

Your Weekly Business Bulletin from Thanet & East Kent Chamber

Thanet & East Kent Insider

6th February 2010

1. Predict & Prevent

If you register for VAT after 1 April 2010 or if your company has an annual turnover above £100,000, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, HMRC, will require you to file all your VAT returns online. Sage users are invited to attend a free Internet seminar offered by Chamber member Levicks Accountants. Taking just 45 minutes of your time, June Horne of Sage and Heather Threfall of Levicks are working together to offer you an exceptional opportunity to update yourself on your obligations and on how to prevent future problems and costs. Two seminars are offered; 1400 hrs on Monday 8th February 2010 or 0930 hrs on Friday 12th February 2010. To reserve your place and for further details, email hthrefall@levicksaccountants.co.uk or telephone 01843 862716. Even if your company currently has a turnover below £100,000, you might find it well worth while investing three-quarters of an hour now. It is likely that HMRC will insist on online filing by 2012 for all VAT-registered businesses.

2. Business Rate Relief Form

We are grateful to Mrs Harvey, Operations Manager at Thanet District Council Revenues and Benefits Service, for supplying the Thanet & East Kent Chamber with the latest claim form for Small Business Rate Relief. The Secretary of State has introduced new regulations covering entitlement for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2010. It is in the nature of such legislation that it includes strange words framed and used by a select group of trained civil service linguists who do not get out very often. We are grateful to Mrs Harvey for supplying a translation. "hereditament" refers to a property on the Non-Domestic Rating List which does not include any residential property and is separately banded for Council Tax purposes. The main conditions for claiming rate relief remain the same and consist of three main issues. Firstly, relief can only be claimed on one hereditament. Secondly, additional hereditaments with rateable values below £2,200 are ignored. Finally, the total of all hereditaments must be less than £15,000. To obtain your claim form, Chamber members should email admin@tekc.co.uk with the subject line "SBR Claim Form". You can also take immense comfort in the knowledge that you are now probably the only person in your family who knows what hereditament means.

3. Margate School Reunion

Cllr Clive Hart has contacted the Thanet & East Kent Insider with news of a reunion for students at St John's Secondary Modern School Margate in 1970. Following a KoS Media article by Tom Betts, there has been a remarkable response with the result that the reunion later this year on 5th June is hoping to recreate a school photograph taken in 1970. Details are available on the website at <http://stjohns1970.co.uk/default.aspx>. Enthusiasts who download the 6mb photograph from 1970 are entitled to ask what happened to the one and only individualist student wearing a school cap. Also, we should be grateful for the improvements in hairdressing in the last forty years.

4. Opportunities for Young People at the BBC

Our friends at the BBC have informed us that school leavers from East Kent aged 18 – 24 are invited to apply for a Creative Trainee placement for eight weeks working with the production, on-line and events teams at BBC Radio 1 or one of the other stations. Successful candidates should have a "can-do attitude and a desire to work and learn in a professional media environment". The BBC is also looking for ten "vocal young people aged 13 – 19" to join their nationwide Youth Panel. If you know of any young people unafraid to speak their mind and interested in helping the BBC shape its programmes, the Thanet & East Kent Chamber will be pleased to help. For details of both these opportunities, email admin@tekc.co.uk with the subject line, "BBC Creative Trainee" or "BBC Youth Panel" and we will send you details. Completed applications need to be submitted before 22 February 2010.

5. Office & Storage

Readers looking for office space or storage in East Kent are able to choose from a wide variety of possibilities. From fully featured two-person offices to modern warehouses of over 20,000 sq ft, Chamber members have a solution ready and

waiting for interested enquirers. To discuss your individual requirements, email admin@tekc.co.uk and we will respond promptly with details.

6. Scrappage Scheme Update

Readers of the Thanet & East Kent Insider will probably have heard that the Government's Scrappage Scheme has been extended until the end of March 2010. Although no new money has been allocated, the scheme has yet to reach its limit of 400,000 vehicles. It is likely that that VAT revenue to the Treasury from scrappage has exceeded the cost to the government giving the Chancellor every incentive to extend the arrangements. For anyone unfamiliar with the details, we understand the main points to be as follows. The vehicle you submit to the Scrappage Scheme must be a car or small van not exceeding 3.5 tonnes, registered in United Kingdom on or before 29 Feb 2000 for cars or 28 Feb 2002 for vans and registered with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) or Driver and Vehicle Agency in Northern Ireland (DVA) in your name. The vehicle must have been registered to you without a break for 12 calendar months before the order date of the new vehicle. There must be a UK address on the registration certificate and a valid current MOT test certificate before the date of order for the new vehicle. The tax disc must be up to date and the vehicle insured. The new vehicle you wish to buy must be a car or small van not exceeding 3.5 tonnes, first registered for the first time in the UK on or after the 18 May 2009, declared new at first registration in the UK without any previous keepers and must be of UK specification. The new vehicle must also be registered to the same keeper as the scrapped vehicle submitted.

7. Airport Transfer

During the recent icy weather, many readers will be thinking of their holidays. If you intend to fly from a distant airport, you may be faced with the awkward choice of paying for parking on-site at the airport with an unwelcome drive home on your return or the anxiety and worry of engaging with a taxi company to take you there and back and wondering if the driver will turn up on time. There is another way; do what our Chamber chairman did and engage Portcullis Transfers. With a fleet of vehicles on call, Portcullis offers a professional service with an immaculately dressed driver trained to take you to the airport or cruise terminal in maximum comfort and to meet and greet you on your return. For details, give Mark Roberts a call on 01843 808026. If it is a minibus or coach you require, Carol Peters Travel has the answer. What about a shopping day in Bruges on 22 February for just £22.00? As well as arranging travel for companies and clubs. Carol Peters Travel has a full range of excursions planned for the next few months including visits to Cité Europe, Paris, Portobello Market, Cambridge, Ostend, The British Museum, Ascot and Chelsea Flower Show. For details, give Carole or Peter a call, tel: 01843 591007. Male readers may be disappointed that the 9th March visit to Loose Woman at London Television studios is fully booked.

8. Can you Believe It?

We are exhorted from all sides to spend less time in our cars and to use public transport more often. One Chamber member has contacted us with a story from a woman in the Midlands who may never travel by bus again. We have our doubts about this narrative, but readers can draw their own conclusions. "A woman clutching her young baby got on a bus and dug in her pocket to take out a five-pound note to buy her ticket. The bus driver collected the fare and, as he was dispensing the change, he remarked, "Lady, that is the ugliest baby I have every seen in my life". Visibly upset by the interchange, the lady sat down at the rear of the bus and said to those passengers around her, "That bus driver really upset me. I have never been so insulted in my life." A neighbour put down his paper and said sympathetically, "Well, lady. You just go back there and tell him what for. It just isn't right. Here, I'll hold the monkey for you."

9. 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 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,

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

For details of membership, email admin@tekc.co.uk

Thanet & East Kent Chamber Limited

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