

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

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

**7<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

#### **1. Swine Flu**

We are grateful to our partners at the Channel Chamber of Commerce for drawing our attention to the official advice on Swine Flu. The World Health Organisation has increased the pandemic alert for Swine Flu to level 5. This is not a declaration of a pandemic but is indicative of a higher level of risk of a widespread outbreak. The message from government is along the lines of “hope for the best but be prepared for the worst”. Employers will find a useful guide at [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/132829/intro\\_staffadvice\\_flu\\_planning.pdf](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/132829/intro_staffadvice_flu_planning.pdf) which also recommends a sample text to issue to employees. Companies with the best interests of their staff at heart will take note of the advice to consider changes in working practices and to ensure that all members of the workforce are aware of sickness absence policies. The NHS has also produced a comprehensive 23-page guide which lists some practical measures that businesses can introduce to reduce the risk of infection and restrict the spread of the flu virus. Readers of the Thanet & East Kent Insider are invited to obtain a free copy by sending an email to [admin@tekc.co.uk](mailto:admin@tekc.co.uk) with the subject line “Pandemic Flu NHS Guide”.

#### **2. Some Like It Hot**

The celebrated film “Some Like It Hot” (1959) won a Golden Globe for Marilyn Monroe at a time when most full-blooded males thought two Golden Globes would have been more appropriate. But the film’s title could equally well be applied to the Curry Night being organized by Chamber member G Casino on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 pm at Westwood Cross, Broadstairs. Readers of the Thanet & East Kent Insider are invited to a full curry meal, a glass of wine or beer, the chance to meet other local businesses and an introduction to the gaming tables for just £6.95. To book your place, telephone Sherrill Harker on 01843 579999 and mention Thanet & East Kent Chamber.

#### **3. More About The French**

Thanet & East Kent Chamber has been invited to the Calais Chamber of Commerce next week to arrange a meeting in September in Calais when East Kent businesses can meet their French counterparts and enjoy the opportunity for serious cross-channel trading. As well as profiting from our excellent relations with the Dover District Chamber of Commerce and the Channel Chamber of Commerce, we will be advised by Valerie Pondaven of the Enterprise Europe Network. Valerie has had considerable success in helping Kent companies open new markets in France. The exchange rates differential between the pound sterling and Euro, see last week’s edition for a detailed explanation, has encouraged Kent firms to take advantage of their competitive prices and find new markets among our nearest European neighbours. To avoid misunderstandings in communication with French people, Valerie sensibly advises English-speakers to avoid double negatives such as “It is not impossible” and to restrict expressions such as “It went pear-shaped”. Food manufacturers might also be wise to check on the correct translation of the word “preservative” as the average French person would be very concerned at finding a “preservatif” in the marmalade at breakfast. The word has an entirely different meaning in French which is not usually associated with marmalade, although we all have different tastes.

#### **4. Grants & IT**

Following the success of the Thanet Chamber IT Forum and the Thanet Chamber Grants Workshop, the Dover District Chamber of Commerce is organizing similar events at their premises at Whitfield, not far from the Ramada Hotel on the A2 on the approach to Dover. Reducing Your IT Operating Costs is scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and Grants to Support Your Business will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009. One

company attending the last IT Forum identified an annual saving of £272,000. Any company seeking grant support can take comfort from the £27m already raised for local companies and the success rate of over 90% from full applications. To book your place, contact our friends at the Dover Chamber direct by email to [mail@doverchamber.co.uk](mailto:mail@doverchamber.co.uk) or telephone 01304 824955.

## 5. Promotion With Locomotion

Chamber member Consilium produces corporate clothing, workwear and a large range of promotional apparel that constitute effective walking advertisements for companies and organisations that cherish the image they present to the world. Whether you are looking to clothe the whole workforce or simply provide a small number of corporate gifts, it is comforting to know that a local company with ISO9001 accreditation is available to meet your needs. Consilium offers readers of the Thanet & East Kent Insider a promise "to beat any like for like quotation". For details, email Justin Baker at [sales@consilium-clothing.co.uk](mailto:sales@consilium-clothing.co.uk) or telephone the UK headquarters in Margate, tel: 0845 180 1008.

## 6. New Build Beauty

Our picture this week, see below, is of the magnificent new building at Manston belonging to Chamber member, Summit Aviation. The flowing roof lines and imaginative façade set a new standard for East Kent commercial property. Visitors to Kent International Airport from the West will be treated to a foretaste of future development in the immediate surrounding area as plans for the China Gateway reach fruition. The increasing output of Thanet Earth at nearby Monkton, the construction of the Turner Contemporary in Margate and the busy endeavours of the Thanet Off-shore Windfarm in Ramsgate harbour are visible proofs of successful inward investment projects in Thanet which are at the cutting edge of science and engineering. When Hans Snook was CEO of Orange, he commissioned WCRS to produce the now famous slogan: "The future's bright – the future's orange". If you are reading this Hans in your new position running the The Diagnostic Clinic in London, you might like to step out of the smoke and see the bright future in East Kent. It's more green than orange but it is the future. It's happening now and it's happening in Thanet.



## 7. Is It Time To Make a Change?

Charles Darwin's much quoted words: "It isn't the strongest of the species that will survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change" have been fully understood by Chamber member Ramsgate Yacht Sales which is taking advantage of the boom in the lettings market by launching Medics on the Move; a new lettings agency which specializes in finding flats and family homes for professional clients. Details are available direct from Karen Southon by email to [karensouthon@medicsonthemove.co.uk](mailto:karensouthon@medicsonthemove.co.uk) or by telephone to tel: 0844 5616833. Next week's edition of the Thanet & East Kent Insider will focus on the full range of letting and property services available from Chamber members and will include an update on our continuing Empty Rates campaign which is receiving increasing support from senior figures at Westminster.

## 8. Famous Last Words

The demise of some well-known high street chains in recent months prompts the thought of whether their owners provided posterity with some appropriate last words. For instance, did the UK Managing Director of Woolworths announce the closure of the last shop with the statement, "No more Pick & Mix". Closer to home, when Vantis Business Recovery Services were appointed administrators of Active Signs on 26<sup>th</sup> February this year, did the incoming specialist allow the final manufacture of a large Exit sign. Companies heading towards administration are perhaps unwilling to reveal their illness; after the malady has taken its course, they may be too distressed to comment. On the other hand, monuments to deceased people offer the chance to record memorable words. With few exceptions, the opportunities are usually lost. Highgate Cemetery in London is the resting place of many notables. Sadly, the gravestone of the founder of P&O does not list "On a farewell voyage", nor does the tombstone of Charles Fortnum of the Fortnum & Mason clan state "Filling his last hamper". All is not lost however as two of the UK's finest showbusiness figures extended their entertainment beyond the funeral service. Oscar Wilde is reported to have murmured from his death bed in Paris, "Either that wallpaper goes or I do". He did - on 30 November 1900. But perhaps we should end this passage with homage to the Diocese of Chichester which, after much debate, allowed the following Gaelic inscription on Spike Milligan's headstone: "Duir me leat go raibh me breoite", which means in plain English and much to the satisfaction of the Goon Show Preservation Society, "I told you I was ill".



better work, better life



Working effectively for you

Tel: 01843 609292

Tel: 01843 220274



<<END>> **Tel: 01843 820250**  
*Serving Thanet with Value Accommodation*

---

David Foley  
Chief Executive, Thanet & East Kent Chamber Limited  
Director, Channel Chamber of Commerce  
Fellow, Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce  
Tel: +44 (0) 1843 609289  
Fax: +44 (0) 1843 609291  
Email: davidfoley@tekcc.co.uk  
Mobile: +44 (0) 7967 284850

---

***It's happening now, it's happening in Thanet & East Kent.***  
**For details of membership, email [admin@tekcc.co.uk](mailto:admin@tekcc.co.uk)**