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Westgate-on-sea Town Council Magazine

Monday 12th April 2021 marked the 150th Anniversary of Westgate-on-Sea Railway Station.

Before 1871 trains from London had just passed through on their way to Margate and Ramsgate. The new railway put Westgate-on-Sea firmly on the map. The first train to arrive left London Victoria at 10.30am and bought a number of officials from the London, Chatham and Dover Railway including the owner of the then Westgate Estate. Arriving at 1pm they met with locals where a short speech was given marking the opening of the Station.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the 150th Anniversary Celebrations were also a very small affair. However Covid-19 (and the snow!) did not stop the special day from being marked. John Sandford, the Station Manager for South Eastern Trains and David Wornham, Passenger Services Director, also for South Eastern Trains, welcomed those in attendance and talked about the importance of the station for the community.

This was followed by a speech from Chairman of the Town Council Councillor Joanna Cornford and Dr Graham Field, Chairman of the Westgate Heritage Centre who discussed the history of the station.

A small exhibition was held in the station waiting room with photos, vintage signage and an example of 1980s railway uniform for residents to enjoy. To help add to the celebrations Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Staff dressed in Victorian costume giving out leaflets of a historical walking tour created by Sally Whitworth from the Westgate Heritage Centre whilst music was played in the background.

Lorraine and Richard Hambidge, in conjunction with Westgate-on-Sea Community Spirt Craft Group, created bunting and a bespoke 150th Birthday Train Sign. Westgate-in-Bloom volunteers ensured the train station was looking its best and planted flowers in the raised beds outside the station entrance.

A bigger Exhibition celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Westgate-on-Sea Train Station will be held on 18th July 2021 (Town Anniversary Day) at the Lymington Road Community Centre. For more information please email: admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk.



Bespoke 150th Birthday sign created by Richard and Lorraine Hambidge



Left to Right – Councillor Joanna Cornford, Dr Graham Field, Sally Whitworth, John Sandford and David Wornham.



Victorians for the day. Town Council Staff and residents dress up to mark the event.



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A Local Youth Council is a platform for change and a means to better engage young people.

Nationally there is a clear appetite and enthusiasm for youth councils and associated projects. Indeed, over the last decade there has been an explosion of youth councils, cabinets, parliaments, and forums throughout the Country supported by local authorities. The leading charity in this area is the British Youth Council (BYC). This in turn is promoted and partly funded by the government department for "Digital, culture, Media and Sport". Who, incidentally, did a pretty good job of the British Olympic games in 2012. Anyway, the British Youth Council (BYC) is a UK charity dating back to 1963, where it came under the administration of the foreign office as part of the World Assembly of Youth. Which, somewhat anachronistically, had the original aim to unite young people against the forces of communism just after World War II.

The overall idea of a youth council is to actively involve and empower young people in local democracy and decision making. It has obvious direct educational benefits, allowing young people to better understand and appreciate the complexities and intricacies of local government and politics, which does seem to have been sadly neglected from school curriculums in recent years.

There are huge areas in which young people should have a say. Further education has become horrendously expensive, even though there are provisions for, not interest free, but cheap loans for graduates. It only just about makes further education affordable. Surely, it can be argued that education is a fundamental human right not a privilege. Input from young people on issues surrounding the education system should be particularly valued now, as the pandemic has created the biggest disruption to the education system that has ever happened. Again, on such important issues as Britain's place in Europe is far more important to young people, as they will be ones to live with and indeed pay for good and bad decisions that have been made.

The primary indicator of success of a youth council is evidence of change, and one of the questions that's most frequently asked. When budgets are pressed, participation projects such as youth councils need to increasingly

prove their worth – rightly so. It must be challenging, influencing, and changing things that concern young people or why does it exist. Without cultural change, tangible change is at best challenging to achieve.

The youth council must be outward looking. Reaching out to other potentially partner organisations, like having a direct link to children's services. In addition, be able to adopt effective management methodology; having a master plan to deploy a thought through programme of activities and work throughout the year and ensure that meetings have a clearly defined purpose, as opposed to a directionless talking shop.

In Westgate the idea of a Youth Council is new and fresh. There are definitive stages of development from the inaugural meeting of interested persons. To develop a firmly established group to the emergence of a truly sustainable organisation, in its own right. This involves intensive working with young people, the group will need to receive induction training to include team building, meeting, communication skills and so on. Realistically to physically deliver this in a comprehensive and effective way Westgate has a need for a full-time youth professional. It is highly unlikely that this would be funded from the council tax budget but would look toward securing external funding, which has been very difficult to secure in recent times, as for the last year huge chunks of money normally earmarked for community projects have been diverted to assist the effort to combat the covid pandemic. This bid would initially be a five-year project and would link into Westgate Town Councils other ambitions with the newly acquired Lymington Road recreation ground and a Community Interest Company to manage such initiatives.

It is early days, but there is a new sense of optimism as we emerge from the gloom of the covid pandemic.

If your appetite has been wet by this exciting project feel free to contact David Donaldson of Westgate Town Council on **07977-544697**, or email him on **DDonaldson@westgateonsea.gov.uk**



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WTC Completes on Community Asset Transfers

The Community Asset transfers for the War Memorial Recreation Ground on Lymington Road and two shelters on Sea Road (one opposite Palm Court and the second opposite St Mildreds Road have now completed with the transfer of ownership passing to the Town from Thanet District Council. The legal transfer documents were signed in the office.

This is a great opportunity for the community of Westgate-on-Sea to learn and appreciate the benefits of community ownership and shape the future of the sites. We aim to encourage local people of all ages, abilities and interests to come along and get involved. This is an amazing opportunity to strengthen community cohesion and to promote sustainable living and learn new skills.

Rob Large, Director of Property Asset Management at Thanet District Council stated "We have worked closely with Westgate Town Council to enable this Community Asset Transfer to take place and are grateful to them for their positive input to ensure the transfer went through as smoothly as possible. We're very much looking forward to seeing how the community come together to shape the future use of the site for years to come."



Of course, with ownership comes responsibility and the Town Council would like to invite volunteers in the community to contact us as we want to undertake some immediate renovation works to enable the changing rooms to be utilised in time for football matches which are planned during the summer.

The Town Council will be carrying out consultation opportunities later in the summer and would urge all residents to get involved; the draft proposals for the site are hoped to enhance the landscape, improve biodiversity and renovate the facilities.

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After

Before

After

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What is Vision Zero?

This comes out of an International perspective on Vehicle and Road Safety. World leaders held a conference to address this. The result was the Stockholm Declaration 2020 which requires 50% reduction in fatalities by 2030 and to reach 0 (zero) by 2050.

The overall agreement is for safe systems and working towards the targets to achieve this. It was agreed that traffic deaths are preventable. The transport network is seen as a 'system' and there is a need to re-design the 'system' to protect users of roads and streets. The UK government is working in-line with this.

Consequently, Kent County Council is in-line with the UK government and is working to create a Safe System Approach. The busiest parts of the UK are in Kent - higher than some Metropolitan areas. The current strategy needs renewing and KCC are working to provide a framework for this vision and ambition for the future on our roads.

KCC are promoting the Vision Zero initiative on road safety and recently held a public consultation to get responses and feedback from Kent residents.

- Aim is for zero fatalities by 2050
- Belief is that traffic deaths are preventable
- Zero is the only justifiable fatality target for road traffic
- This initiative will be proactive to identify risks and take steps to prevent fatal injuries
- Aim to design a system that protects ALL people
 1. Develop a solution that takes into account that people make mistakes
 2. Safe Roads and Streets
 3. Safe Speeds
 4. Safe Behaviours
 5. Safe Vehicles
 6. Post-Collision Response/Support Victims
 7. Be proactive - not just reactive
- ALL means drivers of all types of vehicle, including farm vehicles; all pedestrians; cyclists; horse riders; dog walkers; runners/joggers etc reflecting safety on all roads in Kent wherever you live and work - not just on busy roads and motorways - but in all towns and villages including the rural areas.
- KCC, together with Kent Police, will be proactive in engaging with communities to research and pilot new innovative approaches

- The primary approach will be through engaging with communities and inviting participation in the decision-making process because road safety is a shared responsibility between road users, local community and highway authority.
- The aim is to change the culture of road users and achieve safer behaviours, habits and circumstances so that people can feel safe and have a good quality of life.

Westgate Town Council are happy to hear from you if you have any ideas or suggestions that will address local road safety issues. We can share these with our Kent County Councillors and County Highways Authority.

An important part of this is our own local Speedwatch Group. Now that Covid restrictions are lifting, this group is going out again to parts of our town to address speeding and act as a reminder to drivers to drive safely and within speed limits.

This group also needs the support of volunteers. So please get in touch if you have an hour to spare and can help us. Stay safe!

Post-box Toppers for Easter

I know Easter seems a long time ago now but we did want to thank our local talented knitter, Anne for her outstanding post-box toppers for Easter this year.

They always bring a smile to faces in the Town and we hope that you enjoyed them as much as we did!



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Annual Town Meeting v Statutory Annual Town Council Meeting

This is a very busy period of the year for Local Councils, there are two quite different meetings that must be held at this time.

Firstly, the Council needs to hold an annual statutory meeting to carry out those things that only need doing once a year. These include:

- Electing a Chairman
- Electing a Vice-Chairman (if the council wants to have one)
- Appointing committees

The Town Council held this on Zoom on Tuesday 4th May 2021 and Cllr Joanna Cornford was elected to continue as Chairman for 2021/22. The Committee membership was decided and the Town Council has resolved for the following committees for 2021/22 –

Finance & General Purposes Committee
Planning, Highways & Environment Committee
Human Resources Committee
Events, Tourism & Developments Sub-Committee of F&G Committee

There are other Steering Groups and Working Groups as required. The draft minutes for this meeting can be found on the Town Council website. The video recording can be found here <https://www.westgateonsea.gov.uk/community/westgate-on-sea-town-council-13327/full-council-2021/>

Secondly, there is the Annual Town or Parish Meeting. This is, in legal terms, a quite separate body from the Council, but it is invariably the Council that arranges it (simply because it is unlikely that anyone else will do so). Its decisions are not binding on the Council, though a wise Council will normally want to take heed of what is said at the meeting. It may help you to remember the difference between the two meetings if I explain that the Annual Parish Meeting is a legacy from the Middle Ages, when Local Councils did not exist, and all local decision making was carried out by meetings of the whole community, taking place in the church vestry. The Annual Town Meeting is open to all electors of our Town, who have the right not only to attend but also to speak on any matter of local interest.

This is in contrast to a Council meeting, where electors who are not Councillors have no automatic right to speak (though many councils do, of course, have a set time before, during or after the Council meeting when electors can raise matters of concern to them). This meeting has its own minutes, which should be kept separately from the Council minutes,

and these minutes can only be approved by the next Annual Town Meeting which will, of course, not be held until the following year.

The Annual Town Meeting must be held each year between March 1st and June 1st. The Town Council arranged and held the Annual Town Meeting this year on Zoom on 22nd April 2021 and the video recording can be found here - <https://www.westgateonsea.gov.uk/community/westgate-on-sea-town-council-13327/annual-town-meeting/>

The Annual Town Meeting lasted two hours and was informative and engaging, the guest speakers included Steve from Changing Minds CIC, Peter the Tree/Biodiversity Warden for Westgate and Mark the PCSO for Westgate.

This was the first year that the Town Council held Community Star Awards and in conjunction with Kent Association of Local Councils, Kent County Council and the High Sheriff of Kent awarded two volunteers in the community recognition for their contributions. There is a separate article for this part of the meeting in this issue, congratulations to all those awarded, well deserved.



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Welcome to our 9th issue of the Town Council magazine.

Last month we hosted the first ever 'Westgate-on-Sea Virtual Town Meeting', our Clerk has written an interesting article on parish and town council annual meetings. At the Annual Town Council Meeting councillors vote for their Chairman and Vice Chairman. The term 'Chairman' is not only historic it is prescribed within the legislation of the Local Government Act 1972 and is frequently truncated to 'Chair, as you will see.

This year most of my colleagues voted for me to continue as Chairman, and I would like to thank the Clerk for her dedicated and hugely supportive work as Town Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and a resident of Westgate-on-Sea. Without Gill's organised, reliable approach and inspirationally positive attitude, the Chairman's job would be a vastly different one. I also thank council Members for the time and effort they all put into the role they have taken on as Town Councillors. Some of these roles involve Chairing committees, voting on the committee Chairs is carried out at the individual committee meetings. This year the council Chairman is also Chairman of Human Resources (HR, formerly 'Personnel') with Cllr David Donaldson as Vice Chair, Planning, Highways & Environment (PH&E) Chairman is naturally Cllr Dr Hannah Scott with Cllr Helen Page as her Vice Chair. The Finance & General Purposes committee has not convened; however, Cllr Pauline O'Connor was re-appointed as Councillor Auditor to complement the internal audit process.

Earlier this year it was proposed to establish an Events, Tourism & Developments sub-committee, we hope this will attract residents, as non-members, willing to share their experience and skills to build a dedicated group, focused on promoting our town by staging events, such as the Scarecrow Festival (now an annual fixture) and developing the assets of the town, from May 2021 these include the Memorial Recreation Ground on Lymington Road.

In addition to our own election of Chairmen; on the 6th of May 2021 there were elections for District and County Councillors. Our District Councillors remain the same, but at Kent County level we congratulate Cllr Derek Crow-Brown and Cllr Linda Wright as the new KCC Councillors representing Westgate-on-Sea, which comes under the banner of 'Birchington and Rural'. Both councillors have already been in contact, and we look forward to an effective working relationship, benefitting both the Westgate Ward and Thanet as a whole (a Ward is a geographical area designated as a civil parish, district, or other, for electoral purposes).

Working together is invaluable, a recent example is the Parish Conference call, instigated by the District Council during the first lockdown of the pandemic. These calls have proved beneficial and will continue into the foreseeable future, providing significant

information sharing via Zoom and telephone, allowing parishes and towns to make their needs known directly to the District.

Another information hub for parish and towns is the long-standing Thanet Area Committee (TAC) the experienced Chairman of Birchington Parish Council is the present Chair of TAC. Every parish and town council votes to select two council members to attend these meetings. TAC members share expertise and work behind the scenes to achieve the best possible outcomes for concerns affecting Thanet's communities. The current focus for the group are the controversial planning applications, if we are to have new homes built the goal is to secure what is necessary, affordable, and suitable for our demographic, whilst at the same time safeguarding the assets of the area by enhancing and not destroying the existing wide open spaces, and accessible shorelines which make it so attractive to visitors and tourists, together with the abundant heritage, and the centuries of highly productive farming on the Isle of Thanet.

On the lighter side, life as a councillor is not all responsibility, legislation, and meetings to enable improvements, it can be fun and social improvements are created by both councillors and residents achieving together. Since the May magazine we have attracted a small increase in the number of volunteers for Westgate in Bloom (WiB) and the Great British Clean Up. Over the second May 2021 Bank Holiday weekend, WiB volunteers worked at installing tree guards and re-mulching the base of the young trees on Lymington Green, these have suffered vandalism and the enthusiastic attention of dogs. The Great British Clean Up volunteers removed multiple bags of general litter from West Bay and St. Mildred's Bay and during the first weekend in June there will be another assault on the litter within the town and on the south side of Westgate-on-Sea. The town council cannot over stress the need for residents to contact their landlords if they do not have refuse bin provision, if the landlord is not contactable then please get in touch with the town council officers. The street bins are for street rubbish and filling them with domestic waste only increases overspill, which is not only unsightly but unpleasant for those who clear it up.

Working together has very recently seen the planning of an event at the Community Centre on the 18th July 2021 when the Town Council, the Heritage Centre and the Action Group Against Housing Development will be undertaking something along the lines of a joint event, watch this space and believe that communities together can make a difference.



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26th June: Nick Evans will be here to sign copies of his new book about Cliftonville, and his best-selling Mayfair by the Sea, the Story of Westgate



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It has been a busy first half of the year at the allotments. Since the last newsletter in April we have welcomed four more plot holders and now have a total of 87 Plot Holders looking after 96 plots.

Waiting List

As of the end of May 2021 there are 26 Westgate residents on the waiting list and a further 23 people 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@westgateonsea.gov.uk with your name, email, address and contact telephone number.

Inspections and Working Group Meeting

At the end of April the Town Council and the Site Representatives walked around the allotments completing the first full inspection since July 2020. Overall the Allotment Gardens looked amazing, and it was great to see the different ways in which plot holders manage and grow fruit and vegetables on their plots.

The Allotment Working Group met for the first time in nearly a year on the 1st of June for an outdoor meeting (in line with Covid 19 guidelines) on the Allotment Association Plot. Minutes of the meeting will be made available on the Town Council Website. For more information please email finance@westgateonsea.gov.uk

St Crispin's School Visit

On Wednesday 26th May the Year 2 Children from St Crispins Infant School visited the allotments as a part of their class topic on how food grows. The children were given a short talk by the Site Representatives on the history of the site and then visited a number of plots to see how different fruits and vegetables grow. It was a great day enjoyed by both the children and the plot holders who took part. We look forward to the children visiting again next year.



Sunflower Competition

As part of Westgate in Bloom initiative the Town Council is holding its first ever Sunflower Competition! The Competition is for residents aged 13 and under and the categories include: Tallest, largest diameter head and best photo with your Sunflower.

Deadline for your photo entries is Friday 10th September 2021. For more information please email admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk



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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.

June

Westgate Summer Market
Planned for 11-13 June 2021

July

NHS, Social Care & Frontline Workers Day
Planned 5 July for 2021
Scarecrow Festival
Planned for 17-24 July 2021
Town Anniversary Day
Planned for 18 July 2021

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

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.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council

COMMUNITY SURGERY

3rd July 2021 — Cllr Nightingale and Cllr Page

4th September 2021 — Cllr Cornford and Cllr Donaldson

2nd October 2021 — Cllr Cornford and Cllr 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!



Seed Exchange Boxes have become very popular in the last few years. They are a great way for gardeners to get a variety of seeds for no cost! Seeds can be donated by local businesses, people who have surplus and by those who have carefully saved seeds from their own gardens/vegetable beds. The idea is to take what you need and pay back later with your own saved seeds when you can.

Thanks to Lorraine Hambidge of the Westgate-on-Sea Community Spirit Craft Group who, with support from the Town Council, Mother Karen from St Savior's Church and Thanet Sunrise Rotary Club, organised for Westgate to have its very own Seed Exchange Box.

Thanet Sunrise Rotary club member Randolph Bishop has been involved in making book exchange boxes with The Broadstairs Shed for some time and from this grew the similar idea for seed exchanges. The idea promotes community sharing and recycling, as it has with book exchanges. As a club, Thanet Sunrise felt this would be a positive new community project that they hoped would grow in popularity, and in April placed their first seed exchange box at St Thomas church in Minnis Bay.

President Caroline Winzer said: "The positive community response to our exchange at Minnis proved how many people appreciated the idea and it has been well used, so we were delighted to provide a second one for Westgate."

Thanet Sunrise Rotary, like all Rotary clubs nationwide supports their community through various events, projects, and fundraising and are currently volunteering at the NHS vaccine centres. They are hoping to return to their usual breakfast meetings at Westgate and Birchington Golf club soon. The new Seed Exchange Box can be found by the wall on the grounds of St Saviours Church just opposite the Town Council Office (78 St Mildreds Road). To access the Box please go through the church gates. They are open seven days a week.



It is a pleasure to be asked to write an article for Westgate Town Council Magazine.

I am PCSO Mark Vogle, the Police Community Support Officer for Westgate, Garlinge and Westbrook. Covering various wards in the Westgate area which is good news for myself and all of the local coastal area. You will see me out and about in Westgate, keeping everyone, business owners and you the residents up to date with Kent police activities.

I am very much hoping that being a visual presence in your community I can help to prevent any crimes before they happen.

Please stop me and have a chat. You may want to give me information regarding any problems in your community or if not just say hello and ask me any questions.

Margate Police Station Fort Hill is open Monday to Friday from 09.00-18.00. When the Station is shut there is a yellow phone attached to the wall that can be used to report any incidents with direct contact to Kent Police Control Room.

Kent Police have an on-line service where crimes can be reported via the Kent police web site. This is becoming ever more popular and is an additional service to the 101 and 999.

I will be holding my monthly Surgery at the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Offices and would like to thank all the Town Council for their hospitality in advance when I get the all clear from the current covid-19 restrictions to hold a Surgery. My Surgery's most likely time will be 10.30-11.30am where I will do my best to see everyone on a first come first served basis. Please keep an eye out in Town for posters, Twitter, and Kent Police Website for upcoming dates.

First Surgery of 2021 hopefully will soon be here.

Kent Police can be followed on Twitter @kentpolicethan

Kind Regards

PCSO Mark Vogle







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Hello & Welcome back to the Lodge!

Changing Minds Kent is a mental health community interest company that offers social inclusion support, community activities and training for people across Kent.

Our main hub and Social inclusion centre, The Lodge, based at 64 Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-sea has now officially reopened to the public as from 12th April. We have been so pleased to see so many familiar faces return to the centre after the last lockdown as well as new faces joining us for the many groups and drop-in sessions that we offer.

Our new activity schedule launches from Monday 24th May and includes arts & crafts groups, film club, community breakfast club, weekly bingo, quizzes and much, much more! This is all addition to Drop-in social session's that run daily from 12-3pm from Monday to Friday.

With restrictions slowly being lifted, we have many more plans in the pipeline, including fundraisers, day trips, BBQ, monthly disco and all being well, a holiday at the end of the year.

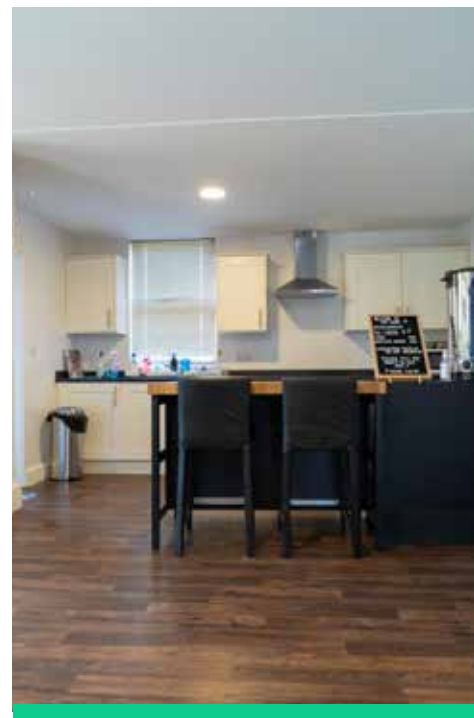


All our sessions are completely free to attend, just turn up and get involved! Bottomless tea & coffee is also provided for just £1 per person. We have a friendly team of staff and wellbeing champions here who are on hand to chat, get involved with activities or signpost to further support if needed.

We are lucky to have such a beautiful, calm, relaxing space and we cannot wait to share it with you all! We also offer free venue hire for Inclusive community groups, so please do get in touch with the project manager, Steve Migan if you would like to know more.

You can get in touch with us on:
Tel: **01843 835284**
Email: **Steve.migan@changingmindskent.co.uk**

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Rubbish and Recycling

I know we have lots of responsible residents and traders who dispose of their waste in the correct manner but equally we still have individuals who are blighting our area with discarded packaging, mixing domestic refuse in communal bins, fly tipping and litter.

We have the Great British Spring Clean period approaching and therefore I wanted to highlight some of the problems and hopefully advise on the issues that some people through volunteering are tackling to help improve our environment in the community.

The Town Council operates a top up cleansing service and we have additional public litter bins in various areas of the Town. We empty these at least three days a week and in peak season more often dependent on their location. We are still experiencing domestic waste being deposited in public litter bins, particularly in the centre of Town. This causes a few issues, firstly the bins are overflowing, sometimes within hours and secondly the seagulls do like to dive in and pull-out bags which can sometimes contain discarded food, dirty nappies and even used sanitary products! If you live in a property you should have your own means of domestic waste disposal, if you are a resident in a flat please contact your landlord or Thanet District Council to get advice for how this can be achieved and managed.

If you are a trader or business then you should have trade waste provision in place, it is not acceptable to deposit trade waste in a public litter bin. Thanet District Council do operate a cost effective commercial waste service – further details can be obtained by email – commercialwaste@thanet.gov.uk or visit the TDC website - <https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/commercial-waste-service/>

Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and is a constant draw on resources for the Town Council and Thanet District Council. Thanet District Council website has a reporting tool you can use but please be aware that the cleaning or maintenance of private land or unadopted alleyways are the responsibility of the private landowner. This is the link to the TDC website - <https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/fly-tipping/>

We all need to play our part in keeping our Town clean and tidy, please dispose of your rubbish responsibly. There are a vast range of services



online that Thanet District Council have for Waste and Recycling –

- You can check on service updates
- Find your collection day and information
- Report a missed bin
- Request a service either online or by telephone for bulky waste collection, assisted collection, clinical waste collection or garden waste collection.

This is the link to the TDC website - <https://www.thanet.gov.uk/services/waste-recycling-request-a-service/>

If you have large communal recycling and refuse bins please ensure that the correct items are deposited as mixing refuse can result in bins being left and this causes distress for elderly residents and those who want to keep a clean and tidy area where they live. TDC have lots of information on what should be placed in each bin/bag - <https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/what-goes-where-on-collection-day/>

Kent County Council have the Household Waste Recycling Centres open and if you wish to visit you must book a slot in advance, this is an easy process and the link you need is here - <https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/rubbish-and-recycling/household-waste-recycling-centres/visiting-a-hwrc-during-coronavirus>. There are also of course Freecycle and other organisations where you can advertise free items and our local Charity Shops are now beginning to open again so we can all recycle unwanted items and support a good cause at the same time.

If anyone in the community needs help with access to any of these services the Town Council is always happy to support and assist if you experience problems.



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Consultation for Litter Bins / Grit Bins

The Town Council has allocated funds from the capital project budget this year (2021/22) to meet the cost of additional litter bins and grit bins for Westgate.

There are proposals for additional grit bins to be purchased and installed and the locations will need to be agreed with Kent County Council. The Town Council is keen to hear from residents with suggested locations, if you live near a road/area that is particularly prone to ice/snow please do get in touch. There is a proforma below that you can use for the feedback, this can be either posted through the Town Council door or sent via email to admin@westgateonseas.gov.uk.

As the Town Council has now completed the Community Asset Transfer for the War Memorial Recreation Ground we are looking at the litter bin provision in the site. There is one plastic litter bin that has sadly been vandalised so it is proposed to replace this with a metal bin instead.

There does appear to be enough litter bins inside the play area and one in the skate park area. Therefore, it is proposed to have one additional litter bin placed on site for general litter and dog waste use. We would appreciate your feedback on our proposals for the site in relation to litter/dog waste bin provision.

Type of Bin	Proposed Location	Support?
Grit	End of Linksfield Road	
Grit	Belmont Road area	
Grit	Minster Road/Lymington Road	
Grit	Cambourne Avenue	
Litter/Dog Waste	Two at the War Memorial Recreation Ground, one to replace vandalised bin	
Litter/Dog Waste	Top of Belmont Road (near to field)	
Litter/Dog Waste	Ursuline Drive	
Litter/Dog Waste	Station Road/Roxburgh Road	

Do you have a suggestion for a new bin?

Just let us know your proposed location of the bin and also the type of bin needed.



Tree Wardens and the Tree Council

In the winter of 2021 Westgate Town Council set about recruiting a Tree Warden. By the spring they had recruited volunteer Peter Hasted, a Kent Tree and Pond Warden, who committed to ten hours a month to help ensure the conservation and maintenance of trees and shrubs on public land in the town of Westgate on Sea while encouraging biodiversity by educating the community with the support of the Town Council.

The Tree Council launched the Tree Warden Scheme in 1990 and co-ordinates the Scheme nationally. It works with local authorities, voluntary organisations, parish councils and local partnerships to set up and develop Tree Warden - networks in towns, cities and the countryside.

As local tree champions, Tree Wardens are the eyes and ears of their neighbourhoods, with community involvement being a central aim of the Scheme. Tree Wardens are encouraged to work with local schools and other youth groups, developing imaginative projects to encourage others to value the community's trees and woods. Involving children and youths in such projects has been proven to reduce vandalism.

To encourage local residents to endorse trees, Peter is Planning to lead guided tree walks around different parts of the town and will be promoting The Tree Council's 'National Tree Week', usually held during the last week on November - the best time to be planting trees.

Tree Wardens plant, protect and promote their local trees. No training or experience in tree management is needed – just a love of trees and a few hours to spare. So, if you would like to get involved please contact Peter via the Town Clerk.

Westgate's Tree Canopy

In a recent citizen science project hosted by Brillianto, Forest Research and Trees For Cities, Thanet's tree canopy was put at 10.8%, much higher than a previous Greenpeace study which put Thanet at a miserable 4.4%, one of the lowest tree canopy coverages in the whole of the UK.

While Thanet's tree canopy remains lower than the national average (between 13% and 16% depending on the source of the information), it is actually slightly higher than the national average for urban coastal zones which is currently at 10.4%.



However, if you look at the coverage in Thanet broken down into the district's wards, and look closer to home, we find that for Westgate on Sea the canopy is a meagre 6.8%.

This shocking revelation highlights the need not only to plant more trees in Westgate, but to also to protect the local tree stock from any further unnecessary decline.

Tree Charter

Before modern inks had been developed, all documents were written in Oak gall ink. Oak galls are produced when the oak gall wasp lays its egg on developing seed and, instead of an acorn being formed, it forms hard, round gall. The galls are crushed and consigned to being steeped in water so the dye leaches out, before being mixed with ferrous sulphate creating the ink that wrote such documents as the Magna Carta 1215 and subsequently the Charter of the Forest 1217.

The Tree Charter was launched in Lincoln Castle on 6 November 2017 on the 800th anniversary of the 1217 Charter of the Forest. The Charter for Trees, Woods and People sets out the 12 principles for a society in which people and trees can stand stronger together, which would be great for Westgate to adopt in a bid to help protect our trees.

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Defibrillators in Westgate

We are so pleased to confirm that the new Defibrillators are now installed, we hope that you have noticed them, and it is reassuring to know that should the situation arise the Town is well covered for such emergencies. Lorraine and Richard from the Community Spirit Craft Group are pictured with the new one at the Community Centre; this was a donated defibrillator from Thanet Community First Responders and the outdoor heated cabinet was funded through the crowd funding that was initiated by the Group.

Westgate community should be very proud, special thanks to all those who helped along the way with fund raising, including Little Brown Fairy Cake, Krusty Kobb Bakery, Bethany's Sandwich bar and Westgate Matters. Also a big thank you to the hosts of the Defibrillators, the Westgate on Sea Community Centre Association on Lymington Road, the Fish Inn on Cambourne Avenue, South Eastern Railway at Westgate train station and the St Mildreds Bay (this will be installed when the building works are completed).

The Town Council is proud to have supported such an important initiative and also want to thank Thanet Business Network and ELS Electrical for the sponsorship for the installation of the new outdoor heated cabinets at the Westgate train station, the Fish Inn and Community Centre. The St Mildreds Bay are sponsoring the installation of the defibrillator and cabinet on their premises. Dave who is a representative of the Thanet Business Network is pictured with the newly installed defibrillator and outdoor heated cabinet at Westgate Train Station.



Of course the most important aspect going forward is the training of residents in the use defibrillators and the practice of CPR, this does ensure that you are confident should you be faced with an emergency situation and have to wait for the emergency services to attend.

The Town Council will be facilitating free training sessions in the coming months and invite the Thanet Community First Responders to venues to share this valuable life skill with the community.

Please do keep an eye on our website and in this magazine for updates with dates and details in due course.

Wake up to... Weekly Networking

TBN is a group of Thanet and East Kent companies providing quality trades & services. We work together, recommend each other, and support local charities and causes, including the recent installation of five defibrillators in and around Westgate.

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- Regular social events

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This is the first year of the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Community Star Awards. These awards were presented to members of the community in recognition of their hard work, dedication and the contribution they have made to the Town and its residents. This year they recognise those who went above and beyond supporting residents who were shielding during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lorraine and Richard Hambidge

Lorraine and Richard both volunteer individually and together for the Town. They both had the idea for the first ever Scarecrow Festival for the Town last year in July. Richard kindly helped to reset the computers donated to the Computers for School scheme. He also helped to weed, dig and plant for a number of Westgate in Bloom Project sites. Richard's woodwork skills were put to good use making a wonderful wooden train for the Train Station's 150th Anniversary and Poppies for the Paint the Town Poppy Red project.

Lorraine, the founder of the Community Spirit Craft Group, has been busy fundraising this year. She smashed the target of £600 for a new defibrillator cabinet resulting in not one but three outdoor heated cabinets and a new defibrillator for the Town being purchased (one defibrillator was donated by Thanet Community First Responders). As well as organising the Poppies for Remembrance Sunday, Lorraine got sewing and made hundreds of scrubs, facemask and ear protectors for NHS Staff and frontline workers during the pandemic.

Ray and Christina Taylor

Two of the first to volunteer when the Covid 19 Pandemic began Ray and Christina went out of their way to deliver food and prescriptions to shielding residents. They were invaluable to the Town Council on days when we were receiving 20-30 different requests for support/shopping/prescriptions.

Their support for the Town did not start with Covid 19, both Ray and Christina have always been on hand to help set up and clear up for Town events, litter pick and do gardening for the Westgate in Bloom projects. Ray set up Fixology, a scheme to both help residents learn new skills whilst upcycling second-hand goods and doing jobs around the community. Currently on hold due to Covid we look forward to seeing this restart again in the future.

Bronwen Wood

Bronwen has been a key member of the community for many years, volunteering and supporting the Town residents through her work at the Community Centre or running the church playgroup.

This year she has assisted many of Westgate Residents through the pandemic. As well as shopping trips and prescription collections, she has also phoned those residents in her area every week for over a year to check they were well.

Kaye Nightingale

Kaye has been a massive support to residents of Westgate as well as the Town Council. She has often helped others without a moment's notice by assisting to field requests for the Town Council with her husband. She has volunteered for the Westgate Heritage Centre and the Speedwatch initiative.



Kaye Nightingale who received the WOSTC Community Star Award

Steve Migan

Steve has worked tirelessly for the community and the work he does for Changing Minds Kent CIC running the Social Inclusion Centre, "The Lodge" has been an incredible source of support to the vulnerable. During the Covid 19 pandemic he set up "Lifeboat Project" and helped organise free food parcels to those who were struggling financially as well as contacting and supporting residents with their mental health in what has been a challenging time for all.

When not dealing with matters arising from restrictions and lockdowns, Steve is running activities at The Lodge such as gardening, sports, mindfulness, cookery and more to help residents connect with others and improve their wellbeing. Steve also ran initiatives such as ensuring that every child had access to a healthy pack lunch during the school holidays and Easter Egg donations.

Mike Wiseman

Mike has created an incredible art collection in both the West Bay and St Mildreds Bay shelters on the promenade and was instrumental in organising the watering for the beds in the Memorial Sea Road gardens last summer.



Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Community Award

We also had the pleasure of presenting two KALC Community Award Certificates. These certificates were an acknowledgement of the hard work given by volunteers to support and improve their local area. Both Mike Wiseman for Phil Toghill were nominated for their fantastic work they have done on upgrading both the Shelter on the cliff top at St Mildreds Bay and the Sun Deck/Shelter at West Bay. Our environmental and social wellbeing heroes. Initiating and delivering projects to improve our historic coastline attractions; providing restful contemplation, exercise and social interaction for the benefit of residents and visitors.



Steve Migan with his Community Star Award



Phil Toghill who received the KALC Community Award



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The Rotary Club of Westgate & Birchington celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a virtual ceremony on Zoom. Forty members and guests attended and first held a minute's silence for Past President Roger Hobcraft, who died recently, and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of London)

After the Loyal Toast, the President of the Rotary Club of Margate explained how their "daughter club", Westgate & Birchington was founded on 20th April 1971 and Founder Member, Gerry Abrahams, gave a short talk about the activities of the new Club in the 70's.

The Club is twinned with the Rotary Clubs of Darmstadt, Germany and Poitiers, France and their Presidents were able to bring greetings and congratulations thanks to the wonder of Zoom. The Presidents of other Rotary Clubs in Thanet also brought their greetings and the Rotary District Governor, Brian Dunne, proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of Westgate & Birchington.



The Club's President, Chris Hedges, responded by narrating a slideshow of photographs depicting people and events from 1971 to the present day. This presentation can be viewed by clicking the

link on the Club website at www.wb-rotary.co.uk where there is a large amount of information about the activities of the Club.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Rotary is invited to visit the website or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WB.RotaryUK> and then contact the Secretary or President for further information.



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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:
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We can't wait to see you all soon!

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Westgate-on-Sea Councillor Contacts



Cllr Joanna Cornford
Chairperson

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

Contact: 07896 092324

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Cllr Pauline O'Connor
Vice Chairperson

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

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Cllr David Donaldson

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

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Cllr Timothy Green

Appointed Committee:
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Cllr Roy Nightingale

Appointed Committee:
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Cllr Helen Page

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Cllr Martyn Pennington

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

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Cllr Dr Hannah Scott

Appointed Committee:
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Cllr Matthew Scott

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N/A

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Cllr David Wallin

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District & County Councillors

Cllr Sam Bambridge

District Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea Ward

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Email: cllr-sam.bambridge@thanet.gov.uk

Cllr Bertie Braidwood

District Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea Ward

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Cllr Matthew Scott

District Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea Ward

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Cllr Derek Crow-Brown

County Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea which forms part of Division

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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, Lymington
- 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)

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