



## **13<sup>th</sup> August 2021: Chamber Members Only**

### **1. Chamber Question Time: 0730 hrs – 0900 hrs Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

We are pleased to announce the resumption of our popular business networking meetings. An expert panel drawn from leading figures in the East Kent coastal business community will answer questions on a wide range of issues. Delegates can expect to hear informed responses and opinions about infrastructure development, business opportunities, education & training and other topics that impact directly on East Kent. With ample networking time available, the event is expected to attract many potential clients from among the other delegates. The price of £18 for Chamber members and their guests includes a hot drink on arrival and a full English breakfast with a vegetarian or vegan option. Booking is essential. To reserve your place, email [admin@tekco.uk](mailto:admin@tekco.uk) with the subject line: “Chamber Question Time 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021” Full details of the venue near Sandwich will follow with confirmation.

### **2. The Open**

It is fitting and fully merited that we celebrate the success of The Open at Royal St George's Golf Club Sandwich from 11<sup>th</sup> July to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021. It is a fair claim that none of the previous 148 iterations of golf's oldest major suffered the organisational challenges of last month's event. Just a few weeks before the first day of the championships, the organisers did not know if they would be permitted to welcome 200,000 spectators or none at all. The R&A, Dover District Council and the secretary and staff at Royal St. George's deserve the highest praise for their professional skills and management expertise in making such a success of the event. We await details of the economic impact. Even though spectator numbers were limited to 32,000 on each of the four days that followed the practice sessions, it will not be surprising if the revenue direct to the four main districts of East Kent exceeds the £12 million generated in 2011 when Darren Clarke triumphed on the celebrated links course and face masks were still then the preserve of surgeons and bank robbers.

### **3. Travelodge**

The official opening of a new Travelodge at Discovery Park Sandwich on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021 is further evidence of the recovery in East Kent and confirms the attraction of the UK to US investors looking for solid returns in sterling markets. Although 17 new Travelodges in England are planned to open during 2021, the company's Regional Director has told the Chamber that he is

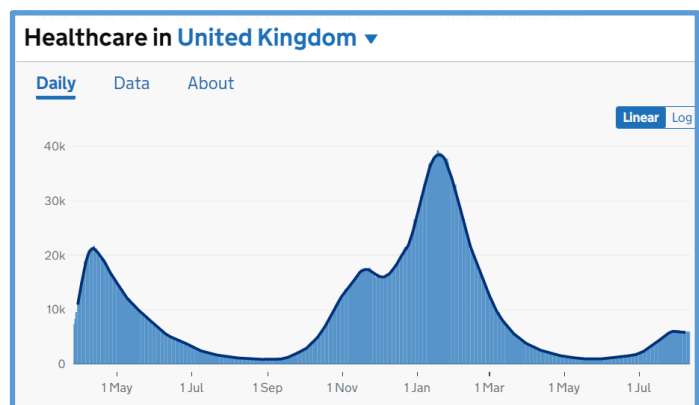
looking for more opportunities to acquire properties and development sites in our corner of the Garden of England. Ever mindful of the needs and interests of Chamber members, we will be happy to promote a dialogue. Registered chamber members should address their initial enquiry to [admin@tekco.uk](mailto:admin@tekco.uk) and expect a prompt response. Travelodge's Chief Executive, Craig Bonar, expects third party investors to have placed around £175 million in new developments in the UK before the end of the year, providing a further indication that tourism and associated sectors can expect strong growth over the next few seasons. We must congratulate Discovery Park for bringing so many new jobs and opportunities to the area; all of which represent another step in its mission to becoming a world leading science park within the next five years.

#### 4. Rosie Anton: Official Chamber of Commerce Photographer

It is with great regret that we record the demise of Rosie Anton who served our business community with distinction and great zest. Her funeral last Wednesday in Barham brought together family, friends and colleagues who celebrated her unique contribution to their lives. A wreath from the Chamber in Rosie's favourite colours stated simply: "In Memoriam Rosie Anton. The best photographer for this Chamber of Commerce in 171 years." The Chamber will consider every suggestion for a suitable memorial. An official Chamber of Commerce obituary is attached to this bulletin, see "226 3 Rose Anton obituary final 13 Aug 2021.pdf".

#### 5. Coronavirus Report

Attached is edition 20 of our Coronavirus Report, see "226 2 Coronavirus Report Chamber of Commerce 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021". It shows that infection rates in England continue to be higher than every country in Europe and the European Economic area except for Cyprus and Spain. As noted in our previous bulletin, the data should be viewed in the light of the undoubted success of the vaccination programme in the UK. Some countries in Europe have had difficulty in securing vaccines and further problems in convincing their native population of the benefits of being vaccinated against COVID-19. The UK government, see graph on the right, tells us that the UK hospital admission rate of COVID-19 patients in 2021 peaked at 39,354 in January but currently stands at a more manageable 5,909 as at 11<sup>th</sup> August 2021.



See <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/healthcare>

#### 6. Kickstart Scheme

A government initiative from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Kickstart offers local companies the chance to employ a young person aged 18 to 24 years for a six-month period for 25 hours a week fully funded by the government. For more details of the scheme in East Kent, email [kickstarteastkent@outlook.com](mailto:kickstarteastkent@outlook.com) with a copy to [admin@doverchamber.co.uk](mailto:admin@doverchamber.co.uk).

## 7. Bank of England Forecast

Our independent Bank of England published its quarterly Monetary Policy Report on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The BoE confirmed the interest rate at its historic low of 0.1% and acknowledged the current inflation rate of 2.5% as being undesirable. “Inflation is above our 2% target. We expect it to rise further in the coming months, and then fall back to our target.” Impediments to UK growth through the lack of timely supplies are seen as being significant in the short term but not likely to cause great difficulty in the medium to long term. The reports states:

*“The recent rapid recovery in demand has exceeded the pace of supply growth, which has been temporarily constrained. There is projected to be a period of excess demand in the near term, before demand and supply return broadly to balance as demand growth slows and constraints on supply growth dissipate.”*

The full report is available in the attached file: “226 4 BoE Monetary Policy Report August 2021”.

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David Foley  
Chief Executive  
13<sup>th</sup> August 2021

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### Information

Thanet & East Kent and Dover District Chambers of Commerce provide professional business support to the East Kent coastal business community.

### Contact

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