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TOWN COUNCIL MAGAZINE





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Twitter: @WestgateonSeaTC
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You don't have to be interested in politics or be a member of a political group to become a Town Councillor.

As a Town Councillor, you become a voice for your community and if you think you have what it takes to contribute to the growing success of Westgate on Sea Town Council then we want to hear from you. There are currently two vacancies and the Town Council is keen to find out about your skills and experience that could help expand the existing expertise of its membership.

If you are interested in serving as a Town Councillor and have passion and time, please send a written expression of interest to the Town Clerk along with a short personal statement/CV giving reasons why you are interested in joining the Town Council and what particular skillset and experience you feel you can bring to the role.

You will need to check that you meet the qualification for standing and are not at risk of disqualification – this link explains more from the Electoral Commission - https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdf_file/Part-1-Can-you-stand-for-election-P-and-C.pdf

The closing date for the written submission of interest is Friday 17th December 2021 at 4pm.

Town councillors will consider submissions at a meeting date to be confirmed.

You can contact Gill Gray, Town Clerk by email: townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk.

Address: 78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate on Sea CT8 8RF Telephone: **01843 836182**; if you want to visit the office to discuss you are welcome.

More details can be found on the Town Council Website - www.westgateonsea.gov.uk or speak to one of our current Town councillors about the role.



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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), a sub-committee of the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council, chaired by Cllr Dr Hannah Scott with support from Town Councillors and community members. The NP has been prepared through consultation with residents utilising the feedback at the initial meeting.

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.

This is the first opportunity to comment on the draft document and the feedback will be used to revisit the plan before it progresses to Thanet District Council for the next stage. The NP will then undergo independent examination before finally going to a local referendum. If the NP is passed at a local referendum it will then be 'made' by Thanet District Council and will become part of the Development Plan alongside the TDC Local Plan.

The NP outlines the proposed vision and objectives for the town and is split into eight themes which the survey uses to seek your views on individual aspects of the draft NP. The themes are design, economy, heritage, sustainability, green space, biodiversity and facilities. Each theme is supported by proposed planning policies and which are holistically grouped. Section 18 of the draft NP then contains details of the Community Actions which are strategies for managing other important aspects of the town that are not under planning law.

The Town Council is now progressing the Westgate Neighbourhood Plan to the Regulation 14 Consultation as per The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 which was launched on 24th September 2021. There is an 8-week period for consultation which ends on 19th November 2021 at 5pm; we are pleased to be working with Goldstone Town Planning and Breakthrough Communications who have provided a digital formal survey and virtual consultation events.



The Town Council has hosted two face to face consultation events, one at the Westgate on Sea Community Centre on Lymington Road on Sunday 26th September and the second at the Christ Church URC on Westgate Bay Avenue on Wednesday 29th September. Details of the consultation and survey are available on our website - <https://www.westgateonsea.gov.uk/community/westgate-on-sea-town-council-13327/neighbourhood-plan/>

- posted on our Facebook page and we have delivered a leaflet to households as well to mark the consultation launch. There are printed copies of the survey available for residents who are not able to access the online version, these can be collected from our office at 78 St Mildreds Road or we can assist you at the office to complete online.

There are 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. If these times are not convenient please do contact us to arrange an appointment outside these hours.

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 me, Gill Gray the Town Clerk by email townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk or phone the office on 01843 836182.



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Hello, my name is Jan. I am a Neighbourhood Watch and Thanet NW Committee member and have recently joined the WTC monthly Community Clinics to promote the benefits of living in a NW area.

The aim of Neighbourhood Watch is to share advice on how individuals can keep themselves, their home and property as safe as possible. In the event of any crime, this must be reported to the Police. We liaise regularly with them to be kept up to date with relevant crimes that may be happening in the area and this information is then shared out amongst the coordinators, who subsequently inform the homes that are within the scheme and covered by that volunteer.

I have left booklets called 'Stay Safe' in the WTC office; if you wish to call in and collect one outside of the clinic mornings and if you are interested in becoming a volunteer for the scheme, please leave your details with one of the Admin Team at the Town Council and I can forward a registration form. The time commitment is minimal but you do need to be online as that is how information is shared by Kent Police.



Any further information about Neighbourhood Watch can be found at www.ourwatch.org.uk and you can also sign up via this website.

Any further queries, please come along to the monthly Community Clinic for a chat.



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I have worked for hospices and gained my Diploma Level 3 in Health and Social Care that I completed to apprenticeship level including Mathematics and English.

I am also DBS checked and fully insured.

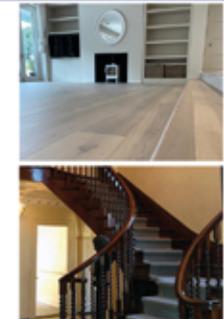
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On Sunday 3rd October the Westgate and Garlinge Action Group Against Housing led a community walk through the fields surrounding Westgate to raise awareness of the 2,000 new residential units proposed in the planning application by Millwood Designer Homes.

In attendance were Thanet District Councillors Pauline Farrance, Mike Garner, and Matthew Scott, alongside committee members from the action group.

Participants were invited to discuss the planning application and share their concerns. Issues raised included the detrimental impact to the environment (such as pollution and the heightened risk of flooding) as well as pressure on existing infrastructure (increased road traffic and the oversubscription of local services). Another matter highlighted was housing affordability and availability for local residents. The leading concern was the potential loss of Grade One agricultural land, currently producing high-yielding and sustainably grown food crops.

The walk also included stops for discussion at key areas – one being the fifteenth-century Dent-De-Lion gatehouse. As well as reducing the view of this scheduled monument from the public footpath – a route densely populated by diverse wildlife and enjoyed by many people in the community – attendees commented that archaeological history lying beneath the new building sites may be damaged or destroyed.

Beginning at the Westgate Community Centre, the group walked to Minster Road before heading eastwards towards Dent-De-Lion Road. Phases 1-5 of the proposed development were viewed and a further walk is planned to visit Phase 6. Please do join us. Join the Facebook group Westgate and Garlinge Action Group Against Housing Development. Follow on Twitter @OurWestgate #saveourfields. Email saveourfields2021@gmail.com.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 20th Nov: Murder Mystery Eve. Profits will go to campaign funds.

Sunday 28th November: Community Action day across Kent. Full details to follow. In addition to Facebook and Twitter there is now a Campaign A BOARD situated at the bus stop near the Charlton Cinema.

Jennifer Edgecombe



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Come & Enjoy a 2 course authentic supper with live music and question the suspects.

Bring your own wine while you solve the crime!

Date:- Saturday 20th November

Arrive 6:45pm
Event starts at 7pm - 10pm
1920's Attire is optional
Westgate Community Centre, Lymington Road.

£25 per person
(Guests are seated on tables of 6)
Tickets on sale at
Bethany's Sandwich Bar & Cafe
Email Saveourfields2021@gmail.com
Telephone 07968 544825



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Community Connectors is a new pilot service now available in Westgate-on-Sea.

Part of the Community Warden Service, Community Connectors support people over 65 who are feeling lonely or socially isolated.

Mandy and Karl are the friendly KCC Community Connectors for Westgate. They are highly trained Community Wardens and Health Coaches with a wealth of experience in welfare visits, multi-agency working and community safety.

Using Social Prescribing, Mandy and Karl help and support clients to build confidence to reconnect with activities and events in the local area and feel part of the community. They challenge the disconnection, loneliness and isolation that many older people experience and support clients to reconnect, be active and have purpose.

The service is free and confidential and is available for people over the age of 65.

Once a Community Connector has been allocated, there will be up to 12 weeks of one-to-one support to help clients improve their own personal wellbeing.

Mandy says, 'We have been welcomed into Westgate and have started to work with some of Westgate's residents. We have been Community Wardens for 4 years and are currently supporting Westgate as Community Connectors as part of a Pilot funded by Intereg where we are working with people over the age of 65 who live in Westgate-on-sea to help combat social isolation and loneliness and help them build confidence to improve their own health and wellbeing'.

If you or someone you know would be interested in finding out more, please contact Community Connectors on: community.connectors@kent.gov.uk or find at more at:

www.kent.gov.uk/communityconnectors

Mandy and Karl look forward to hearing from and working with the residents of Westgate-on-Sea.

COMMUNITY CONNECTORS
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- Increase self-confidence and self-esteem
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Our Positive Wellbeing service is available in Westgate-On-Sea and your Community Connectors are Mandy & Karl.



HELPING YOU RECONNECT

Our highly trained Community Connectors, from the Community Warden service, do what it takes to support you to live well at home and be part of your community. They challenge the disconnection, loneliness and isolation that many older people experience and support you to reconnect, be active and have purpose - your own way.

Kent County Council's Community Connectors provide free, confidential, one-to-one positive wellbeing support for up to 12 weeks.

If you are over 65 and would like our support (or want to refer someone else who is over 65), please contact us.

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Shoreline's Galleries on the Beautiful Isle of Thanet

Sarah Gibbon and Vivienne Rose are the trading partnership called Shoreline. After both moving to Westbrook Bay, following successful careers at Goldsmiths, University of London for over 30 years, they decided to follow their dreams and set up a creative business together.

They wanted to work with and for local artists, makers and creatives in their new community in Thanet and across Kent. After the creation of a business model that they felt was fair to the artists and would deliver a unique shopping experience they set about looking for premises. Having already established a well-received makers' market (Margate Made) in the previous year, and once the word was out that they were looking, they were approached to lead The Eclectic Art Gallery in Margate's historic Old Town.

Established in 2016 by an artists' collective, The Eclectic Art Gallery has contributed to the development of Margate as a must-see venue for locals, visitors and tourists interested in art and creativity. From 1st September 2019, Sarah and Vivienne have helped the resident group of artists to expand the range of art on sale, to run commercially successful exhibitions and other activities. The gallery's mission is to affordably showcase the talents of Kent-based artists, with regularly changing displays to appeal to everyone. In an intimate space on the ground floor of in the picturesque Crown Chambers building close to the Turner Contemporary Gallery, Eclectic's group exhibit and sell their contemporary original oil, acrylic and watercolour paintings, ceramics, mixed media, jewellery, digital and traditional photography, and textiles. They also sell prints and cards. The gallery is open Wednesdays to Sundays, 11am to 5pm and is a short stroll from the rail station, along the sea front, with car-parking and bus routes nearby.

Still looking for that extra space to offer more local makers and artisans as well as fine artists the opportunity of a supportive and reasonably priced way to exhibit and sell their work, they continued looking across Thanet and viewed a number of commercial properties until finally settling on Westgate-on-Sea. They fell in love with 29 Station Road as soon as they saw the front window, the canopied row of independent shops, and the bright and airy interior which offered the potential for the type of venture they had in mind. There was no precedent in Westgate for this type of independent retail gallery and they felt that this could be an untapped opportunity, on one of Thanet's most thriving high streets. Westgate Galleria opened in November 2019 after receiving an exciting and enthusiastic response from lots of local artists, makers and creatives who wanted to be part of this new venture.

Nearly two years on, and having weathered the special challenges of 2020/21, the Galleria is a popular gallery and gift shop that stocks a wide range of unique and beautifully made original art and artisan-made accessories, products for the home, the collector and for gifting, alongside greetings cards and prints. All work is designed and handmade by independent artists and small creative business owners, offering Shoreline's customers the unique shopping experience that Sarah and Vivienne are proud to invite our readers to enjoy. Parking nearby is free and Westgate's rail station and bus stops are just a few minutes' walk away.

Both galleries host guest exhibitions which change every month. These attract both established artists and those who are new to exhibiting. It is a strength of the business that Sarah and Vivienne take the time and effort to support those who are new to exhibiting and selling, working collaboratively with them to take the stress and worry out of learning how to put on a show early in their artistic careers.

Both gallery spaces are flourishing and are attracting new artists and makers to join their groups every day. Many of Shoreline's artists, makers and creatives were very productive over the lockdowns and there are always interesting new products on display and for sale. Sarah and Vivienne are currently planning for the time they can return to running the Margate Made events, re-opening bookings for the workshop, course and meeting spaces they have created at Westgate Galleria; and also running some further larger scale exhibitions across Thanet that will showcase the work of the artists, makers and creatives they work with. They are currently helping to set up the town's new Business Forum, and are actively involved in the Shop Locally initiative and the local Fiver Fest project.

Talking to Sarah and Vivienne they expressed how much they have enjoyed becoming part of Westgate's community, and the huge satisfaction it gives them to be able to proactively support and encourage the creative population of this wonderful part of Thanet. They are currently working with over 70 artists, makers and creatives from across Kent, including many living in or near Westgate and would welcome anyone who is interested in joining their galleries to contact them for information on their very attractive space rental packages.

More details can be found on their website: www.shorelinepartners.co.uk or you can pop in to see them at Westgate Galleria on 29 Station Road, or email them on: shorelinepartners1@gmail.com



Westgate Galleria

A locally-run gallery and gift shop showcasing the talents of a group of independent Kent-based artists, makers and creatives

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Saturday Surgery and Community Clinic

The Town Council is delighted to recommence our regular programme of Saturday Surgeries and Community Clinics.

Saturday Surgeries take place on the first Saturday of each month from 10am to 11.15am. Two town Councillors attend the Saturday Surgery, no appointment is necessary, and all meetings are confidential. Whether it is to raise concerns or issues, offer ideas or opinions, criticize or praise, all Westgate residents are welcome.

Community Clinics take place on the third Wednesday of each month from 10am to 12noon and are an opportunity to meet with Westgate's Community Warden, PCSO, Neighbourhood Watch representative and our Community Connectors.

Both events take place in the Town Council offices, and the next opportunities to attend will be:

Community Clinic

Wednesday 15th December 10am to 12noon
 Wednesday 19th January 10am to 12noon
 Wednesday 16th February 10am to 12noon

Saturday Surgery

Saturday 4th December 10am to 11.15am
 Saturday 8th January 10am to 11.15am
 Saturday 5th February 10am to 11.15am



COMMUNITY CLINIC

15 DECEMBER 2021 10AM - 12NOON
 19 JANUARY 2022 10AM - 12NOON
 16 FEBRUARY 2022 10AM - 12NOON

A drop in surgery to connect with your local PCSO, Community Warden, Neighbourhood Watch and Kent Fire & Rescue representatives

AT WESTGATE-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
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Events, Tourism & Developments Sub-Committee

Recently the Town Council has introduced the Events, Tourism & Development Sub-Committee following the pandemic.

The idea is to bring planning and structure to town events ensuring that a sensible and gathered team is working together for the sole benefit of the community.

The Committee is made up of myself Cllr Tim Green as Chairperson, Cllr David Donaldson as Vice Chairperson, Cllr Joanna Cornford, Cllr Roy Nightingale, Cllr Pauline O'Connor and Chloe Wheatley the Finance Assistant.

The Committee meets once a month to discuss, plan and invite prospective events to work together for the betterment of the town.

At present there are a number of events planned or in the early stages of planning for the next 12 months.

- Remembrance Sunday
- Christmas Fair and Lights Switch On
- Pancake Races 2022
- Westgate day 2022
- Zoom Food Market on the green Sea Road as this was popular this summer in 2021
- Makers Market
- Queens Platinum Jubilee, picnic and beacon lighting

The recently formed Westgate Business Forum also have links to the Committee and we welcome residents who want to be involved.

Westgate residents are invited to attend meetings to see what goes on, we meet the first Thursday of each month at the Town Council office at 4pm. The public are also actively encouraged to attend if they wish to speak or have an idea they wish to put to the Council via the Town Clerk; you can email Gill Gray – townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk

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Fiver Fest – Supporting Your Local High Street

From October 9 to 23, independent small businesses in Westgate and across Thanet took part in the Isle's first 'Fiver Fest'.

Fiver Fest was an opportunity for independent businesses to offer £5 bargains to local shoppers. Part of the Totally Locally campaign, the aim was for independent businesses to use their collective power to encourage shoppers back to town centres, to say thank you to customers who supported them during periods of Covid restrictions and to prove that smaller high street retailers can compete with the online giants and out-of-town supermarkets.

22 of Westgate's independent traders were involved. Two of the team of Totally Locally volunteers, Sarah and Vivienne from Westgate Galleria, were interviewed by BBC Radio Kent and Academy FM about the fabulous bargains Westgate's shoppers throughout the town were enjoying, with something for everyone including Halloween packs, breakfast and lunch treats, creative hand-made products and cocktails and beer special offers.

It is estimated that if every adult in Westgate spent £5 per week in local independent shops and businesses, the yearly contribution to the town's economy would be £1.4million. This cash boost would lead to increased local jobs, a more vibrant high street and higher footfall in our town centre.

Adam Taylor, owner of The Classroom Books & Tuition on Station Road, said, 'Fiver Fest was a great opportunity to showcase the talent amongst the independent retailers in Westgate town centre. Customers have been positive in supporting the town and it's been fantastic to engage with the community and show them how wonderful our local retailers are'.

A Shop Local Westgate-on-Sea Facebook page has been set up for Westgate's locals to join and find out more about what their high street's traders and the Totally Locally volunteers are planning over the next few months.



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We are Westgate-on-Sea Business Forum (WBF) bringing together small independent businesses to support each other and the community.

WBF had its first meeting during the first lockdown and has been meeting online every month over this very challenging period. The limitations of virtual meetings and the difficulties faced by individual business owners has meant that the Forum has developed slowly over the last 18 months. However, on the 20 September we finally had our first meeting in person and were pleased to see how many people turned up.

What is the WBF?

We are a voice of the business sector in Westgate-on-Sea and exist to help businesses be the best they can be. The WBF allows local businesses to help themselves and their local economy by supporting each other and becoming a facilitating body for growth in the area. Encouraging local businesses to expand and new businesses to open creating additional employment opportunities.

The regular meetings allow representatives to undertake informal networking, listen to interesting presentations, take part in open discussions of local issues and future plans. It also provides an opportunity to let the Council and other local public bodies know how they can best help the local business community to achieve their goals. Ensuring that they play their part in listening to our needs and helping create the right environment for local businesses to succeed. The WBF allows local businesses an opportunity to influence future decisions.

Recent projects supported by the WBF

The WBF has been actively supporting the Westgate-on-Sea Fiver Fest in October as part of the Totally Locally nationwide initiative. The next Fiver Fest will take place in February 2022.

At our last meeting we received an update on the Christmas Lights event taking place on the 5 December. Many of our members are actively involved in either organising or taking part in this event and we are looking forward to it being as successful as it has been in previous years.

What is next for the WBF?

We are currently working on registering as a CIC (Community Interest Company). This will allow WBF to access more formal channels, apply for funding grants etc. It will also provide a structure to ensure that the WBF continues to work for the good of the business and local community and not for any individual.

We will be developing a website to keep our local community, and those further away, up to date with WBF projects. It will also provide a Business Directory for our members providing a free online listing and website link. We are considering some very innovative ideas, generated at the recent meeting, and how we can take develop these to increase footfall, customer loyalty and sales.

Are you a local business in Westgate-on-Sea?

If you are interested in joining the WBF you can contact us at memberships@mywestgate.co.uk or through our Facebook page (Westgate-on-Sea Business Forum). We want all businesses in Westgate-on-Sea not just to survive but to thrive.





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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!



December

Saturday Surgery

Saturday 4th December 2021 10am to 11.15am

With Cllr Cornford & Cllr Donaldson at the Town Council Office

Westgate-on-Sea Christmas Fayre and Light Switch-On

Sunday 5th December 2021

Christmas Craft Fayre & Market

Sunday 12th December 2021

Westgate and Garlinge Action Group Against Housing Development will be holding a Christmas Craft Fayre and Market on 12 December from 10am to 4pm. This will take place in the Westgate Community Centre, all welcome.

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.



Westgate & Garlinge Action Group Against Housing Development Committee

Christmas Craft Fayre and Market

12th December
10am till 4pm

Westgate Community Centre,
Aynington Road

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SATURDAY SURGERY

Saturday 4 December 2021

Saturday 8 January 2022

Saturday 5 February 2022

10.00am to 11.15am

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YOU DECIDE THE TOPIC OF CONVERSATION

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Westgate-on-Sea Town Council

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Westgate in Bloom Awards 2021

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

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. Entries are awarded a level of achievement from Level 1 (Establishing) to Level 5 (Outstanding).

On 13th July, Judge Jean Griffin came 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. On 15th September South & South East in Bloom held an online Award Ceremony which was attended by Councillor Joanna Cornford on behalf of Westgate in Bloom.

Entry 1 – Westgate-on-Sea Community Spirit (Planters on Cambourne Avenue)

The planters on Cambourne Avenue made by one of the Community Spirit Craft group volunteers and the flowers which are cared for by the staff of the Fish Inn and Bethany's Café received the Level 3 Award (Advancing).



Entry 2 – Westgate-on-Sea Allotment Association (Lymington Road Allotment Gardens)

The Town Council and the Allotment Association help to manage the Community Plot which is used to grow and nurture trees and plants which go on to be planted in the community as well as hosting visiting school trips. This year the Westgate-on-Sea Allotment Association received a level 4 award (Thriving) for their hard work.



Entry 3 – Westgate-on-Sea Lymington Green (Community Centre)

In 2020 two new Wildflower beds were created on Lymington Green in conjunction with Thanet District Council which were a huge hit with residents and pollinators alike. In addition, accessible picnic benches were installed and 21 trees were planted and protective cages built earning the Lymington Green a Level 4 Award (Thriving).



Entry 4 – Sea Road Gardens

The flower beds on Sea Road are looked after by a small team of volunteers who gave up time last summer to plant out and water. Volunteers also installed small perch benches on the lower part of the gardens so that visitors could sit and rest along the way. In addition, two banks were planted with Wildflowers in the War Memorial Gardens and some remedial works took place in support of Westgate in Bloom, such as repairing of shelters and creating safer slope access. Thanks to all this hard work Sea Road achieved a Level 4 Award (Thriving).



Entry 5 – Westgate-on-Sea Train Station

With huge support from Southeastern Railway, Network Rail, its volunteers and the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust, Westgate in Bloom, created pollinator friendly flower beds at the Train Station. New wall flowers were added last year and these provided a beautiful display in the spring. The Train Station was awarded Level 2 (Improving).



Entry 6 – Westgate Business Group (Station Road, Cuthbert Road and St Mildreds Road)

The Town's planters have been added to this year with a new planter being placed on Cuthbert Road. These are maintained and watered by local businesses. The high street planters were awarded a Level 4 (Thriving).



Westgate in Bloom 2022

If you are interested in volunteering next Spring then please email: admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk

We want to enter Parish in Bloom next year for the whole community and will need extra support and engagement; if you have a business and want to get involved please contact Gill Gray (Town Clerk) by email: townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Recycling at the Town Council

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council, in conjunction with TerraCycle, offers free recycling programmes that collect hard-to-recycle waste. These programmes offered by TerraCycle are funded by brands, manufacturers and retailers to help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. We currently collect:

Bread Loaf Bags



The Bread Bag Recycling Programme recycle your bread loaf bags and turn them into new products such as outdoor benches as well as sheeting and film for the agricultural industry.

Once collected, the bread bags are shredded, washed and then pelletised. These pellets can be used for a number of moulded rigid plastic products.

Walkers Crisps



Every year countless crisp packets end up in landfill sites across the UK. Working with Walkers TerraCycle are preventing this resource from ending up at landfill.

Once collected, the crisp packets are separated by plastic type, cleaned, and extruded into plastic pellets to make new recycled products.

KP Nuts, Popcorn, Crisps and Pretzels

This recycling scheme allows us to recycle any nut, popcorn or pretzel packaging including Hula Hoops, Pombears, Tyrrells and Butterkist. Supermarket own brands are welcome too.

Once collected, the aggregated nuts, popcorn, crisps and pretzels packets are sorted, shredded and washed. The material is then densified into hard-granulated plastic granules. The granules are then extruded so they can be incorporated into the production of different plastic products such as fence posts and benches.



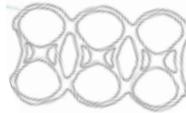
The Pladis Biscuits and Snacks

Recycle your cracker, cake bar and biscuit wrappers. Brands include Carrs, Go Ahead, McVitie, Jacobs and supermarket own brands.

Once collected, the biscuit, cracker and cake wrappers are cleaned and melted into hard plastic that can be remoulded to make new recycled products.



Ring Carriers



Recycle flexible ring carriers keeping them out of landfill. All flexible plastic ring carriers used to hold cans are accepted. Please note plastic outer packaging is not accepted.

Once collected, the ring carriers are shredded, washed and then pelletised. These pellets can be used for a number of moulded rigid plastic products like benches, or used as film for products such as rubbish bags.

TerraCycle Points System

By partnering with TerraCycle, each time we send off a box of recycling, the Town Council receives points as a reward. These points can be transferred into funds for selected TerraCycle schools, charities and Non-Profit organisations. This way not only can we help the environment, but we can support other causes too! In October we were able to collect enough points to send £56.89 to the Children in Need.

Batteries and Ink Cartridges

The Town Council also collect used batteries and ink cartridges (not through TerraCycle). Funds raised from Ink Cartridges goes to Hungry UK and from used batteries goes to Food Bank UK.

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On behalf of the town council, officers, and members - welcome to the eleventh edition of our newsletter. In each issue we hope to engage with more and more residents as it is you who drive the achievements of the Town Council.

In August I reported the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) was nearing completion and in September we held two consultation meetings, the first was on Zoom the second at the United Reform Church and by the time this newsletter goes to print, a third will have taken place at the Town Council office. Your responses to the consultation survey are vital, the deadline is 5pm 19th November 2021. The 'made' NP will provide us with the legal power to ensure appropriate development is delivered in Westgate on Sea. The number of houses and the exact location are the business of the Local Plan, provided by Thanet District Council (TDC) and without a Local Plan developers would be able to build without any restraints. An NP provides policies on many aspects including overall design, open spaces, and the preservation of heritage, without which Westgate on Sea's unique character could be lost.

The new post office location reported on in the previous newsletter, is now thriving thanks to everyone's patronage.

This September we were invited to comment on the second consultation for the active travel scheme put forward by Kent County Council (KCC) in response to the government's Active Travel Fund, funding intended to provide improved walking and cycling facilities. The first consultation for the Thanet Scheme (there were seven Kent wide, with only one adopted) took place between December 2020 to January 2021 with just over two hundred responses, this is an extremely low figure considering the number of electorates throughout Thanet. The consultation recently closed on the 25th October with an overall thumb's down response, we expressed the hope that the existing coastal route will be recognised as beneficial for active travel and leisure. Lately KCC Highways have carried out basic maintenance to the cycle paths along the A28 which are now useable, although further improvements would be welcomed to encourage their use.

In early October, the Town Council received two resignations, which created what are known as 'casual vacancies' literally - a by chance vacancy, outside of election years.



Cllr Joanna Cornford

Casual vacancies are categorised by specific circumstances: a failure to accept office, death, resignation, disqualification, and failure to attend meetings. In both instances the Town Council casual vacancies were by resignation. You can read the definitive explanation of the ensuing process of co-option in the article by the Town Clerk.

Over the last two months Westgate on Sea Business Forum has come on in leaps and bounds, but not without dedicated hard work and the hours put in with face-to-face communication certainly paid off. The recent TDC Fiver Fest saw twenty-two businesses in Westgate on Sea taking part in highlighting the undeniable positives of a thriving high street, the friendliness alone is enough to boost even the most curmudgeonly amongst us. If you are reading this and run a business in Westgate on Sea, do join the Forum to raise the profile of small businesses within the town, across Thanet and nationwide.

Local provides so much more than just a bargain. The Christmas Fair is only a week or two away, communities are keen to get out and about, the Business Forum is working together to make our annual fair a reflection of the best of Westgate on Sea's town.



Never think councillors do not get their hands dirty! one Sunday this month the town clerk and three councillors took kettle, mop & bucket etc to the changing rooms at the newly transferred recreation ground. The little building is structurally sound and fundamentally in very good condition. There are some heritage features which will hopefully continue to be preserved as they are practical and in good order; the high-level cisterns, and the original drainage outlets which have been sensibly incorporated into the modern wet room flooring, which even die-hard heritage supporters must admit is preferable to any original and cracked floor tiling.

Alongside councillors and officers are residents who give their time to care about the culture of the town. The images (taken this autumn) show the work and care which benefits the town's image. In addition, a spotlight must shine on two young Westgate on Sea Mums who bother to litter pick. One Mum litter picks with her children walking from school the other, a Mum of teenagers, litter picks after helping at breakfast club. The more the merrier and the cleaner Westgate on Sea will be!

If you have any recycling ideas or achievements (old socks into coats for cats!) please let us know, either by email townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk or by telephone **01843 836182**. The practice of recycling goes back to the beginning of time and has never been more important than it is now.



In December we have the annual fair, and Christmas itself will soon be upon us. The community has come through the original lockdowns to a point where we now feel a little safer socialising, despite the media reports, and we are willing to come together when the peace of the town is threatened. Supporting us, and in partnership with our town council officers, we have the truly engaged KCC Community Warden, Community Connectors and PCSO. The Town Council's recently established Community Clinic is an opportunity to meet the team, and last month everyone was kept busy with questions from residents. Another 'team' member is the new Neighbourhood Watch coordinator; she also attends the Community Clinic reassuring and providing top tips and handy hints for safer neighbourhoods.

Westgate on Sea Town Council wishes everyone a happy Christmas Festival and a healthy and happy New Year. In 2022 we have the potential to build on the engagement and unity established in 2021, with the preservation of our shared environment taking centre stage; initiatives and ideas will emerge from the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to assist us all, every small action, every step, adds to the securing of our environment for future generations.

Cllr Joanna Cornford, Chair



A New and Exciting Project to Support and Enhance the Community of Westgate on Sea.

Introduction and Overview

A Church often seems to be a place that is only open on a Sunday. Which is great, but why can it not be used for the benefit of local people throughout the week? After all, it is a community asset. St Saviours Church in Westgate has this in mind. It is a huge, grand building on a prime site right in the middle of the town and one of the most architecturally stunning. Mother Karen Gooding has the vision that St Saviours could and should be better utilised as an integral part of the community that it serves. With an “open door” welcoming policy to everyone in Westgate and the surrounding district. That door will be open seven days a week, not just on Sunday.

St Saviours will develop into an important focal point for residents, essentially operating as a “hub” for the community - to be used by local people and adopted by community groups, who in turn provide a comprehensive variety of services, facilities and, therefore, activities. The aim is that the church will bring people together in a way that it never has before.

The main innovation of the project is to use the garden area, which is a far bigger space than it looks at the moment and building a Garden Room. This will act as the “Shop Front” for the project. To work on the project’s development, an enthusiastic team of parishioners has been organised and they are collaborating with John Bailey of Thomas Ford Architects, with additional support and backing from Westgate-on-Sea Town Council, specifically Cllr David Donaldson and the Town Clerk, Gill Gray.

The Community Garden, and Garden Room

The garden area obviously has huge potential and can become a little oasis right in the middle of town. It will incorporate a Garden Room, which will be built as an extension to the main church with an entry through the Church gateway in St Mildred’s Road. The entrance and doorways will be ergonomically designed to allow easy and convenient access.

The design and construction will be very modern and most importantly have green credentials, but without being out of context with the beautiful architecture of the main church building.



The roof will have the appearance of slates, but will be constructed of photo-voltaic cells to provide solar electricity. This, combined with modern insulation, will create a very energy efficient structure.

As with all gardens, for the community garden to thrive, it will need a prolific supply of water and the architects are thinking through how rainwater can be used, not just from the garden room, but also rainwater from the main church roof which can be utilised and stored. They are also designing a solar powered pump configuration, that will be required for the irrigation of the garden. The Garden Room will have the capacity to accommodate 40+ people at any one time.

It will physically be built in the space between the two photographs below, and connected to the church building through the Vestry door at the right-hand side.



Services and Facilities

These will be all inclusive, covering mothers and toddlers right through to Ageless Thanet. The church is very proactive in encouraging community groups and indeed individuals to make their “home” there.

It is a case of building up the usage and ensuring current groups continue to thrive such as the Westgate Heritage Centre.

The Key is Partnership

The project recognised right from the beginning that working in partnership with community groups is the underlying key to successful community development. To be able to provide comprehensive services and facilities for local people the project will focus on working on and developing close partnership with the multitude of groups that already exist in Westgate and the surrounding areas.

Even though the project is at an embryonic stage, outreach work has already begun, and has been effective.

One such project is “Looking Ahead” which operates primarily from Minster, but also has The King Street Studio and Gallery in Margate. Their success has spanned over a period of 17 years. It provides its users with a whole range of interesting and educational activities; arts and crafts, woodwork, gardening and cooking skills.

Looking Ahead have committed themselves to being part of the project, and welcome St Saviour’s innovative approach, and the enthusiasm and support from Westgate Town Council, whose offices exist, divinely, under the shadow of St Saviours Church.

Finance and Funding

To pull this off the project will require quite a heavy initial investment to build the Garden Room. There are numerous charities, trusts and organisations that would be willing to contribute to such a venture but the core funding will be from the National Lottery.

This Fund provides millions of pounds into community projects both for capital and revenue expenditure.

In addition, the project will also seek a “patch work” of other funding for specific projects and other initiatives.

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You can join as a man or woman aged 18 to 43 and the time you serve is paid. As an infantry unit, our soldiers are trained in dismounted close combat on Wednesday evenings, weekends and a two-week annual training period. However, the amount of time you can commit is up to you.

The Barracks has excellent potential as a multi-use site and would be pleased to hear from local community organisations interested in using the facilities. Further information can be found on: army.mod.uk. Do more. Be more. Visit us at MOD Manston, Wednesdays: 8pm to 10pm.



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September and October are a busy time for the Allotments as we process the renewals for ninety-five plot holders.

This time of year always sees a lot of change and as of 31st October we had seven half plots available with lots of viewings booked. We look forward to welcoming all new Tenants.

Waiting List

We currently have 26 Westgate residents on the waiting list with a further 29 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@westgateonsea.gov.uk with your name, email, address and contact telephone number.

Allotment Working Group Meeting

The next Allotment Working Group Meeting is scheduled for January 2022.



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Westgate-on-Sea Town Calendar 2022

The 2022 Westgate-on-Sea calendar is now available to purchase from the Town Council offices.

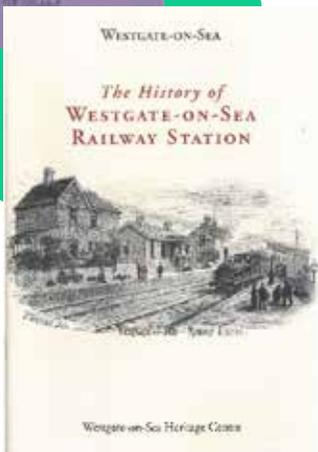
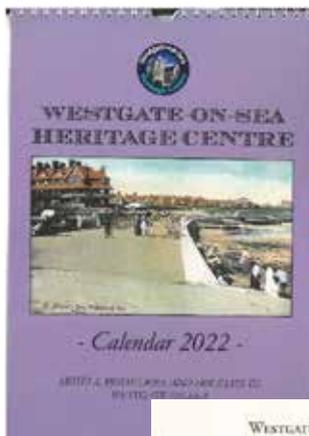
Produced by the Heritage Centre, the calendar is filled with beautiful black and white and colour photographs of our historical town.

Also on sale are copies of 'The History of Westgate-on-Sea Railway Station' compiled by Dr. Graham Field.

Both publications would make fantastic Christmas stocking fillers and are available to purchase from the Town Council offices:

Calendar - £5

The History of Westgate-on-Sea Railway Station - £7.50



50th Anniversary Celebration for Westgate & Birchington Rotary Club

What a wonderful evening of celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of the Charter of the Rotary Club of Westgate & Birchington!

A large number of Rotarians and guests enjoyed an outstanding dinner at St Augustine's, followed by a spectacular series of dance displays performed by students and staff at the Page Mason School of Dance. The performance included a very special dance centred on the President, Chris Hedges!

Two fantastic birthday cakes (made by Honey Cake Bakers of Birchington) were commissioned by Past President Mike Benton to mark the occasion. Messages of congratulation were brought from local Rotary and Inner Wheel Clubs and from District Governor-Elect, David Lister. The evening was rounded off by dancing to the music of Nick Bosworth.

For more information about the Rotary Club please visit our website at www.wb-rotary.co.uk or contact Dave Alker on **01843 845783**.



50th Anniversary Cake



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To find out more about how St. Michael's can help you and your family every step of the way, please get in touch and speak to a member of the team.



New Defibrillator – St Mildreds Bay

In March 2021 we wrote about how Lorraine Hambidge from the Westgate on Sea Community Spirit Craft Group, in conjunction with Westgate on Sea Town Council, raised a whopping £1446.66 for new defibrillators and specialist, outdoor, heated cabinets giving 24 hours access to lifesaving equipment in four different areas of Westgate.

- Westgate-on-Sea Train Station – Station Road
- Westgate Community Centre – Lymington Road
- Fish Inn – Cambourne Avenue
- The Swan – Sea Road

Following on from the amazing fundraising by the Community Craft Group it was noted it would be beneficial for a final defibrillator to be sited at St Mildreds Bay. It was agreed at the Full Council meeting on 2nd March 2021 that the cost of this would be met by the Town Council.

We are pleased to say that the final defibrillator and cabinet went up at the end of October. We would like to thank Paul Glicksman for hosting the defibrillator on the new St Mildreds Bay Bistro.

We are grateful to Councillor Tim Green for carrying out the periodic checks on the defibrillators that the Town Council have installed.

Photos – St Mildred’s Bay Bistro install

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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 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 Roy Nightingale

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

Contact: 07733 011723

Email: rnightingale@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Town Council Offices:

78 St Mildreds Road
Westgate on Sea
Kent
CT8 8RF

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: 07914 958496
Email: derek.crow-brown@kent.gov.uk

Cllr Linda Wright

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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

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

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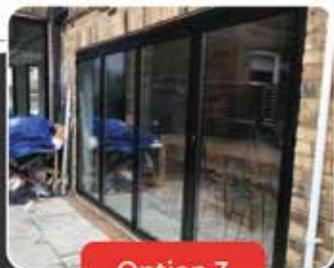
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