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Sent: 03 September 2008 09:13
To: admin@tekc.co.uk
Subject: Thanet & East Kent Insider

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

Your Weekly Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber

Thanet & East Kent Insider 2 September 2008

1. Train to Lose

Sadly, all too often companies are reluctant to sponsor their staff on training courses. "Why should I invest in training Johnny Boy when as soon as he has completed his course, he will be off down the road to work for a competitor?" It's a fair point and no amount of remonstrating about how successful companies have successful training programmes and that is why they are successful is likely to make an impression if the key worker you spent one year training is now competing against you. There is another way. This Chamber is arranging to provide a Formal Training Contract (FTC) whereby a company can invest in training Johnny Boy knowing that if he leaves within an agreed period he must payback the cost of the training course. Readers of the Thanet & East Kent Insider will be kept informed as soon as the FTC is available. We see this initiative as making a key contribution to the skills base in East Kent.

2. Charity Forum

Earlier this week, the Thanet & East Kent Charity Forum held its first meeting. Attended by representatives of the charity and voluntary sectors, delegates looked at best practice in fund-raising and discussed a range of initiatives to bring bottom-line benefits to corporate sponsors. Speakers included Edwin Davison of Charity Funding Solutions, Cambridge who outlined how his organization had supported charities and voluntary groups in achieving sustainable income streams. He stressed the importance of managing the media and individual networking. Contributions from Case Kent, Canterbury Oast Trust, Sarah Thorne Theatre Club and Sustainability Action added to the rich diet of ideas and successful initiatives.

3. Leaflet Distribution

Members are reminded of the Chamber Leaflet Distribution Service. The next dispatch will take place on Friday 5th September. If you have 350 A5 or A4 folded leaflets you would like distributed to local companies and organizations, bring them to Thanet & East Kent Chamber, Kent Innovation Centre, Millennium Way, Broadstairs CT10 2QQ before 1000 hrs next Friday together with a cheque for £30.00 made out to Thanet & East Kent Chamber.

4. Business To Business Show

All readers of the Thanet & East Kent Insider are invited to visit the Business-To-Business Show at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone on 18th September 2008 from 0930 hrs. Entrance is free of charge and there is ample parking available in the adjacent car park. This is the largest show for the East Kent coastal business community and is organized by our partners at the Channel Chamber. Pre-register at <http://channelb2b.eventbrite.com> for a chance to win one year's free membership of the new intercompany tender alert service.

5. Nobody Listens to Me

We do and so does our professional association, the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC). When the results of the last BCC Quarterly Economic Survey were published, they featured as the lead story on all the main UK news channels including the BBC. It takes less than two minutes to complete this quarter's survey. All businesses subscribing to the Thanet & East Kent Insider are invited to take part. Log on to www.britishchambers.org.uk/qes/ and use the password 'economy' and the Chamber ID number '93'. Your feedback is important and will contribute directly to policy decisions to be presented to government.

6. Wrong Type of Leaves

When the fast rail link to London opens at the end of 2009, we might be spared declarations such as that which appears on page 16 of the current timetable produced by Southeastern trains which is quoted verbatim here. "Certain morning services on Mondays to Fridays in this timetable will be subject to retiming as part of our plans to overcome delays that can occur during periods of leaf fall. This period is designated to affect certain trains from Monday 1st October and until the end of our timetable. Where a train will run earlier for part of the journey, the earlier station calling times are shown in the timetable pages as the normal working times with a note to show that the train service will run slightly later in the period before the leaf fall timetables come into effect." If Keats were writing today, his celebrated Ode To Autumn might read "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, when we know not when the train will arrive".

7. Competition

There is a pair of headphones bought for 100 yen for the first reader to identify the road in East Kent where the the sign below, photographed yesterday, can be found. Answers please by email to admin @tekc.co.uk with the subject line "Closeing Down"



This is one Garden Centre that will no longer be competing with Chamber members. Sorry, couldn't resist that.

8. Sponsors

We are grateful to Adecco Recruitment and Girlings Solicitors for sponsoring this edition of the Thanet & East Kent Insider.



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