

Your Weekly Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber

Thanet & East Kent Insider

24th July 2009

1. Spencer Wing Triumphs

The Queen Elisabeth the Queen Mother (QEQM) hospital in Ramsgate Road, Margate has produced its figures for 2008 which reveal not a single patient contracting C Difficile or MRSA while in hospital; a record that cannot be bettered anywhere in the UK. The first floor of the Spencer Wing at QEQM houses the physiotherapy department with its specialist areas of expertise in sports injuries, orthopaedic problems and neurological conditions. Individual treatment ensures that all patients benefit from a treatment regime specifically designed to meet their particular needs. The Spencer Wing is accredited by all leading health insurance companies. Self-funding Chamber members are offered a 10% discount on the cost of treatment. For details, telephone 01843 234555. Chamber members should identify themselves at the time of booking.

2. How Are We Doing?

The ever excellent KCC Research & Intelligence Team has supplied the Chamber with the latest unemployment figures for June 2009 which we can compare with the same period last year. Thanet, Dover and Shepway again share the title of 'least worst year on year increases'. The June to June data shows how much better off we all were in Kent one year ago when the number of unemployed in the county was less than half its current figure of over 34,000. Did we appreciate our good fortune at the time? Probably not. Kent remains marginally better placed than the South East statistical region by just 0.2% but this is still 0.6% better than the national average. Self-satisfaction may not be marked in Thanet where the total number of jobless is the highest in all the Kent districts at just under 4,000. The picture at ward level gives little cause for comfort. Only confirmed class warfare warriors will find any joy in discovering that the highest increase in annual unemployment in Kent was experienced in the Ashford District ward of Tenterden & Rolvenden West where the three unemployed in June 2008 are now joined by an additional 21 luckless souls, an increase of 700%.

	June 2009		Change since June 2008	
	Unemployed	% of workforce	Number	%
Ashford	1,876	2.8%	1,076	134.5%
Canterbury	2,309	2.5%	1,131	96.0%
Dover	2,188	3.5%	949	76.6%
Maidstone	2,365	2.7%	1,382	140.6%
Sevenoaks	1,437	2.1%	943	190.9%
Shepway	2,371	4.1%	953	67.2%
Thanet	3,970	5.5%	1,679	73.3%
Tunbridge Wells	1,404	2.2%	867	161.5%
Kent	34,106	3.4%	17,154	101.2%
South East	438,849	3.6%	205,494	88.1%
Great Britain	1,504,117	4.1%	694,160	85.5%

3. More on Swine Flu

Business Link in the South East has prepared a useful and mercifully brief guide to Swine Flu. It addresses workplace hygiene, contingency planning, employee absence and staff communications. For details see the website at

<http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/bdotg/action/detail?itemId=5001344587&type=ONEOF>

The National Pandemic Flu service has two help lines for enquires in England. For general information, telephone 0800 1 513 513. For advice on treatment, telephone 0800 1 513 800.

4. Live Theatre This Summer

The Sarah Thorne Theatre Club in Broadstairs has asked us to remind fellow Chamber members of its summer rep season which features shows on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays beginning with George Bernard Shaw's Arms and the Man from 6th August, Noel Coward's Private Lives from 13th August and Alan Ayckbourn's Intimate Exchanges: a One Man Protest from 20th August. For details and to book, telephone 0845 2626263.

5. Academy Fm Update

Following the award by Ofcom of a licence to broadcast across Thanet, Academy FM is currently researching community themes for its output which will feature a mix of music, news and local issues. Community and special interest groups are welcome to register their ideas for programme content with the Chamber by email to admin@tekc.co.uk with the subject line "Academy FM Comments". The station is aiming to go on air just before Christmas. This Chamber will be advising the programme director on business issues.

6. Boys Toys

News has reached the Chamber that Hornby of Westwood Industrial Estate Margate, the owners of the Scalextric, Corgi, Airfix and Humbrol brands, has been awarded a licence by the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) to produce a range of London 2012-themed toys. On the timetable for later this year are Airfix kits of the Olympic Stadium, a Scalextric set of the cycling velodrome and models of London buses and taxis. Hornby has a solid record of bringing out successful new products in response to changing market conditions. Beginning with Frank Hornby's original patent of 1901, the company can trace its origins through the early years of Meccano Ltd formed in 1907, later phases as Hornby Dublo and Tri-ang Hornby and the more recent developments that followed the move of manufacturing to China in 1995. The Harry Potter railway models and last year's James Bond Quantum of Solace-themed Scalextric were very well received by collectors and the general public alike. The blessing of LOCOG opens new opportunities as Hornby's Chief Executive, Frank Martin, is quick to acknowledge. "This is a great honour for Hornby and an important development for the group" were his words earlier this week, followed by "This license represents a major opportunity for Hornby to grow our sales and to extend the appeal of our products with new consumers." Good news for all enthusiasts and good news for East Kent.

7. Tourists Are Different

Next week's edition of the Thanet & East Kent Insider will focus on tourism. An important aspect in any successful tourism business is seeing the world from the visitor's perspective. This is not always easy when confronted with overseas tourists with all their different attitudes, experiences and body language. One story that has reached this Chamber concerns a French visitor on his first trip to London. He left his holiday apartment in Agincourt Mansions and took the train to Waterloo Station. Crossing the river, he found himself in Trafalgar Square and paused for moment with a severe frown on his forehead as he reflected on his journey and the places he had visited. A passing pedestrian, no doubt with a first aid training certificate from Chamber member St John Ambulance, enquired, "Are you alright?" The French tourist replied, "Yes, I am alright. I understand that you English drive on the left side and eat cheese after your dessert, but why is everywhere in London named after defeats?"

8. 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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