

Press Release

Ramsgate Ferry

The Ramsgate Ferry Roadshow welcomed a packed audience to its evening presentation at the RNLI Lifeboat Station last Wednesday. After a summary of the current economic position of the district, Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive David Foley introduced Ramsgate Ferry director Dr Bill Moses MBE who gave a detailed account of the history of the Port of Ramsgate from the Great Storm of 1703 to the present day, including his own family's boat building business at Moses Yard. With the maritime industry in his blood, Dr Moses is taking a break from arranging billion dollar deals overseas to turn his attention to offering a positive future for Ramsgate. He envisages a revived passenger cross-channel ferry service that in its second of operation will bring 500,000 passengers to Ramsgate, providing significant opportunities for local shops, retailers and job-seekers of all ages.

Commenting on the presentation, Paul Wells of Personal Travel Agents, part of the Mid-Counties Co-Op, said: "Ramsgate Ferry's proposals for a cross-channel ferry service could revitalise our local economy." Echoing these thoughts, John Nichols, Chairman of Thanet Fishermen's Association, added: "There is no doubt that Ramsgate Ferry's plans could bring benefits to all port users". Ramsgate Town Team's Jo Hanchett pointed to the significant advantages of Ramsgate Ferry's vision: "Our shops and attractions would benefit enormously from a new cross-channel ferry service as outlined by Bill and David."

Ramsgate Ferry is a not for profit company that promises to use any surpluses for the benefit of local good causes. Dr Bill Moses and David Foley are in discussions with Thanet District Council, which owns and manages the Port of Ramsgate, to see if they can agree on arrangements to revive the port and bring a welcome economic stimulus to the whole of the East Kent coastal business community.

[300 words]

Information

Thanet & East Kent Chamber provides business support to firms in Ramsgate, Margate, Deal, Broadstairs, Manston, Sandwich, Birchington, Hersden and nearby towns and villages. Dover District Chamber of Commerce was established in 1850 and offers business support services to the private and voluntary sector in Dover, Deal, Sandwich and the villages in the district.

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