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TOWN COUNCIL MAGAZINE





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The Old Gits

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5 July 1948 was an historic moment in our country's history. It was the day the National Health Service (NHS) was born, bringing free health care to everyone.

The NHS has been treasured ever since, and never more so than during the Coronavirus pandemic which has affected us all and changed all our lives.

The first NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day took place on 5 July 2021. The event was recognition of the work of NHS staff and all critical workers who kept shops open and stocked, streets safe and essential services running.

The day was generously supported by national organisations including English Heritage, the Daily Express, NHS Charities Together and the WI.

A series of events took place involving every aspect of society and raising money for NHS Charities Together, which supports 250 hospitals and their charitable trusts, and the National Care Association which represents 1.6 million workers caring for some of society's frailest citizens.

Westgate Town Council was proud to support this nationwide event and show appreciation for everything NHS staff and all key workers do for our country.

Local Church representatives, Town Councillors and residents met at the Flagpole on Sea Road Memorial Gardens for the hoisting of the NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers' Day Flag at 10am.

At 11am a 2-minute silence was observed, followed by a short service.





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During July the popular Westgate-on-Sea Scarecrow Festival returned for its second year.

From 17 to 24 July, residents and businesses were invited to create and display a scarecrow for inclusion in the Scarecrow Trail.

We were delighted to receive plenty of pledges from local businesses and residents keen to participate in the event.

Westgate again demonstrated its creativity and sense of fun with scarecrows ranging from the traditional, to Mermaids, Minions and Robin Hood and his Forest Friends. Topical scarecrows dressed in NHS scrubs and face masks appeared in St Saviours churchyard.

The Town Council published a list of scarecrow locations for scarecrow spotters to follow.

Coinciding with the beginning of the school holidays, the Scarecrow Festival is a great activity for all ages and the straw filled displays bring a real sense of fun and added interest to the town.







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New Town Flag

On Sunday 18th July 2021 we celebrated our 3rd annual Westgate Day. To mark the occasion the new Town Flag was hoisted at 12.30pm which was followed by a short, uplifting Service from Mother Karen of St Saviours Parish Church reflecting on how the Town had come together to help those in need in the last 18 months.



Craft Fair at the Community Centre

To help continue celebrations a Craft Fair was held at the Community Centre on Lymington Green. The Fair, organised by the Westgate and Garlinge Action Group Against Housing Development, was a great success with visitors coming along all day to enjoy the sunshine and stalls. As well as local craft businesses there was also teas, coffees and cakes served and live music.



Westgate-on-Sea Train Station 150th Birthday 2021

To celebrate the Westgate-on-Sea Train Station's 150th Birthday earlier this year a display was set up at the Craft Fair for local residents to view. The displays included photos and information on the history of the Train Station, including examples of tickets and carriages through the times. Thank you to Dr Field from the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre for providing all the information for the displays.



NEW TEAM MEMBER AT TOWN COUNCIL RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATOR

It has been a busy few months at the Town Council office as we were recruiting for a new office receptionist/administrator amongst other tasks. Following the recruitment process, I am pleased to welcome Lindsey to our team of three based in the office. Lindsey has a wealth of experience and expertise and is keen to learn more about local government and in particular local councils.

The Town Council office is now open again to the public and of course the role on reception is very important as you are the first point of contact for residents. You can visit the Town Council from 10am until 12.30pm Monday to Thursday and if this is not convenient please do not hesitate to contact us to make an appointment outside these hours; if you email admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk and Lindsey will be happy to help you.

We are busy in discussions with some community groups and hope to host a couple of them with their activities soon; you may now know that before Covid and the lockdowns we had a craft group, friendship group, macular society support group, various activities and surgeries. We are hopeful that from the autumn we can launch some of the initiatives again for you. If you do have any ideas of your own or would like to volunteer please do contact us; it is important that we all recognise that supporting each other is important as we all readjust to life following the pandemic.



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Rotary Club – Hope for Tomorrow

The Rotary Club of Westgate & Birchington has been very busy recently, undertaking two important projects. We are supporting the charity “Hope for Tomorrow” which provides mobile cancer care to patients who have difficulties attending for chemotherapy at the hospitals in East Kent which are widely spaced apart. The Mobile Cancer Care Unit (named “Caron”, after Caron Keating) has been undergoing renovation and we wanted to help with the funding of this important vehicle.

During June and July, we organised a textile recycling collection and were delighted to receive over 200 black sacks of clothing and bedding from kind donors in Westgate and Birchington. The bags weighed in at well over a tonne (1143.7 Kg to be precise) and will be converted into a donation of about £285 for Hope for Tomorrow (more than enough to fund a day’s work in “Caron”. Over the coming year, we will continue to raise funds for this excellent charity.

Our second project was to give support to a long-standing friend of our club who garages our “Santa’s Sleigh” (which tours the streets of Westgate and Birchington each Christmas, so that children can meet Santa and help us to raise funds for local charities). Her very large garden had become extremely overgrown during the recent hot and wet weather and so a working party of Rotarians descended with their shears and clippers to restore the garden to its former glory.

Our Rotary Club enjoys excellent fellowship, participates in a wide variety of fund-raising projects. Supports civic and community

events and holds many interesting and fun social activities. We meet every Tuesday at St Augustine’s, Westgate-on-Sea; why not come along to one of our meetings and see what we do? Give Dave Alker a call on 01843 845783 to arrange your visit,

There’s loads more information on our website: www.wb-rotary.co.uk and on Facebook.



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The War Memorial Recreation Ground on Lymington Road is gradually being prepared for the coming football season and the initial preparation to get the Changing Rooms ready for football matches is underway.

The changing room is being upgraded and we have already removed the old water tank and carried out subsequent repairs with new plumbing work scheduled for improved shower and toilet facilities. We are making good progress and the regular grass cutting, carried out by a local contractor, began in June with pitch marking organised for early autumn when we aim to start hosting football matches by the end of September.

There is still a lot to achieve at the recently transferred asset of the War Memorial Recreation Ground; it is a huge open space which was dedicated to the people of Westgate on Sea and provides so much opportunity, not only the return of an operational football pitch alongside a netball court and skate park area, but also a wonderful time for everyone in the community to share their skills and engage with both the town council and other residents to achieve the best use of this lovely gift from a thoughtful resident many decades ago in 1914.



If you, your family members and your friends have place making skills (this is everything that creates a good community spirit) and enjoy painting, decorating, gardening, cleaning and generally tidying up then please do get in touch with our Town Clerk Gill Gray: townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk or telephone **01843 836182** – Your Community Needs You!

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Small Grants Scheme

The Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Small Grants Scheme has been running since the Council was formed in 2015.

The Grant Scheme gives not for profit community groups and organisations the opportunity to apply for a sum of up to £500 for projects or events which will benefit the Westgate-on-Sea community.

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council wishes to encourage and support a diverse range of high quality, innovative and ambitious events and projects that engage local residents and visitors alike. Previously grants have been awarded to the Westgate-on-Sea Cricket Club, Scout Group, WAR (Westgate Against Rubbish) and the Westgate-on-Sea Lighting and Improvements Committee.

Westgate-on-Sea Scout Group - Testimony
"Money donated to our Scout Group has been used to purchase an event shelter and flag."

They will help us raise the profile of the group, advertise the movement, promote the sections at events and provide weather cover whilst at camps."

There are two rounds of funding available, with applications being accepted in April and October of each year. The amount of money available is set annually in the budget of the Council, grants will normally be up to a maximum of £500, although higher amounts will be considered in exceptional circumstances. All applications are reviewed by an elected panel at the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting.

If you are intending to hold an event, form a new constituted not-for-profit community group or start a project in the future then please email: finance@westgateonsea.gov.uk for more information. Applications for the next round of Funding opens on 1st October and closes on 12th November 2021.



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Spectrum: Viktoriya Richardson (October)
Nature Most Colourful: Lorraine Kinnear (November)

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New Post Office At Station Superstore

The new post office in Westgate opened for business on the 28th July in the shop right opposite the railway station called "The Station Superstore", which is at 49 Station Road.

The proprietor, Sangay Sangeethi has been working on this with Post Office since July 2020 when he discovered that the existing post office in Paydens the Chemist was scheduled to close. Sangay and his team in the shop have been through an extensive course and intense training with Post Office and Sangay is a little proud at being a fully qualified Postmaster.

In the interim the current post office counter is a temporary one. But a permanent and larger counter service will be fitted, this is planned for the middle of October (see opening times below). There is a significant demand for postal services in Westgate which is the only counter financial services left in the town. Not that long ago Westgate boasted three high street bank branches; NatWest, Lloyds and Barclays. The post office is a crucial and needed service for the residents of Westgate.

At the moment there is not an external post box, but one inside the shop that is open from 6am to 11pm seven days a week. The shop is always well stocked with groceries and an off licence with a formidable supply of wines, beers and spirits.

David Donaldson of Westgate on Sea Town council has been quietly supporting and championing this initiative with Sangay through the lockdowns. The Town Council has been in constant contact with the Network Provision team at Post Office and supported the robust process to seek a solution for the town.

Station Superstore Post Office.

Opening Times:

Monday to Friday: 9.00 to 17.30.

Saturday: 9.00 to 13.00.

When the permanent Post Office is installed, which is scheduled for the middle of October, opening times will be:

Monday to Sunday: 7.00 to 22.00.



Post Office Open



Sangay Sangeethi and David Donaldson opening the New Post Office

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The Town Council has resolved to form a sub-committee for Events, Tourism & Developments – it is hoped that this will be utilised to form Working Groups for each individual event, project or initiative that are raised at the meetings.

Of course, we have a few events that appear in the calendar each year already but it is hoped that we can add to those and establish a monthly event throughout the year.

If you would like to be involved or find out more please contact the Town Clerk – townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk. These events are not all facilitated by the Town Council but we are aware of them, if you have a planned event please do let us know and we can add to our annual calendar.

September

Sunflower Growing Competition
Planned for 10 September 2021

November

Remembrance Sunday
Planned for 14 November 2021

December

Christmas Fair - Planned for 5 December 2021

March

Pancake Races - Proposed for 1 March 2022

April

Easter Egg Hunt - Proposed for 2022

May

GB Spring Clean Litter Picks - Proposed for 2022

June

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend 2022
2nd June to 5th June 2022

All Events subject to Covid-19 guidelines at the time.

We want to explore ideas for other events, projects or initiatives for the Town; we are always looking for volunteers to help with stewarding events so please do get in touch if you are willing to help; you can email townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk.

We are hoping that we attract additional visitors to the Town this year and we can use the summer months to promote all that Westgate has to offer and celebrate our unique qualities.

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COMMUNITY SURGERY

4th September 2021 – Clir Cornford & Clir Donaldson
2nd October 2021 – Clir Cornford & Clir Page

10.00am to 11.15am
at Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Office:
78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate-on-Sea, CT8 8RF

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Westgate-on-Sea Town Council

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH



Can you help your community and spare a few hours to reduce speeding vehicles in your area?

If you would like to join the Westgate Speedwatch group and help then please visit:
<https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/> to register your interest or for more information please email admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk





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An interview with senior audiologist, Anabela Pinho, Hearbase at Spencer Private Hospital, Margate

What is an audiologist?

An audiologist is a clinical health care professional responsible for helping those who have problems with their hearing and balance disorders. It's a highly qualified role, and each day an audiologist could be assessing and fitting hearing aids, providing ear protection, tinnitus support and advising on balance and wax removal.

How long have you been at Hearbase?

I have been at Hearbase for nearly 3 years now and I enjoy my work, especially meeting and helping so many people all over Thanet, old and young, from all walks of life. I am based at the Hearbase clinic at the wonderful Spencer Private Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, CT9 4TG.

What are the first signs of a hearing problem?

Some of the early signs are when you struggle to keep up with conversation in noisy places, when your family tell you the TV is too loud,



or when you have difficulty hearing people clearly. If you experience ringing or buzzing in your ears, or head, or a feeling of blockage, these can also be early signs of hearing loss.



Why should I have my hearing tested?

Not being able to hear, seriously impacts your quality of life, not to mention talking with friends, family and others. I recommend if you show any of these early signs, you should get it checked. If you are concerned about someone close to you who struggles to hear, speak to them about getting a free hearing test and why not join them to offer support if they need a little bit of encouragement?

Why should I go to Hearbase Spencer Private Hospital Margate?

Well, to start, our hearing tests are completely free. This isn't unique to us, you can get your hearing tested elsewhere, but as we are expert audiologists, if we find anything of concern after your free hearing test, we will point you in the direction of specialist services quickly. We are a really friendly bunch of people and



our focus is to listen and help you to manage your hearing.

How should I look after my hearing?

If you notice any change to your hearing, large or small, then always get it checked. This is important however old or young you are. If you work in a noisy place or have a history of hearing loss in your family, have a hearing test, it only takes 30 minutes. Call us on **0800 077 3061** or email admin@hearbase.com and book your free hearing test at Hearbase at Spencer Private Hospital Margate today!



Bench & Memorial Makeovers

Residents may already have noticed that the wooden bench outside St Saviours Church has recently benefitted from a facelift.

Mike Wiseman and Alan Richards are the volunteer team responsible for the makeover, and they are working tirelessly to improve benches and other areas of Westgate, including the Ingram Memorial.

Sir William Ingram lived at The Bungalow, Westgate-on-Sea, from 1887 to 1924. In 1926 one of his sons, Sir Herbert Ingram, asked permission from the then Westgate-on-Sea Parish Council to erect a memorial to his parents at the corner of the Bungalow grounds.

The Bungalow subsequently became the Rowena Court Hotel and, when the hotel was sold and demolished, the memorial became neglected. Although it was cleaned by local residents during the 1990s, unfortunately the Latin inscription has since become completely illegible. The inscription reads:

IN MEMORY OF WHI (WILLIAM HENRY INGRAM)
AND MECI (MARY ELIZA COLLINGWOOD INGRAM)
HUSBAND AND WIFE

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HAD MANY BENEFICIAL MEMORIES

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It is wonderful to see our local heritage being preserved and restored and our sincere thanks to Mike and Alan for the work they are undertaking which looks absolutely fantastic!



Introducing your New Community Warden

Hello Westgate, I am Lisa Harrison, your new Community Warden. I have been lucky to have already met quite a few residents, businesses, organisations and Westgate Town Council. All have been so welcoming and I look forward to meeting the rest of you.

I will be a visible presence in the community and will endeavour to support you with the key Community Warden Service Objectives:

- Supporting the elderly and vulnerable in the community
- Strengthening community resilience to ensure 'stronger, safer communities.'
- Assisting residents to navigate public services.
- Fostering community cohesion and wellbeing.

I welcome all suggestions from residents and organisations on supporting some of the above objectives. Although many clubs are opening, I am looking forward to more opening over the coming weeks after this difficult time.

If you have any concerns that you feel I may be able to support you with, or just want a chat, please don't hesitate to stop me while I'm walking the area. My email address is:- lisa.harrison@kent.gov.uk

I currently do not have a base but am hoping eventually to be based at the library and some of the time at the council offices in Westgate. Most of the time I will be active in the community.





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Felicity's Café at Quex is run by two cousins, Laura & Molly, from a large and very close farming family. We value family over everything so named the café after Laura's daughter Felicity Rose.

We have been so excited to welcome you back, and from Tuesday 18th May 2021, as well as our tranquil outside seating area, we can also offer the inside of our café for bookings where you can come and enjoy all our delights.

From breakfast and lunch to coffee and cake, not forgetting our incredible Afternoon Teas these can be served in our inside and outside seating area which are also available for private hire.

We have made some changes to ensure the safety of our staff and customers which will allow you to have the best experience possible here at Felicity's Café! We have limited seating, so it is strongly advised to make a reservation and if you would like to book an Afternoon Tea with us, we need at least 48 hours' notice. Our opening times are Tuesday - Sunday 10am until 4pm.

If you would like to make a reservation or book an Afternoon Tea please email;
info@felicityscafeatquex.co.uk

We can't wait to see you all soon!





Allotment Update Summer 2021

Since the last newsletter we have welcomed one new family to the allotments. It has been a busy year for newcomers with 8 new plot holders so far. The popularity of the allotments continues as on average the Town Council receives 2 requests per month from residents to be added onto the waiting list

Waiting List

As of mid-August, there were 25 Westgate residents on the waiting list with a further 24 people on the list who live outside of Westgate. Please note priority is given to those who have a CT8 post code. If you are interested in having an allotment plot then please email finance@westgateonseas.gov.uk with your name, email, address and contact telephone number.

Inspections and Working Group Meeting

At the beginning of August the Town Council along with the Site Representatives walked around the allotments completing the second site inspection this year. The Allotments were looking great, with lots of fantastic vegetables and fruit ready to be picked. It was great to see how much, even the newest plot holders, had achieved. The Allotment Working Group met in August 2021 for the second meeting of the year.

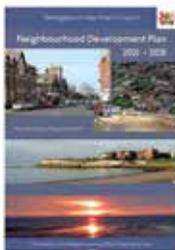
St Crispin's School Visit

Back in May the Year 2 Children from St Crispin's Infant School visited the allotments as a part of their class topic on how food grows. The children invited all those who had hosted the day, to come and view the display they had made about the trip. The display included artwork and details about the allotments and how food grows. It really showed how much the children had learnt and had clearly enjoyed the trip.



Westgate Draft Neighbourhood Plan Update

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council and the residents of Westgate want to protect and enhance the town for the benefit of present and future generations. We hope that this Westgate Neighbourhood Plan will help to fulfil this aim.



The Westgate-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is a new kind of planning document.

It is part of the Government's approach to planning which aims to give local communities more influence in their neighbourhood's development. This NP has been produced by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG), and a sub-committee of the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council, chaired by Cllr Dr Hannah Scott and formed of Town Councillors and community members. A number of Garlinge residents have also been members of the group, as the housing allocation in the TDC Local Plan called "Westgate" spans both Westgate-on-Sea and Garlinge and greatly affects both areas. The NP has been prepared through consultation with residents through the feedback at the initial meeting.

The Town Council is now progressing the Westgate Neighbourhood Plan to the Regulation 14 Consultation as per The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 which will be launched in September 2021. There will be an 8-week period for consultation and we are pleased to be working with Goldstone Town Planning and Breakthrough Communications who will provide a digital formal survey, virtual consultation events and the Town Council will host two face to face consultation events one at the Westgate on Sea Community Centre on Lymington Road and the second at the Christ Church URC on Westgate Bay Avenue. Details of the consultation with dates and times will be available on our website, Facebook page and we will deliver a leaflet to households as well to mark the consultation launch.

There will be printed copies of the draft Westgate Neighbourhood Plan about the town and a few copies available at the Town Council office if anyone wants to visit to read the document. We are open Monday to Thursday from 10am until 12.30pm.

We urge you to get involved and comment on the draft document, it is our town and very important that everyone has an opportunity to input and feedback on the proposed draft NP. If you have any queries please contact Gill Gray the Town Clerk by email townclerk@westgateonesa.gov.uk.

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South & South East in Bloom is part of Britain in Bloom and runs annual competitions all over Kent.

Entrants include Villages, Parishes, Cities, Coastal Towns, Urban Communities and more. Each community entrant will be visited by an assessor/judge and awards are given in recognition of their achievements.

People presume that Britain in Bloom is all about pretty floral displays, but this is not the case anymore, the environment and community involvement are also big factors.

This year Westgate in Bloom was proud to submit 6 entries under the Britain in Bloom's – It's your Neighbourhood Category.

This campaign focuses on community improvement using gardening and horticulture. Judges look at three key areas: horticultural achievement, environment responsibility and community participation.

Judging

On 13th July we welcomed Jean Morris to Westgate-on-Sea where she was given a tour of all the entry sites and met with staff and volunteers who helped support Westgate in Bloom. The day was enjoyed by all involved and we look forward to finding out how we did in September this year.

Westgate in Bloom 2022

None of achievements this year would have been possible if it wasn't for the volunteers and Town Council Staff who give up their time to plant out, weed and water our lovely flower displays. Next year we are hoping to enter the Parish in Bloom category. If you are interested in volunteering sometime this Autumn and next Spring then please email: admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk.

Entry 1 – Planters on Cambourne Avenue

The planters on Cambourne Avenue were provided by the Westgate-on-Sea Community Spirit Craft Group. The planters were made from salvaged/recycled wooden pallets by one of the Community Spirit Craft group volunteers and the flowers are cared for by the staff of the Fish Inn.



Entry 2 – Lymington Road Allotment Gardens

Set up in the 1920s the allotments were small areas of land leased to residents for the purpose of growing food. Westgate-on-Sea Town Council took over the management of the allotments from Thanet District Council when it was formed in 2015. The Town Council set up, and the Allotment Association help to manage, a community plot. This plot is used to grow and nurture trees and plants which go on to be planted in the community. Earlier this Year the children from St Crispins Infant School visited the Community Plot as part of their topic on growing food.



Entry 3 – Lymington Road Green (Community Centre)

In early 2020 two new flower beds were created on Lymington Green in conjunction with Thanet District Council. In early April volunteers gave up their time to prepare the beds ready for sowing wild meadow seeds. Jump forward to June and we were awash with beautiful Wildflowers. Not only have the flowers been a hit with residents but also with pollinators such as bees and butterflies. Wildflowers grown included native cornfield annuals like corncockles, corn marigolds, poppies etc. Also planted were bluebells and snowdrops. We look forward to seeing them early 2022.



Benches

The Town Council was pleased when it had two picnic tables installed on the green near the Community Centre on Lymington Road. They are designed to allow wheelchair users and pushchairs to be placed in between seats, giving everyone access to sit at the tables and enjoy the views.

Trees

In late 2019 twenty-one saplings were planted out on Lymington Green. The trees were kindly donated by the Woodland Trust and Ovo Energy. These trees have now been adopted by members of the community who keep them watered. Just recently in May 2021 volunteers, with the guidance of Peter Hasted, the Westgate-on-Sea Volunteer Tree Warden and Biodiversity Officer, built new tree cages to help protect the growing trees.



Entry 4 – Sea Road Gardens

Working in collaboration with Thanet District Council we wanted to make interesting flower beds. The planting helped to increase the biodiversity of the area and ensured that there was something interesting to admire throughout the year. These beds are looked after by a small team of volunteers who gave up time last summer to plant out and water. Volunteers kindly installed small perch benches on the lower part of the gardens so that visitors could sit and rest along the way. The memorial gardens also looked beautiful as two banks were planted with Wildflowers and the roses are now starting to grow around and up the two metal obelisks installed in early 2020. There has also been some remedial works taking place in support of Westgate in Bloom such as the repairing of shelters and creating safer slope access.



Entry 5 – Westgate-on-Sea Train Station

The Town Council has been working closely with its volunteers and the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust to make pollinator friendly flower beds at the Train Station. The plants were sponsored by the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust and they also provided tools and equipment for the volunteers to continue to tend the beds. Southeast Rail have also been a huge support and provided access and use of an empty room for storing equipment. There are also lots of herbs planted which as well create more interest for commuters. The creation of the raised beds was funded by Network Rail when the train station had a new footbridge installed. We added wall flowers last year and these provided a beautiful display in the spring; we have commenced works on a raised bed on the opposite platform and this will be a project for the autumn this year.



Entry 6 – Station Road, Cuthbert Road and St Mildreds Road

We have historically had some planters in the Town and these have been added to this year to include Cuthbert Road. They are maintained and watered by local businesses and are a focal point providing much needed colour and interest for shoppers. The plants are sourced from various local nurseries and grown from seeds by some volunteers. The watering is mostly from rainwater that has been harvested and we use pollinator friendly plants where possible.



The Thanet Big Sing Community Choir

In early 2011, an Open Call went out across Thanet for 100 singers from any musical background to form a choir to sing an exciting, challenging piece of new music to celebrate the opening of Turner Contemporary, Margate. The 'Big Sing Community Choir', led by Music Director, Tony Castro, gave the World Premiere of Orlando Gough's "The Red Volcano" (inspired by JMW Turner's eponymous poem and painting) at the opening of Turner Contemporary Gallery on 17th of April 2011, accompanied by an orchestra of local musicians and students.

Following this debut performance, the singers unanimously agreed to stay together and formed the Thanet Big Sing Community Choir, becoming Turner Contemporary's resident choir and the only choir in the UK based in an art gallery of international standing.

The Thanet Big Sing has gone from strength to strength, performing at the Turner Contemporary (including five world premieres to date), giving regular concerts in Westgate, Broadstairs, and Ramsgate, participating in local festivals and community events and collaborating with other artists, musicians and actors.

The choir has performed at Proms in the Park, the Dickens festival, and at London's SouthBank Centre and supported East Kent Mencap with their Christmas sing-along, together with an annual Christmas event at Turner Contemporary.

Rehearsals take place in Westgate-on-Sea every Tuesday evening during term time from 7.30 to 9.30pm, under the expert guidance of our Music Director, Tony Castro, who has had many years in the music industry working on numerous internationally famous shows including productions

of Phantom of the Opera, Rocky Horror Show, Spamalot, Miss Saigon and a great deal more.

We are an inclusive choir, open to anyone who wants to sing with others in a friendly and fun atmosphere, and we welcome all new members aged 18 years and over. You do not need to audition, and choir members do not need to be able to read music or have any previous experience. All you need is enthusiasm and the desire to sing with other like-minded singers. We offer all potential new members a free-of-charge 'taster' rehearsal.

We sing a wide variety of music, including popular, light classical, musical theatre, and folk songs. The Thanet Big Sing regularly commissions new compositions for the choir to compliment and be performed alongside exhibitions at Turner Contemporary and local events. Examples of these, all written and composed by Tony Castro, include On the Tram (T.S. Eliot exhibition), Oh! I do like to be (Seaside Photographed), and our latest piece, Lost and Found (Ellen Harvey exhibition). Often accompanied by other musicians, a narrator, and projected images, these performances are very special and hugely popular.

The Thanet Big Sing Community Choir is well known for being a friendly and supportive choir and a warm welcome awaits anyone joining. Our guiding principle is to have fun while rehearsing and performing music that we enjoy singing, relishing the challenge that this sometime presents, but always singing confidently together in a safe, friendly atmosphere. Several social events are planned throughout the year.

If you want to be part of a group that just loves singing together, then come and join us. We look forward to seeing you. www.thanetbigsing.com



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Welcome to the tenth issue of Westgate-on-Sea Town Council's Magazine. Each issue of the Magazine contains reports on what the Town Council has achieved since the previous issue and what the Town Council plans to achieve on behalf of the community in the near future.

In addition to the Magazine, minutes of all of the Town Council's meetings are available on the Town Council's website, please visit: www.westgateonsea.gov.uk.

I am pleased to report that the Town Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan is nearing finalisation. It is proposed that a consultation meeting with residents will be held in September at the Community Centre. Full details of this meeting will be advertised and distributed shortly.

Cllr David Donaldson has written an article on the Post Office saga. Alongside the Town Clerk, Cllr Donaldson was influential in securing the new location. The new location is quite different, just as friendly but a big change for most of us. I am sure that everyone will be as supportive of the new system.

In contrast to the positive news regarding the Post Office, the last few weeks have seen the dismantlement of the WWI War Memorial plaque at the Lymington Road Recreation Ground following wilful vandalism which resulted in fracturing of the brick wall that supported the slate memorial plaque. The damage to the brick wall meant that it was dangerous – particularly to children using the play area there.

The plaque, with its carefully chosen words, was not damaged and has been removed to a secure location pending the construction of a replacement wall by the Town Council. The provision of the plaque was the idea of the late Dr Dawn Crouch ably assisted by fellow members of the Westgate Heritage Centre and well supported by the Town Clerk. Much 'sweat and tears' went into organising the initiative which culminated in the unveiling of the memorial plaque 100 years after the Armistice which ended the Great War in 1918.

This year's Sunflower competition is awaiting judging and the results will be announced in the next issue of the Magazine.

Times change and people move on. Sadly Richard and Lorraine Hambidge are leaving Westgate-on-Sea after spending all their lives



The memorial plaque that was unveiled on 2nd November 2018. The floral display and the wooden 'poppy cross' were kindly added by local resident Denise Packer.



The patch of ground where the memorial wall and plaque stood.

in Westgate. They are starting a new chapter in their lives and moving to be nearer their daughter and her new family. I know everyone will miss their presence and the contributions they have both made to a number of local community initiatives. Richard's artistic skills were showcased in his inspirational 'ghost' soldiers and silhouettes of soldiers created for Remembrance Sunday.



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The Community Centre on Lymington Road belongs to Thanet District Council and is leased by the Westgate on Sea Community Centre Association on a long-term lease which includes part of the car park and outside area to the rear of the building.

The Community Centre forms an important role in the community and is a hub of services and information. As can be seen from the diverse list of groups below and activities the Community Centre is utilised to the maximum from all age groups and is a vital resource for the Town.

There are 12 regular hirers and in addition the venue is utilised for events and parties at the weekends throughout the year under normal circumstances. The Committee are all volunteers and provide dedicated support to enable the use of the space for the community. They need additional volunteers for their Committee and in particular would welcome anyone with social media and/or event planning expertise. If you would like to get involved and have some spare time please contact WOSCCA by email – woscca@hotmail.co.uk and Sue or Bronwen will be pleased to hear from you.



Groups that hire the Westgate on Sea Community Centre

Forever Active (Thanet)

Run by Valerie Andrews, on a Monday evening from 6:30 to 8:30, fitness class. Valerie **07725913644**

Westgate Art & Craft Group

Run on a Tuesday afternoon from 1:30—4pm, art, craft and social. Diana **07719 050628**

The Line Rangers

Run by Theo Loyla and his wife on a Tuesday evening at 7pm, Line Dancers. Theo **01843 833643**

Over 55's

Run by Mr Mick Jenkins on a Wednesday afternoon at 2pm, social group for the over 55. Mick **01843 833956**

K.C. Personal

Run by Kelly Green on a Wednesday evening at 7pm, fitness class, all ages. Kelly **07896 223951**

Westgate Youth Project

Run by Paula Nicol on Thursday evening at 6pm, for children with special education needs, activities and social interaction. Paula **07903 275423**

1st Westgate Rainbows

Run by Rachael on a Friday afternoon at 4 to 5:15, age group 5-7. Text only **07910964308**

8th Westgate Brownies---

run by Clare Grant on a Friday teatime at 5:30 to 7pm, age group 7 upwards. Clare **07837226613**

Photography Club

Run by Mick Jenkins on a Friday evening from 7:30, all ages and availability. Mick **01843 833956**

Slimming World

Run by Clarissa Hardcastle on a Saturday from 7:30 to 11:30, all ages. Clarissa **07714262032**

Blood Donors---

run up to 10 sessions a year

Ageless Thanet---

run various classes on Monday & Thursday during the year

Election---

used as a polling station

Westgate on Sea Community Centre Association (WOSCCA) Annual General Meeting.

The Westgate Community Centre held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 30th of June 2021. This was the first since 2019 as the scheduled 2020 Annual General Meeting had to be cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. The AGM was not as well attended as usual, as we believe that people are still reticent about attending public gatherings as a result of the pandemic restrictions. But both Joanna Cornford and David Donaldson were present to represent Westgate on Sea Town Council in its continued support for the centre and all the good and hard work done by everyone involved especially Sue Midgley and Bronwen Wood, who are trustee, whose dedication is particularly outstanding. The other trustees of the Community Centre are: Ray Clay, John Skidmore, and Pat Robson.

Even though the pandemic was a disaster, in that the centre had to close; the Centre made it into an opportunity to carry out quite extensive maintenance and upgrading work, ready to "hit the ground running" for the reopening. Both the lobby and meeting room were completely painted as well as the building exterior which was recoated by the Caretaker Andrew. The cladding was replaced on the rear wall and fire door exit bars were fitted and a whole variety of smaller jobs. In addition, 24 new chairs were purchased, sadly four have gone missing. However, if the so and so who "borrowed" them, were to return them, nothing will be said and no questions will be asked. Please, just return them!

In terms of finances, the centre made a loss of just under £12,400. This was obviously due to the closure, during which insurance, electricity, phone, music licence, bin waste collections still had to be paid for. Enterprisingly, the centre managed to secure a small business grant from the Governments Pandemic support scheme administered by Thanet District Council of £10,000. So, the net loss was only slightly over £2,300. In addition, the Treasurer also reported that a second business support grant has been applied for.

The accounts for the Centre are complete, certified and will be filed with the Charities Commission.

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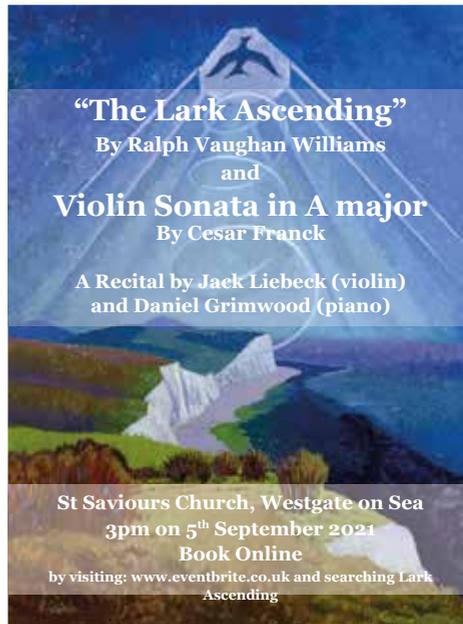


St Saviour's Church with Westgate-on-Sea Town Council are launching plans for a new Community Hub adjacent to the church and opposite the Town Council Offices.

The Hub will partner with our excellent Westgate on Sea Community Centre in Lymington Road to extend our range of services for the residents of Westgate. Existing plans for the Hub include a Community Garden, Toddler Group, Drop-in sessions for residents with a wide range of skills and interests and a venue for Weddings, Wedding Blessings, Christenings, Funerals and other significant family events.

We look forward to sharing some of our initial ideas with you over refreshments following a special Westgate Songs of Praise for Harvest on Sunday 26th September at 3pm to which all residents of the Town are warmly invited.

Mother Karen (Priest in Charge)
Gill Gray (Town Clerk)



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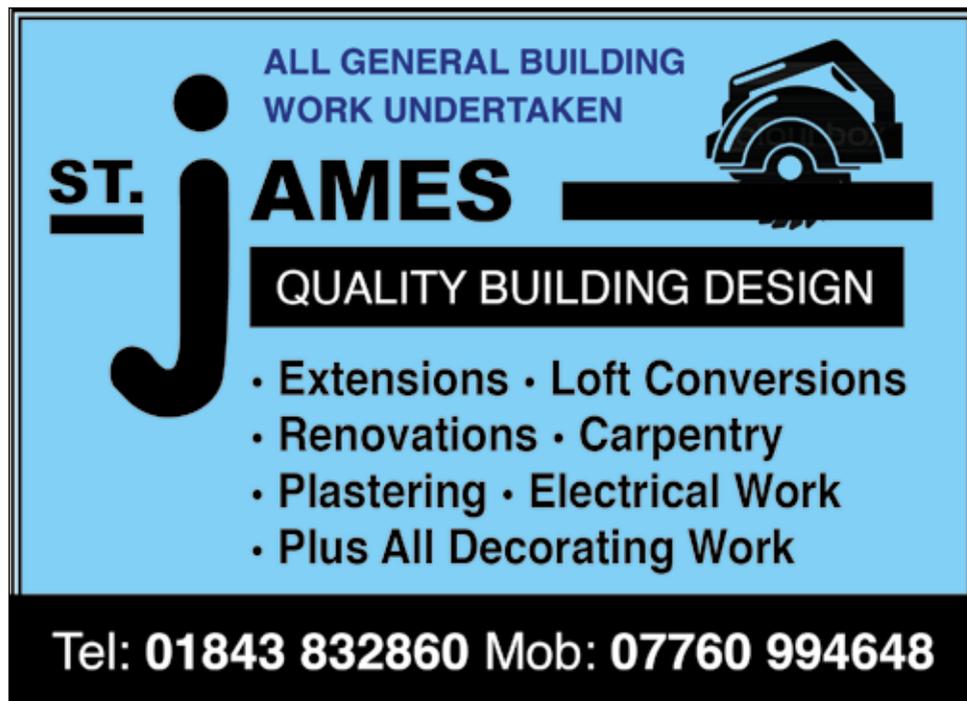



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Cllr Joanna Cornford
Chairperson

Appointed Committee:
Planning, Highways & Environment Committee; Events, Tourism & Development Sub-Committee and Human Resources Committee

Contact: 07896 092324

Email: jcornford@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Pauline O'Connor
Vice Chairperson

Appointed Committee:
Finance & General Purposes Committee; Events, Tourism & Development Sub-Committee and Human Resources Committee

Contact: 01843 836182

Email: p.oconnor@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr David Donaldson

Appointed Committee:
Finance & General Purposes Committee; Events, Tourism & Developments Sub-Committee; Planning, Highways & Environment Committee and Human Resources committee

Contact: 07977 544697

Email: ddonaldson@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Timothy Green

Appointed Committee:
Finance & General Purposes Committee and Events, Tourism & Development Sub-Committee

Contact: 07914 412965

Email: tgreen@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Roy Nightingale

Appointed Committee:
Finance & General Purposes Committee and Events, Tourism & Development Sub-Committee

Contact: 07733 011723

Email: rnightingale@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Helen Page

Appointed Committee:
Planning, Highways and Environment Committee

Contact: 01843 836182

Email: hpage@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Martyn Pennington

Appointed Committee:
Human Resources Committee and Planning, Highways & Environment Committee

Contact: 07710 030278

Email: mpennington@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Dr Hannah Scott

Appointed Committee:
Planning, Highways and Environment Committee

Contact: 07411 815157

Email: hscott@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Matthew Scott

Appointed Committee:
N/A

Contact: 07512 777399

Email: mscott@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr David Wallin

Appointed Committee:
Planning, Highways and Environment Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee

Contact: 07502 924240

Email: dwallin@westgateonsea.gov.uk

Cllr Sam Bambridge

District Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea Ward
Contact: 07583 533309
Email: cllr-sam.bambridge@thanet.gov.uk

Cllr Bertie Braidwood

District Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea Ward
Contact: 07518 783090
Email: cllr-bertie.braidwood@thanet.gov.uk

Cllr Matthew Scott

District Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea Ward
Contact: 07512 777399
Email: cllr-matthew.scott@thanet.gov.uk

Cllr Derek Crow-Brown

County Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea which forms part of Division
Contact: 03000 411009
Email: derek.crow-brown@kent.gov.uk

Cllr Linda Wright

County Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea which forms part of Division
Contact: 03000 411009
Email: linda.wright@kent.gov.uk

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Westgate-on-Sea Town Council: Can we help?

- Westgate in Bloom
- Events including Pancake Races, Westgate Day as well as supporting Remembrance Parade and Services and Scarecrow Festival
- Local meetings including:
Business Forum, Planning, Highways & Environment Committee, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Events, Tourism & Developments Steering Group, Allotment Working Group, Finance and General Purposes Committee, Human Resources Committee and Full Council Meetings
- Saturday Surgeries
- Information on our "Top Up" street cleansing including fly tipping
- Speedwatch
- Deaf Group, Westgate Community Spirit Craft Group and Friendship Club meeting in Community Space
- Local talks and more local events hosted in Community Space
- Hot desking opportunities
- Council Meeting Videos
- Westgate-on-Sea News Magazine
- Westgate-on-Sea Social Media accounts and Website.
- Annual Town Meeting
- Public Town Council Litter Bins
- Consultee for Planning Applications



- Defibrillator training and information
- Photocopier use
- Local Councillor information
- Local artists display
- Westgate-on-Sea food bank collections
- Terracycle recycling scheme
- Allotment gardens, Lyvington
- Supporting local Community Groups and Projects
- Small Grants Funding Scheme
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Computer Hub for research and reports
- Community Emergency Plan
- Volunteering
- Local Newspapers

PLEASE NOTE: some of these services have been suspended due to COVID-19

Westgate Town Council: 01843 836 182

Not us? Please see the services Thanet District Council and Kent County Council can assist you with as well: Thanet District Council (Services include Waste & Recycling, Council Tax, Planning & Land, Leisure & Recreation, Environmental Services and Housing)

www.thanet.gov.uk
01843 577000

Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1HX

Kent County Council (Services include Education, Roads & Travel, Births & Deaths, Business, Libraries and Social Care & Health)

www.kent.gov.uk
03000 41 41 41

County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ

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