it to our readers to decide for themselves. "They'd only been walking a few minutes, when they began a spirited argument, which was often

the case when Derek Hatton was around. He wanted to forget all about Christmas which he deemed to be a capitalist conspiracy to keep the workers in their place. Shirley kept teasing him with words from Christmas carols. Then the weather intervened when drops fell on the couple. 'It's definitely snow,' said Derek. 'Not at all,' said Shirley, 'This is rain and there's an end to it'. Derek retorted: 'Look with this Thatcher government; we must expect freezing conditions and this is snow, my dear, pure and simple.' Just then, their friend Rudolph appeared on the tow path. 'Let's ask Rudy' said Shirley. 'Why on earth should he know?' said Derek. 'He's even more Marxist than me.' 'I know that but even you must agree,' said Shirley, 'Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear.'"

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