

Your Weekly Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber

Thanet & East Kent Insider

3rd July 2009

1. South Eastern Trains

This Chamber is in correspondence with Southeastern trains to host a presentation of the new High Speed rail service, HSI, for the benefit of chamber members and local businesses. Southeastern's head of marketing has agreed to the event and we are now looking at appropriate dates. The Chamber will be pressing for an inaugural run of the service from Ramsgate before its official start date of 13 December 2009. We will keep members posted on developments.

2. Business Breakfast

This Chamber will be hosting a business breakfast on 21st July at the Chamber HQ in Broadstairs entitled "Ten Top Tips To Keep You Out Of An Employment Tribunal". Over 47,000 claims for unfair dismissal were recorded last year which provided a 15% increase in work load for Employment Tribunals. To avoid expensive claims against your company or organization, it pays to ensure that recruitment procedures and staff relations operate within the boundaries of new legislation. As well as the presentation by a senior partner at Boys & Maughan Solicitors, the business breakfast will feature an opportunity to promote your goods and services to other delegates. At only £12 per person, this event represents excellent value and will help you to stay competitive. To reserve your place, email admin@tekc.co.uk with the subject line "Employment Tribunal? No Thank You" and we will send you details.

3. SEEDA Offers You £500

If you operate a business from commercial premises, either leased rented or owned freehold, you may qualify for a grant of up to £500 from the South East England Development Agency, SEEDA. Businesses are offered the loan of a wireless energy monitor for a two to ten-week period to identify where savings could be made through cutting energy usage. There is a Carbon Trust sticker and information pack to help motivate staff to 'switch off'. Businesses are encouraged to undertake a walk around survey to help identify energy saving opportunities. The main focus is on heating and ventilation systems, lighting, office equipment and building fabric which is where funding may be available to help make energy saving improvements. Companies participating are asked to complete a simple action plan taking steps to cut energy use. Once you have identified where you can make energy savings, you can apply for the £500. The Energy Grant 500 is available to any business with a current energy spend of between £1,500 and £30,000 p.a. providing that it is not based in the home. To find out more call Business Link on 0845 600 9 006 or email: info@businesslinksoutheast.co.uk.

4. Pfizer Jobs Fair on Wednesday 8th July

Pfizer Global Manufacturing in Sandwich is ceasing manufacturing at its Sandwich site with the result that a number of employees are facing redundancy and looking for alternative employment. Pfizer has asked if Chamber members would be interested in coming to their onsite jobs fair on Wednesday 8th July to see if any of these personnel could be of service. Pfizer will still be buying products and services from local suppliers and Chamber members might find it useful to visit the company for a variety of reasons. For details and to register your place at the jobs fair, contact Victoria Cooke tel: 01304 646531 or email Victoria.Cooke@pfizer.com.

5. Music To Our Ears

Yesterday evening, the editor of the Thanet & East Kent Insider was invited to the London Guildhall for a performance of the Nordic Chamber Orchestra to celebrate the start of Sweden's Presidency of the European Union. The evening was sponsored by Skanska, Sweden's fourth largest company, and a few of us from Kent were invited as guests of Vattenfall, the owners of Thanet Off-shore Wind Farm and Sweden's third largest company. In case you are wondering, the largest enterprise in Sweden is Volvo followed by Eriksson. Scania is ranked eleventh. Speeches before the concert featured a word perfect and witty introduction by the Swedish Ambassador followed by a rather longer and more sober offering from the new Minister For Europe, Glenys Kinnock, who had been introduced to the House of Lords just the previous day as Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead. The lass has come a long way since she was at Holyhead High School in Anglesey in the 1950s. The orchestra was beautifully conducted by Christian Lindberg who mixed the music of Sibelius and Roman, "the father of Swedish music" with some more modern compositions. Those of us in the centre of the audience benefited from excellent acoustics, although we were sat under the stern countenance of a statue of the Duke of Wellington labelled, "Wisdom Duty, Honour". During the interval, the Danish and German Ambassadors were discussing wind farms in perfect English. The Danish Ambassador remarked with conscious humour that Vattenfall coming to Thanet must represent "something of a windfall" for the area. How is it that foreign dignitaries speak

our language so well? As mentioned in last week's Insider, the Project Director of Vattenfall, an infuriatingly brilliant English-speaker, will be returning to Thanet shortly for a Vattenfall Symposium for any contractors not already involved who wish to trade directly with the company. Any chamber member wishing to participate is invited to email admin@tekc.co.uk with the subject line "Vattenfall Symposium"

6. A Genius Called Norman

The late football manager, Brian Clough, has featured in these pages for his forthright views on the art of management. He is perhaps less well-known for his comment on the appointment of Sven-Goran Eriksson as the manager of the England team, "At last England have appointed a manager who speaks English better than the players". This may not be true of the current England football manager, Fabio Capello, but it is certainly the case with some of the overseas managers of premiership clubs. Take Arsene Wenger, for instance. He said recently, "Young players need freedom of expression to develop as creative players. They should be encouraged to try skills without fear of failure"; a fluent, well-constructed description, justifying Arsenal's current youth policy. On the other hand, Harry Redknapp, the native-born Londoner who manages Tottenham, is fond of saying after every match, "The boy done good". English players rarely reach the fluency of Wenger and interviews often expose their lack of knowledge beyond dressing room banter and the tools of their trade. Mark Draper of Aston Villa is remembered for his lament, "I'd like to play for an Italian club, like Barcelona." Ian Rush was similarly ill-equipped to live away from Liverpool for long. On his return from an unhappy year at Juventus, he was quoted as saying, "I couldn't settle in Italy - it was like living in a foreign country." But, as is often the case, we turn to the United States for a culminating example. Joe Theisman, a former NFL quarterback, will be forever remembered for declaring, "Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein".

7. Sponsors

We are grateful to Adecco Recruitment, tel: 01843 609292; Girlings Solicitors, tel: 01843 220274 and Express By Holiday Inn tel: 01843 820250 for sponsoring this edition of the Thanet & East Kent Insider.



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**It's happening now, it's happening in Thanet & East Kent.
For details of membership, email admin@tekc.co.uk**

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