

Visit of Cedric Jürgensen of Leipzig University to East Kent

On 25th November 2022, Cedric Jürgensen visited East Kent from his home in Leipzig. A former student of the London School of Economics, Cedric is currently writing a thesis on post-Brexit outcomes with particular reference to the coastal economies of East Kent and the fishing sector.

At the invitation of East Kent Chambers of Commerce, he visited Whitemills Wake & Aqua Park, the new centre in the Dover District which hosted its official opening last month. A surfer himself, Cedric appreciated immediately the attraction of the world's fastest growing water sport.

The next port of call was Discovery Park in Sandwich. Over a working lunch with the Chairman of Thanet Fishermen's Association. John Nichols, and Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive David Foley, Cedric made careful note of the challenges facing East Kent companies and the many opportunities for growth available to ambitious enterprises on site.

John Nichols outlined the decline of inshore fishing in the UK since the creation of the Common Market in 1972. "Our fishing industry was a sacrificial lamb", said John "in the rush to support cross-channel trade in other sectors". He explained that during the Cold War of the 1970s, further decommissioning of our native fishing fleet followed the NATO-brokered agreement to end the so-called Cod Wars in which Iceland extended its sovereignty over fishing rights from a 12-nautical mile zone in surrounding waters to an exclusive economic zone with a perimeter of 200 nautical miles. The signature on the agreement in 1976 may have secured a military base in Iceland, but it devastated the UK fishing industry, bringing to an end five hundred years of unrestricted fishing in the rich waters around Iceland. Hopes that post-Brexit Britain would be free to declare a similar 200-mile limit together with a meridian line around our coastal waters have yet to materialise. John was optimistic for plans to create a Ramsgate Fishing Hub which could process local catches for domestic consumption and export. He claimed: "It is perfectly feasible for fresh fish landed in Ramsgate to be on a stall in the fish market in New York twenty-four hours later". With nearby Manston Airport expected to reopen in the next few years, he foresaw the potential for a genuine revival in inshore fishing in East Kent.

After a briefing from David Foley on the assistance available to new and established companies in East Kent, Cedric said: "I am enormously grateful to the Chamber of Commerce for helping me understand and report on the economic profile of East Kent. With premises like Discovery Park available to domestic and international companies, I can understand why East Kent has become such an attractive location. As the closest part of Britain to mainland Europe and with fast transport links to London, companies moving here have many advantages in UK and international markets."



At Whitemills Wake & Aqua Park



(l to r) JN, DF, CJ at Chamber of Commerce Office



On Dover Seafont



At Innovation House, Discovery Park, Sandwich



At the Visitor Centre, Discovery Park, Sandwich

Information

Thanet & East Kent and Dover District Chambers of Commerce provide professional business support to the East Kent coastal business community.

Contact

Emails:	Membership & Marketing:	info@doverchamber.co.uk
	Events:	admin@doverchamber.co.uk
	General Enquiries:	info@tekc.co.uk
	Chief Executive:	davidfoley@doverchamber.co.uk
Tels:	01843 609289 & 01304 892484	
Mob:	07967284850	
Websites:	www.tekc.co.uk	
	www.doverchamber.co.uk	

Offices

Research Centre:	Innovation House, Discovery Park, Ramsgate Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9FF
Thanet:	Kent Innovation Centre, Millennium Way, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2QQ
Whitfield:	White Cliffs Business Centre, Honeywood Road, Whitfield, Kent CT16 3EH
Dover Town Centre:	2 nd floor, Maybrook House, Queens Gardens, Dover, Kent CT17 9AH