

Subject:Chamber Business News 21 Feb 2022

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From:David Foley <davidfoley@tekc.co.uk>

To:admin@tekc.co.uk

Dear Chamber member

Please find attached our latest edition of the Portrait of East Kent giving you updated background information on the trading background in your area. Of all the main economic indicators, the unemployment rate reflects conditions closest to you. We record the annual changes in the claimant count which reveal a sharp recovery of over 25% in all the districts of East Kent.

You will note that throughout the pandemic, the Port of Dover has maintained its prime position as an essential gateway for international trade with over two million lorries passing through Dover in 2020 and 2021. The annual increase in ferry entries point to an expected large rise in cars, coaches and passengers in 2022.

The figures for tourism reveal a serious fall in revenue for our East Kent hotels, restaurants and attractions. The latest research published in January 2022 documented the economic impact of tourism in Kent as falling from £4,148,318,200 in 2019 to £1,616,140,000 in 2020, a decline of 61%. These results are mirrored in all East Kent districts, including Dover which has a particularly active tourism department. There can be no doubt about the importance of visitors from the UK and overseas as tourism accounts for between 7% and 12% of all jobs in each of our East Kent districts. [*Destination Research, 2020 results, Visit Kent, Jan 2022*]

Anyone associated with the The Open Golf Championship of last July will be aware of the huge economic impact produced by hosting golf's oldest major in Sandwich and we confidently expect the financial benefit to be similar or greater than the 2011 event which brought £12 million direct into the four districts of East Kent. [*Royal St. George's 2011, Economic Impact Assessment, Sheffield Hallam University & Sports Industry Research Centre, 21 November 2011*]

We are still awaiting for the government to pronounce on the future of Manston Airport. Chamber members are standing by to seize any opportunities that will follow from a positive decision. The airport owners are committed to supporting local companies and we will keep members fully informed.

Given the current difficulties in recruiting new staff, the Chamber is arranging a series of tours to local educational providers to assist members in finding the right graduates, college and school leavers to meet their needs. These will be programmed during the working day and we will provide at least four weeks' notice of the visits to all interested parties.

We have been asked by our good friend Kash Nazir, Commercial Director at Wren Healthcare, to send you the following message:

***** START *****

Wren Healthcare. We are leading a post market performance follow up, looking at the lateral flow Covid - 19 tests and looking for participants. If you or your family/friends have tested positive for Covid-19 within the last week and are happy to participate by undertaking a self-administered, supervised lateral flow and a PCR test in your home, then please contact us. These tests will of course be free of charge. We would love to hear from you, please contact us on 01304 796137 or by email at info@wrenhealthcare.co.uk

***** END *****

Our Chamber Business Networking Breakfast of last Friday provided further evidence of the determination and resilience of our members. As one member put it: "It was a little windy and so I put on a big coat". A full house took advantage of the networking and sales opportunities and heard plans on how they might be involved in regenerating Ramsgate, see Press Release attached.

Finally, these missives sometimes refer to the progress of Doncaster Rovers, a team that remarkably won a football match against Lincoln City earlier this month. Although rooted firmly to the bottom of League One, it gave great joy to all the team's supporters throughout the south east and both of us celebrated afterwards.

Best wishes

David

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It's happening now, it's happening in East Kent.
For details of membership, email admin@tekc.co.uk
Offices in Broadstairs, Sandwich and Dover.

For images from some recent events, see <https://rosieantonphotography.co.uk/photos/chamber-of-commerce> and <https://www.cloudcamuav.com/chamber-of-commerce-golf-2021>

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