

Your Weekly Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber

Thanet & East Kent Insider

13th November 2009

1. Marine Energy

Thanet is in the ideal location to host a Marine Energy Park. That was the conclusion of the Marine Energy Summit in Ramsgate last week. Leading representatives and decision-makers from some of the largest companies in the industry heard Greg Clark MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, declare that, 'Thanet's existing wind farm sector puts it in prime position for new Marine Energy opportunities. Energy could be a key focus for economic investment and all the associated benefits of new jobs and infrastructure improvement'. There was much enthusiasm from manufacturers and suppliers with organiser, Laura Sandys, declaring afterwards, 'It was really important today to show-case Thanet as an area of the country at the cutting edge of wind energy development. We have so much to offer in terms of further developing the sector.' The British Wind Energy Association was keen to lend its support to the proposals. As regular readers of the Thanet & East Kent Insider will know, on completion next year, Vattenfall's £800m Thanet Offshore Wind Farm will be the largest in the world, capable of producing 300 MW or enough electricity for 240,000 average homes. The presence at the Marine Energy Summit of a senior figure from Crown Estates suggests that further expansion of the Wind Farm is a distinct possibility. In wide ranging discussions, delegates debated whether Thanet could support a full-scale manufacturing facility or if Operations and Maintenance would be preferable alongside an advanced research facility. The impact of either option on the economy of East Kent would be significant.

2. Vattenfall

This is a reminder of Vattenfall's Open Day on Wednesday 18th November 2009 at the Royal Temple Yacht Club, 6 West Cliff Mansion, Ramsgate CT11 9HY. Visitors are welcome between 1100 and 1900 hrs. Wholly owned by the Swedish government, Vattenfall has a history of innovation. It was two of the company's engineers, Per-Olof Weman and Bengt Odelgard, who designed the first car seat belt which was later fitted to Volvo cars. The company has a commitment to lowering carbon emissions. The Vattenfall Climate Manifesto attracted over 230,000 signatures. On 1 July 2009, Vattenfall further expanded its interest in renewable energy by acquiring 49% of the Dutch power company, Nuon, and will buy the remaining 51% over the next six years. Nuon is well known in green circles as the winner of four of the last five World Solar Challenge car races which take place every two years over a 3,000 km course from Darwin to Adelaide.

3. Give More, Pay Less

Cllr Clive Hart has kindly drawn the Chamber's attention to tax-efficient ways of supporting charities and community groups. If you second one of your employees to a charity or school and your company continues to pay the salary, you can treat the costs incurred in connection with the secondment as a normal business expense when you are calculating profits for tax purposes. Payroll giving is another method to maximize benefits for an employee's favourite charity. Donations are taken from gross pay before deducting income tax under PAYE. For a copy of the government's latest advice, email admin@tekc.co.uk with the subject line "Guide to Giving For Businesses" or telephone HMRC Charities tel: 0845 302 0203.

4. Pilgrims Hospice

Founded by Anne Robertson thirty years ago, the Pilgrims Hospice Group now provides care at three sites in East Kent; Canterbury, Ashford and Margate. Last week, Pilgrims Hospice Margate hosted a tour and dinner for some prominent figures in the Thanet business community. Chief Executive, Steve Auty, explained that palliative care is provided for up to 180 patients in their own homes as well as for the 18 residents. Nearly half of all resident patients return to their homes after receiving specialist treatment and adjustment to their medicine intake. What is truly remarkable is that the cost of providing the free services in Margate, currently £2.6m a year, is met year after year largely from donations and legacies. The vast majority of the money raised is spent directly on looking after patients with limited life expectancy; administration costs are just 10% of the total budget. Anyone who has visited Margate Hospice will know that the life enhancing services provided for patients are of the very highest order. Hairdressing, manicures and complementary therapies such as aromatherapy, reflexology and massage are freely available. The menu at lunch and dinner would not disgrace a first class restaurant. It is worth noting that the all the food on the table at the Margate site is sourced from nearby suppliers, a £48,000 bonus for local traders. If you can offer any support to those that need it most, give Margate Hospice a call, tel: 01843 233920.

5. Rag Trade Appeal

One Chamber member has a lorry load of worn pillowslips and towels and is wondering what to do with it. If you can help, please email admin@telc.co.uk with the subject line "Rag Trade" and we will put you in touch.

6. Disappointing Train

Roger Gale MP has contacted the Chamber with news of a disappointing journey to St Pancras on the new high speed train service from Ramsgate to London. His journey to London Victoria via Ashford on HSI took one hour forty-five minutes, about the same time as the current low tech journey. The difference is that he was obliged to spend an additional £13.80 for the privilege and suffered the discomfort of having to dash from St Pancras to Victoria on the underground. To compound the misfortune, our distinguished MP for North Thanet was denied a cup of tea on his way to Victoria and left without a restorative drink being available on his return journey. Roger draws some comfort from knowing that the staff on the new trains are "helpful and courteous". After a long day in London, I suspect that most of us would settle for a gruff ticket collector and a good gin and tonic.

7. Margate Twins

The Margate Charter Trustees are looking at the twinning arrangements with Les Mureaux in France, Idar Oberstein in Germany and Yalta in the Ukraine. If you do business with any of these places, do let us know and you might hear something to your advantage. Please email admin@tekc.co.uk with the subject line "Twinning".

8. On The Move

Darryl Vas, the well-known solicitor and Head Coach of Thanet Wanderers Rugby 1st XV, has moved from Bel Denning Solicitors to begin his own practice at Macalister White LLP in Ramsgate. We wish Darryl success in his premises at 12 Cliff Street.

9. On Your Bike

News has reached the Chamber of a new bike hire business due to start next March. Trading as Caitlins Beach Cruisers, the company is expected to operate from Broadstairs and is looking at opening other outlets in Margate and Herne Bay. Beach cruiser bicycles have balloon tyres, an upright seating position and a single speed action. The styling harks back to the USA of the 1950s before the time youth culture dominated the airways and when retired Brigadiers from Tunbridge Wells were listened to with due deference. Will the revival of these stylish machines herald a new respect for the elderly and improved table manners from the young? If it does, you may be sure that the Thanet & East Kent Insider will be the first to let you know.

10. New Arrival

We welcome Acorn Bowman FIM Ltd to the Thanet & East Kent Chamber. As technical presenters for the Pension Advisory Service, this company is well equipped to deal with all your enquiries relating to investments and pensions advice. For a free consultation, contact Mick Rendell or Phil Bowman, tel: 01843 609365.

11. Media Types

Following the revelation last week of the newspaper advert, "Labrador dog for sale: eats anything and is fond of children", we return to the newspaper industry for an unusual story allegedly from the Evening Standard. A presenter from the BBC Five Live radio station was sent to report on the trial of some Leeds United footballers in Hull. He was parking his car near the court when he was approached by the car park attendant. 'I suppose you must be a journalist', said the attendant. 'How on earth did you know?' asked the BBC's finest impressed by the attendant's keen observational skills. To which the attendant replied, 'We don't wear sunglasses in Hull.'

12. Our Sponsors

The Thanet & East Kent Insider is grateful for the support and sponsorship provided by Girlings, Express By Holiday Inn and Adecco. Girlings Solicitors has been managing the legal affairs of commercial and private clients for over a century. Twenty-six partners and one hundred and twenty members of staff ensure a comprehensive range of services from the local offices in Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone, Herne Bay and Margate. Offices in France and Spain complement specialist departments for charities, individuals and companies. For details, telephone 01843 220274. Express By Holiday took on the daunting task of restoring the former Prospect Inn at Minster. The result is a spectacular hotel that combines the best of Oliver Hill's 1930s design with ultra modern facilities and technological support. Conveniently located for business guests and holiday

makers in East Kent, the meeting rooms and 105 bedrooms are available at competitive prices throughout the year. For details, telephone 01843 820250. Adecco is the world's largest HR solutions company offering a comprehensive service of temporary and contract staffing, permanent recruitment, outsourcing, outplacement, career services, training and consulting. Officially designated as a 2009 British Superbrand, Adecco is represented in Thanet and Dover by its Broadstairs office, tel: 01843 609292.



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It's happening now, it's happening in Thanet & East Kent.
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