



# Westgate-on-Sea

## TOWN COUNCIL MAGAZINE



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## Happy New Year to Westgate on Sea!

As we kick off this new year, we can point to lots of promising signs in Westgate life, but over it all looms the TDC local plan to dump 2000 new houses on us. Thanks to those who have battled all the way with us! The planning inspector's decision may be known by the time this newsletter hits your post-box. Let's hope that at least we will be spared the planned construction for a while yet. We continue to discuss the details with the developers, Millwoods, especially the provision of a school and a surgery. Do take part in the coming consultations to decide for instance where the Westgate Surgery should be located in future. In addition, we are finalising the Neighbourhood Plan which sets out the way we would like to see the town develop, do participate in that.

A big thank-you to all (especially Jeannette Bell) who organised the Christmas Market on 1st December; it was the best yet, and it was great to see so many visitors who come each year from Canterbury, Herne Bay and other places to enjoy the fun and stock up on Christmas presents. Thanks too to the sponsors, such as Miles & Barr.

I'm looking forward to the opening of a pizzeria on Station Road, adding to the quality food offer here. There's a real pizza oven! The Galleria, close by, has proved an instant hit with local craftspeople and shoppers alike.

Your Town Council has been looking at the provision of food banks in the area as increasing numbers of people struggle to make ends meet. We want to be sure that we are a community which doesn't ignore those in need but stands alongside them.

In deciding the small proportion of your council tax which comes directly to the Town Council, we have continued to apply the principle that we only ask you to pay for what we know the Town needs now, not what we think might be useful in future. So that part of your tax bill will only go up by less than 2%, just like last year. Much bigger proportions go through to Kent County Council and Thanet District Council, both of which last year increased theirs by 3%. We will continue to try to ensure that Westgate gets its fair share of funding from both of them.

Best wishes for the New Year from all of us at the Town Council,

Regards

Martyn Pennington  
Chairperson



Twitter: @WestgateonSeaTC  
[www.westgateonsea.gov.uk](http://www.westgateonsea.gov.uk)

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## Christmas Light Switch On

On Sunday 1st December Westgate-on-Sea Town saw a great turn out for the official Christmas Light switch on event.

The day was a big success with Christmas stalls, a funfair, a parade as well as a Santa's Grotto. There were also two stages providing entertainment from Xanthia Skye, Silver Slipper Sound of Music, Princesses from Enchanted Entertainment, Hartsdown School Choir, Treble Performing Arts, JHA Theatre School, Louis and Jake, Sara Richardson, OTHP Jekyll & Hyde, Play (Band), The Diva Show, Wicked Productions Panto Aladdin, Westwood Dances Group, Juggle It and the Juke Box Jam Band.

The honour of switching the lights on this year went to the 2019 Local Town Heroes; Richard and Lorraine Hambidge. Richard and Lorraine were nominated for their dedication to local community projects, and in particular, the Paint the Town Poppy Red project which included an installation of sculptures at the War Memorial and the Junction of Minster and Canterbury Road, as well as creating a Poppy Trail. The couple also helped coordinate the decorating of the town with the wonderful knitted poppies kindly made and donated by the local community.



Along with the Town heroes, in recognition of his charity work with animals and his kind and helpful nature in the Community, Wilfred Jenkins was given the role of Santa's Guardian. Wilfred ensured Santa arrived safely to his grotto and welcomed all the children who came to visit Santa.

Even with a minor technical glitch, Westgate was soon lit up by the beautiful Christmas Lights. Thank you to the Christmas Lights Committee (Jeanette, Joe, Karen, Mikala, Ray, Chris & Paul) for another fantastic event.

Also a thank you to South East Rail for helping to give Father Christmas his amazing Grotto and every one else who made the day so successful.

# Regain HEARING

## HEARING IS OUR SPECIALIST SUBJECT

Why not test us?

**Hearing loss has been linked to dementia.** Global scientific research has established a link between untreated hearing loss, dementia and cognitive decline including memory loss. Alzheimer Research UK, amongst others, are funding further research into understanding these links.

**I'm only deaf in one ear so aids won't help me.** Single sided deafness (SSD) can cause many issues, struggling to locate where sounds are coming from is one but there are many others. A CROS system can dramatically improve the quality of life for those with SSD, giving a far more 'normal' listening experience and protect the hearing in their 'good' ear.

**Tinnitus cannot be cured.** As with the common cold, there is no cure but the symptoms can be treated to provide partial or total relief to the sufferer.

**Hearing loss only affects the individual.** Hearing loss affects the individual, their family, friends, colleagues and anyone they come into contact with. It can be exhausting **FOR EVERYONE.**

**Wearing hearing aids can stop hearing decline.** YES - this is good news, wearing hearing aids helps prevent further decline and reduces the associated health risks.



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# What your Council Tax does for you

## Your total Council Tax supports four main programmes:

### 1. Kent County Council

KCC taxes account for as much as 70% of the total and give you support for health services and social care, children's services, roads and buses, and libraries.

### 2. Thanet District Council

TDC taxes account for about 13% of the total and give you support for waste collection and environmental support, planning, cultural and related activities, housing, and corporate and democratic costs.

### 3. Police and Fire Brigade

Together they make up about 14% of the total.

### 4. Westgate on Sea Town Council

Your town council makes up less than 3% of the total and gives you support in community initiatives such as Westgate Day, the Christmas Market, pancake races, as well as giving grants to organisations like Fixology (which helps youngsters learn a craft or trade), the Scouts, and the 'Paint the town Red' poppy project.

- In 2019 we saved money by moving offices to get more space for less rent.
- We try to be as open and inclusive as possible; we are open for the public to pop in to see us on Monday to Thursday mornings, liaise with Thanet District Council on issues such as missed rubbish collections and we hold a Saturday Surgery twice each month to enable residents to talk to their Councillors.
- In addition, we host community meetings such as the Thursday friendship club for those needing company.
- Our Events, Tourism and Improvements Steering Group provides a forum for all the community groups and organisations.

The Town Council secured a grant from the lottery fund for £10,000 for Westgate in Bloom which has purchased benches, planters, and a live Christmas tree to date; this project is getting well under way, with support from all sorts of groups including SE Rail Westgate Train Station, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Westgate Allotment Association, TDC Open Spaces Team and not to mention local residents who have

volunteered to give up their time to get involved. The Woodland Trust and Ovo Energy have donated trees for planting - how rewarding it was to see so many residents helping to plant them!

The Recycling collection has been extended, collection points can be found in the Town Council office and Westgate Library..

A Food bank collection point has also been set-up at the Town Council office.

We have three operatives who help to keep Westgate clean by ensuring all the extra Westgate bins that we have in place are emptied regularly. They also clean verges and paths of leaves and rubbish, remove graffiti, fly tipping, carry out gritting, and all done with a smile.

We have purchased a Speed Indicator Device for the Town Speedwatch programme, and already we have found a reduction in speeding along our roads. More volunteers required for this initiative so we can cover more roads.

A second Defibrillator and cabinet were purchased, and training sessions organised. The allotments at Lymington Road have been managed and improved. There has been progress with acquiring the Lymington Recreation Ground and the two shelters on Sea Road as Community Assets.

The Neighbourhood Plan has progressed and is now nearing completion ready for a consultation.



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TALENT SUBJECT TO CHANGE



DASHING DESIGNS 2019



# Westgate Galleria



Sarah Gibbon and Vivienne Rose are the trading partnership called Shoreline and in November 2019 they opened the Westgate Galleria at 29 Station Road which comprises of two airy, well-lit and inviting spaces exhibiting unique and individual arts, crafts and gifts created by Kent based Artists and Makers. We asked them how this all came about and why they decided on Westgate as the base for their new venture.

Both Sarah and Vivienne worked for over 30 years at Goldsmiths, University of London in very different roles. Sarah managed creative and print teams as well as undertaking the business management of the university's central IT department. Vivienne worked in business management in a number of academic departments, managed the central registry and finally became the Director of Estates for the site. Over this period they developed a strong friendship and were part of a group of dynamic and talented female professionals who formed a long-lasting supportive group of friends which continues now they have all left Goldsmiths.

With Sarah and Vivienne moving to Westbrook, they started making their ideas, which had been discussed over many years, into a reality. Sarah had already set up Margate Made and run the first few events, whilst Vivienne was still commuting up to London each day, and had established strong networks in the creative groups in Thanet. They were then approached by the existing leader of The Eclectic Art Gallery in Margate Old Town, to take on the Gallery and move it forward, giving it a fresh look and drive. The duo undertook this challenge but were still looking for that extra opportunity to open a larger Galleria space so that they could offer exhibiting

and selling opportunities to more of Kent's talented artists and makers.

They viewed a number of commercial properties in Margate, Broadstairs, and finally Westgate. Sarah said "we fell in love with number 29 as soon as we saw the front window and after viewing felt that the potential for the type of venture we had in mind was there, alongside the support for small independent creative businesses".

Sarah and Vivienne explained that although there was no precedent in Westgate for this type of retail outlet they felt that this could be an untapped opportunity, as one of Thanet's most thriving high streets, and decided to go for it. Vivienne said "we have been overwhelmed by the support and encouragement we have received from the local community, which was amazingly supportive, especially as we only gave ourselves four weeks to fit out and open the Galleria".

What is next? – they are welcoming new artists and makers every week (currently working with around 80) both to permanent retail space and to their Guest Walls at both Westgate Galleria and The Eclectic Art Gallery. They are making plans for the next Margate Made Event and are looking for new venues. They are developing the space rental at Westgate Galleria for meetings, workshops and courses, together with live demonstrations by some of those selling and associated with the Galleria. Sarah and Vivienne said "we are hoping in the future to offer all our Artists and Makers the opportunity to sell online via Shoreline – so watch this space.



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# Upcoming Events



## DEAF COMMUNITY MEET AND GREET Friday 21st February 10am – 12pm

The monthly Deaf Group restarted this month after the Christmas Break. It is a great opportunity for members of the community who are deaf, have a hearing impairment or have a personal connection with someone from the Deaf Community to meet.

Both hearing and non-hearing are welcome with tea, coffee and treats provided.

The Group meets the third Friday of each month from 9.30am to 12.00 noon at the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council, 78 St Mildreds Road (opposite the Carlton Cinema).

The next meeting will be on 21st February.



## EASTER EGG HUNT 11th April 2020

The Easter Egg Hunt will be an event for children in the community up to the age of 11 years old, there will be a fee of £1.50 per child and they will each receive an easter egg.

The event will be with the support of local businesses in Westgate on Sea – details can be obtained from the Town Council office at 78 St Mildreds Road and places must be booked and paid in advance.



## ELECTION FOR TOWN COUNCILLOR Thurs 13th February 7am – 10pm

A Poll will be held for the election of a Westgate-on-Sea Town Councillor.

There are two candidates: **Timothy Peter Green** (commonly known as Tim Green) - Independent. **Penelope Anne Wells** (commonly known as Penny Wells) - Labour Party

Thanet District Council website link is:- [www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/election-notice](http://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/election-notice)



## TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Monday 20th April, 7pm

This is an opportunity for electors and guests to hear about the Town Council's progress on projects and initiatives for the Community.



## VE DAY 75th CELEBRATIONS 8th May -10th May 2020

More details to follow next issue.



## WESTGATE DAY Saturday 18th July 2020 12pm – 9pm

Sea Road, Adrian Square and Ethelbert Square. A family fun day with plenty of stalls, entertainment, activities and more!



## SCARECROW FESTIVAL 26th and 27th September 2020

Free event for the whole community, if you would like to pledge a scarecrow please contact Gill at [townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk) or Lorraine at [pottybird@ismyemail.co.uk](mailto:pottybird@ismyemail.co.uk) or pop in the Town Council office. This is the first year for this event and it is hoped that there will be a Scarecrow Trail that Westgate can be proud of, so please do get in touch!



## WESTGATE REMEMBRANCE PARADE 8th November 2020, 11.30am to 12.30pm

More details to follow next issue.

WESTGATE-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL  
Community Event  
**2020 PANCAKE RACES**

A traditional fun pancake flipping races along Station Road in the heart of Westgate-on-Sea.

This is a non-profit event which traditionally takes place on Shrove Tuesday.

**Tuesday  
February 25th**  
10am with race heats until 11:30am

Please request an application form if you wish to race.  
Admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk  
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**FREDDIE MERCURY  
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**Saturday 29th February 2020**

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# Proposed 2000 Houses in Westgate and Garlinge

## Below you will see the proposed Master Plan for the 2000 houses at Westgate and Garlinge by Millwood Designer Homes and JTP.

This includes land for a medical centre and new primary school, a new small commercial centre (area 5), woodland areas (2), expanded orchard (1) and space around Dent de Lion (3), walk ways to existing houses and amenities (4) and a green walk through the site following the existing footpaths.

The Town Council has always been opposed to the use of agricultural land for houses and still feels that this is overdevelopment of our area. There are also major concerns regarding the transport and parking pressures, especially along Minster Road and Garlinge High Street.

The open spaces and woodland areas are welcome; however, the Town Council would like to understand if the houses will be carbon zero and if there are any benefits to the town e.g. improvement of our community centre or library.

The Town Council will continue to communicate with the developers to raise the concerns of residents. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering group run by Cllr Dr Hannah Scott meets at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the Town Council office, 78 St Mildreds Road, Westgate on Sea. All Westgate and Garlinge Residents welcome.

Search Millwood Homes and JTP for the full exhibition documents or type this in your browser: [https://www.jtp.co.uk/cms/pdfs/10545\\_Exhibition\\_191107\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.jtp.co.uk/cms/pdfs/10545_Exhibition_191107_FINAL.pdf)



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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.



# Westgate-on-Sea Recycling

Following from our last newsletter you will know Westgate-on-Sea Town Council is now working alongside TerraCycle to reduce, reuse and recycle our hard to recycle waste.

All waste sent also gathers 'points' which are then used for charity donations to worthwhile causes.

We have recently been asked where this waste goes, and what it is used for, here we have condensed the main answers:

## Upcycling

The key difference between upcycling and reusing waste is that with upcycling the original intention of the object changes. TerraCycle works with many of the world's best companies to bring upcycling solutions to many forms of waste. They sew juice pouches together into backpacks, crisp packets into casual shoes, and even granola wrappers into shower curtains. Many of these products are available to buy in major retailers around the world as well as online.

## Recycling

The science of recycling is focused on recovering the materials that an object is made of. For example, recycling a used pen involves shredding it, separating the materials that it was made from, then melting those materials into raw materials that can be then used to make new recycled products. By volume, TerraCycle recycles over 97% of the waste that they collect.

## Closed-loop solutions

TerraCycle's team of scientists have developed a range of closed-loop solutions for many types of waste. This includes making innovative products such as the world's first pen product from used pens.

## Composting

Composting, is similar to recycling, but intended for organics; converting complex organic materials into soil and fertiliser.

TerraCycle composts all the organic waste that they collect, such as the coffee in used coffee capsules, which is composted into rich organic materials to be used again to grow plants.



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## Tree planting Day Lymington Community Green

**Cllr Dr Hannah Scott led the second of many community tree planting days in Westgate-on-Sea.**

Around 100 residents joined in planting 25 trees on the Lymington Community Green in Westgate-on-Sea and many residents adopted their trees.

Many thanks to all who came along and all the Town Councillors who assisted on the day including Cllr Cornford, Cllr Page, Cllr Matthew Scott, Cllr Donaldson, Cllr O'Connor, Cllr Wallin and Cllr Nightingale.

Thanks also goes to Bob Micallef for bidding for the trees from the Woodland Trust, to our super clerk Gill Gray and to TDC Grounds and Gardens Team for their assistance with the project. Peter Hasted from the Sunken Gardens and the newly formed Isle of Thanet Trees and Woods Initiative and wonderful resident Denise Packer also gave their super tree planting expertise on the day.

Many thanks also go to residents who donated trees with a wonderful back story (we will do a separate piece on those unique trees in the future). These events go to show that together we can make a real difference to the Town!



## Westgate Community Showcase Café

The outline proposal for the Group is as follows:

- To have a kind and inviting café that people feel welcome to.
- To serve hot and cold drinks and cake at a very low price (not for profit but to allow us to identify people who may need help with benefits)
- To showcase local groups e.g. Choirs, Arts and Craft, Chess etc (this is to help promote their groups as well as helping anxious people meet the groups directly and to make those bonds directly)
- To have a place for a social prescriber to be in contact with that they will be able to refer patients to help find social groups.
- To work with the Town Councils Steering Group to point people in the right direction when they show interest for a group, or the other way and inviting some of the Steering Group to promote their groups to the community who comes in.
- To use 'Connect Well Kent' to help find current groups for people to join and depending on volunteer's and DBS checks to buddy up with a befriender to go along to groups for the first time to help with anxiety.
- To encourage people to both, receive and serve in the community depending on their needs, abilities and skills.
- To promote a safe space for people to meet with social workers or appointments with the availability to have a private room.

The Group is hoping to launch very soon and if you are interested in becoming involved please contact Sam Boyce – Youth and Community Worker, Christchurch URC, Westgate on Sea – email address: [westgateurcyouth@hotmail.com](mailto:westgateurcyouth@hotmail.com)



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## Westgate In Bloom (WIB)

WIB; part of South & South East in Bloom (SEIB) part of Britain in Bloom, initiated in 1963 by horticulturist journalist Roy Hay MBE who was inspired by the French 'Fleurissement de France' the flowering of France; originally Summer displays of bedding, baskets and window boxes, over time 'Bloom' as it is colloquially referred to expanded to encompass the whole community environment.

SEIB is sponsored by Gatwick Airport, Ferring Nurseries, Amberol along with others and its focus is on providing for cleaner, greener communities by improving public spaces, encouraging community engagement and inspiring a sense of civic pride through the betterment of our local environments, which in turn positively effects economies; improving disadvantaged areas and reducing antisocial behaviour.

WIB introduced by former Cllr Micallef fully supported by our Town Clerk, their efforts secured a grant of £10,000 to be spent over the next 2 years; £3,750 on benches already picnic benches and tables have been ordered for the community area at the top of Lymington Green (a direct request from residents via a town council Saturday Surgery) £1,250 on hard landscaping and £5,000 on planting which includes our very own permanent 'Christmas Tree' next to the Community Centre on Lymington Green, where the District Council prepared the ground and planted the tree at no charge to the town, in the same way they replaced the little whip trees which were accidentally mown down last Summer.

WIB continued on Saturday 30-November when Cllr H Scott, in conjunction with the Woodland Trust, organised a Tree planting day; a great success and the epitome of community engagement; all generations helping and encouraging, for the future of Lymington Green, where an additional 20 trees were planted on the eastern side of the green, everyone working together to improve our community space for generations to come.



The extensive maintenance work carried out at the railway station by South East Rail has allowed for the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust to plant up the cleared beds, this was completed on 6th December with the assistance of our town clerk and numerous residents who braved the cold weather and the co-operation of the Station supervisor, Helen, who willingly stored several plants prior to planting.

At St. Mildred's Bay Gardens a former resident and business person from Westgate on Sea Mr Wiseman initiated the clearance of a large area of the Gardens, assisted by Cllr M Scott. In addition Mr Wiseman also spent considerable time and effort repairing the coastal Shelter opposite West Cliff House, with heritage advice on the roofing material from local historian James Brazier.

WIB is flourishing but requires others to be inspired and offer their assistance to continue the work and most importantly the maintenance; the watering and weeding, to ensure the plantings provide us all with a sense of wellbeing which nature brings to our manmade environment. Water is to plants what love is to humans and if you feel you have an hour on a regular basis or green fingers itching to plant please contact the town council offices on 01843 836182 or e-mail Gill Gray [townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk)  
Thank you.



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# Welcome to Julia's Coffee & Ice House

**There is a great new place to eat in Westgate, and it's called Julia's.**

'Julia's', you say, 'but I've never heard of Julia's'. Well, that's because Julia's is the new name of the Coffee & Ice House in St. Mildred's Road, and although Julia Kenny took it over about three months ago, it still has the 'Coffee & Ice House' name above its door!

Late last year, and with some of his family, Cllr David Wallin had a Pizza there – after deciding it was probably the best pizza he'd ever had, he decided to interview the new owners and below is Cllr Wallin's interview with Julia Kenny:

## Why did you take it over?

Well, Harry (Julia's son & the Head Chef) has always wanted to be a Chef, from when he was about 2 years old, so it's always been something we've talked about. After he'd been working a lot of hours for a lot of other people, this place came up for sale.

## How did you know about this place and the fact that it was up for sale?

My husband knows Jane (one of the former owners) from the Golf Club (turns out Julia's husband, Tom, was last year's Captain of the Westgate & Birchington Golf Club). Unfortunately, my Dad passed away a couple of years ago and left the family some money – so we decided to put it into this and open it up as a family business.



## Are your family from Westgate?

Not originally, but we do live here now and been here for a couple of years.

## So, where do you come from then, and why did you come to Westgate?

Before Westgate, we were in Minster, but we come from Surrey. We came here because we used to visit family in Thanet a lot, and we fell in love with Westgate.

## Business wise, how are you getting on here?

We're doing better than we ever thought and we have a lot of regular customers, we even know 'em all by name! Evenings are still picking up a bit, but word is getting around and we now have a lot of people phoning up to book tables. Everything here is homemade – my Mum, Pauline, does the Cakes we have here and even bakes these to order at times. For all of it, a lot of our customers' like the personal touch that we give them.

## Have you changed much, from when it was the Coffee & Ice House?

Well, obviously, the venue has changed a lot and we now do a lot more hot food, along with breakfasts. But we continue to do the Ice Creams, Milkshakes and everything that they did, because they did such a good job with that - It'd be silly to change something that they did so well!

## And, finally, what do you feel about another 'Pizza Place' opening in Westgate?

This was answered by Harry, the Head Chef, who said: 'I'm looking forward to it – it'll give



me another place to go for diner! We feel it will be good for Westgate and it's not really direct competition, so it'll be good for Westgate. Julia then added a reply about Frederick's café, opposite: We also work well with Frederick's and sometimes send people over to them as they have more cakes on offer than we do, and they send people over to us for Breakfast! Being a new and young business, one that doesn't even have its current name over the door, the opening times are still being played with, but the current hours are:

**Tuesday & Wednesday: 10am – 6pm**

**Thursday – Saturday: 10am – 8pm**

**Sunday: 10am – 3pm**

**Closed on Mondays**

These times can vary and Julia's try and make their customers aware as soon as they can – but you can always call Julia & the team on **01843 831440**.



- **Harry is a fully qualified Chef, trained to BTEC Catering Level 3 at one of the UK's leading Catering Colleges, Broadstairs College - the same as the one that trained the late Gary Rhodes.**
- **Julia's will soon be introducing an OAP menu.**
- **Wherever possibly, Julia's buy their ingredients locally and their meat is supplied by Dadd's Family Butchers, who couldn't be more local – being as they are next door.**
- **Julia's is a fully licensed establishment – but also does Tea, Coffee, Milkshakes, Fruit Juice, Smoothies, Frappes and more.**
- **Gluten Free, Vegetarian, Vegan and all other allergies & requirements are all catered for – Cllr Wallin has a garlic & onion allergy, but that hasn't stopped Julia's from doing some wonderful food for him.**
- **When asked what she'd describe Julia's as – is it a Café, Coffee Shop or Restaurant? Julia couldn't really answer, saying it was 'more than a coffee shop, not just a restaurant, but that a Bistro also wouldn't be a fair description'.**

So, Julia's, here in Westgate-on-Sea, is a truly one-of-a-kind, unique enterprise and the Town Council wish them every success in their venture.



## Cleansing Operations Team

The Town Council has three part-time Cleansing Operatives (Neil, Greg and Gary) who provide a top up service for street sweeping, litter picking, leaf clearance, gritting and ice clearing when required.

They work five days a week and normally support the events taking place in the Town by stewarding and waste collections. The Town Council has installed additional bins, and these are emptied three times a week at peak times. We have worked in collaboration with Thanet District Council and Kent County Council to improve the environment.

Where possible the works undertaken are recorded by taking photographs before and after, it is so appreciated when the Community give feedback, whatever the comments, all are welcome. We hope that we can continue to build on the benefits in 2020 for the whole Town, whether you live, work or visit here. If you have any questions in relation to the Operations Team and the service please contact the office on **01843 836182** or email [admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk](mailto:admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk)

## Post Box Toppers for Christmas!

The eleven post boxes in the Town were adorned with knitted toppers in the run up to Christmas, they created quite a stir as people were curious who had created them and the idea behind them!

We were fortunate to receive a visit from Ann Walker who created them, and we were able to reunite her with one of the knitted figures she had lovingly created which had been torn from the knitted topper on Sea Road. Ann has moved to the Town recently and wanted to contribute some merriment for everyone in the community; it really does show what one person can achieve and create a positive impact.

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Knitted Topper trail as much as we did, we have included a few photographs and there are a lot more on Facebook if you missed them.

## National Community Land Trust (NCLTN)

Community Land Trust (CLT) act as long-term stewards of housing, their ethos; to ensure housing remains genuinely affordable, with 'affordable' being based on what local people actually earn in their area and affordable not only for the current owners but in perpetuity.

The Thanet Community Land Trust Steering Group (TCLTSG) has been set up until such time as the group is formally registered as Thanet CLT.

Anyone with a genuine interest can join, the meetings are held regularly at The Kitchen, Cliff Terrace, Cliftonville attendees are comprised of Resident Association members, local Parish & Town Cllrs, District Council members and others with relevant interests and skills, all are volunteers. Angie Curwen is the Chair and an existing member of NCLT. TCLTSG is well organised, ready with a Community Bank Account and following incorporation they will be able to source funding through investors and financing initiatives; to buy land, buy homes, build, rent and sell. For TCLTSG the first project is to purchase homes to provide affordable rentals.

The nearest CLT to Thanet is in Faversham, their group came together in 2018 as a direct response to the lack of affordable housing in the area, it can be done and is being done! For those interested in supporting the Thanet CLT their next meeting is at The Kitchen 8th January 2020 3.30pm.



## Hart and Bones comes to Westgate

In March 2019 Alice and Karen moved their established Physiotherapy and Podiatry practices from Margate into a new business venture, Hart and Bones, in Cuthbert Road Westgate-on-Sea.

Hart and Bones provide expert care to patients across Thanet and South East Kent and encourage self referrals as well as taking referrals from local GPs and consultants.

The practitioners have a multidisciplinary approach to treatment which may involve jointly assessing and treating conditions. They prevent as well as treat – getting people back to optimum function and performance, to be happy, healthy and moving. Their treatment plans are approached in a holistic way and are tailored to suit the individual.

All the practitioners are fully qualified and members of the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) so they can call themselves a Physiotherapist, Podiatrist or Chiropodist.

The clinic is open from 8.30am to 5pm on weekdays and to make an appointment you can either pop in, use the online booking system or leave a phone message.

Tel: **01843 808212**  
Email: [info@hartandbones.co.uk](mailto:info@hartandbones.co.uk)  
Website: [hartandbones.co.uk](http://hartandbones.co.uk)



## Football is "Coming Home" to Westgate on Sea

Westgate Town Council are Acquiring the Lymington Road Recreation Ground.

So many Westgate residents have commented 'Its' such a shame that football or other organised sports have not been played on the Lymington Recreation ground for more than a decade.

The site is currently owned by Thanet District Council (TDC) and is not utilised to its full potential. However, in a new and exciting initiative Westgate Town Council has successfully agreed a deal to transfer the Lymington Road Recreation ground over from Thanet District Council and are planning to reintroduce regular football matches as a starter. The ground has room for two pitches, a full size 11 a-side and a smaller 9 a-side.

This project is very ambitious and to finance it the Town Council are busy seeking funding from the Kent Football Association and the National Lottery Community Fund, to completely rejuvenate the ground back to a valuable community space, for everyone to enjoy. This will not only include the football pitches but also the skate board park, children's play area, outdoor gymnasium and the changing accommodation which is now a graffiti covered eyesore.

In addition, the Town Council are very keen to involve other local community groups in a Westgate wide Sport and Health project which will be open to all residents but particularly designed to have an impact on sport and health facilities for young people.

The site also has a small memorial garden, as it was originally gifted to Westgate Parish shortly after the First World War, for the benefit of the Westgate Community.

If you would like to know more, please feel free to contact Cllr David Donaldson on **07977 544697**.



## A Look at Transport

Kent County Council's 5 year strategy has Transport as a constant; with 5,000 miles of roads supporting the impact of foreign freight and thousands of private vehicles using our motorways with A and B roads often inadequate to carry the load, creating disproportionate maintenance issues, traffic jams, increased accidents, air pollution, driver frustration, anger and overall negative impacts on driver health.

This year the Kent Association of Local Council hosted its Inaugural Transport Conference, attended by Parish and Town Cllrs from across the county, many Cllrs are Neighbourhood Plan Committee members familiar with the effects of living in a county with the longest motorway miles and primary routes in and out of Europe with no distribution systems for HGVs to avoid accessing inappropriate routes and clogging up city and large town streets. The Conference touched on critical issues and possible solutions; electric cars, alternative transport and the continued work started by the Big Conversation, a KCC consultation on urban and rural bus routes, the Tenterden Hopper is one of five pilot schemes providing set stops and a hail and ride service.

Highways England (HE) build and maintain our motorways and trunk roads, KCC oversee all other public roads. Parish and Town Councils, residents and visitors are being urged to engage with both bodies providing the eyes and ears for reporting hazards and faults (see contact details below).

Grid lock and congestion face us on a daily basis within Thanet, long queues are visible at both peak and off peak times. The Town Council's NPC has underlined these issues and the lack of solutions to the Millwood developers and TDC. Millwood attended the last Town Council meeting to face questions on the consultation at St. Augustine's last October. Grave concern was voiced about the inadequate plans for suitable infrastructure and following the meeting Garlinge residents attending assured their future support for the NPC along with new Westgate faces present at the consultation all agreed to support the NPC in the coming months to ensure a strong voice against becoming the victims of inadequate highway development, increased levels of air pollution, longer traffic jams, increased accidents



and the negative health effects these have on both drivers and pedestrians.

### USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

HE for motorway and A road issues via [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk) or 0300 123 5000

KCC has an online dedicated fault reporting tool for pot holes, fallen trees, drainage, street lighting and all issues associated with public roads or make contact Mon – Friday 9.00am-5.00pm 0300 418181. There is an emergency out of working hours number 0300 419191. Routine faults are addressed within 28 days, hazards within 7 days and dangerous faults within 2 hours. At the KALC conference KCC Highways underlined the need for first tier local government and their communities (Westgate on Sea Town Council and its residents) to support both HE and KCC by reporting issues and supporting highway improvement plans.

Free to download Apps: Kent Police's Country Eye and TDC's [FixMyStreet.com](http://FixMyStreet.com) both useful reporting tools.

Kent News Live provides comprehensive updates on road, rail, air and sea networks for everyone travelling through and around Kent.

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# Election for Westgate Town Councillor

If there is more than one nomination form submitted to the Returning Officer at Thanet District Council, no later than 4pm on Friday 17th January the election will be deemed contested which will result in a poll taking place on Thursday 13th February 2020.

The process for applications, amendments or cancellations for postal votes must be undertaken by 5pm on Wednesday 29th January 2020; you must contact the Electoral Registration Officer at Election Office, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1XZ. The process for amendments or cancellations of proxy votes must be undertaken by 5pm on Wednesday 29th January 2020; you must contact the Electoral Registration Officer at Election Office, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1XZ.

New applications to vote by proxy at this election must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Election Office, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1XZ by 5pm on Wednesday 5th February 2020. Applications to vote by emergency proxy at this election on grounds of

physical incapacity or for work/service reasons must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at Election Office, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent CT9 1XZ by 5pm on Thursday 13th February 2020. The physical incapacity must have occurred after 5pm on Wednesday 5th February 2020. To apply on the grounds of work/service, the person must have become aware that they cannot go to the polling station in person after 5pm on Wednesday 5th February 2020.

There will be no delivery of poll cards for this election to reduce the costs involved and it is therefore important that the date is known to as many residents as possible to ensure that there is an awareness of the potential election. This is the link to the Thanet District Council website for further information: [www.thanet.gov.uk/services/elections-and-voting](http://www.thanet.gov.uk/services/elections-and-voting)

If you require any further details please contact us by email at [townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk) or telephone us on 01843 836182. Remember it is your Town and your vote counts, help shape your Community.



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Please mention WTC magazine when contacting us



# A Game of Two Halves

For me February is where the gardening year begins...twice!

First - Reaping last year's rewards:

If you were industrious in the autumn, you could now be benefiting from a lovely display of snowdrops (Gallanthus) and Irises. My favourite snowdrops are G 'Atkinsii', which are tall with long, graceful flowers and G. nivalis 'Viridapicis' with sweet, green tipped flowers. It's said they're best planted 'in the green' in Spring but I've had lots of success with packaged bulbs planted in the autumn so they're definitely worth trying. As for irises, the deep blue Iris 'Joyce' is hard to beat especially on my poor, free draining soil.

I planted a witch hazel as soon as we moved into our present house; Hamamelis x intermedia 'Pallida'. I can't live without fragrance in my garden and at this bare, drab time of year the wonderfully scented pale-yellow flowers lift my spirits.

I discovered we'd inherited an evergreen Clematis (C. armandii). I'd never grown it before but it's worth seeking out. It needs a warm wall or fence and well-drained soil then rewards you by being frost-hardy and producing lovely creamy, scented flowers at this time of year.

Second - Planning this year's display

Perhaps you didn't manage to plan ahead last year. But don't panic; the beauty of gardening is that the seasons keep rolling round so make sure you use February to ensure your summer display is top notch. February is definitely the month to start sowing seeds.

Fill pots or seed trays with seed compost then firm and level the surface. Sprinkle seeds on to the surface of the compost then cover with a layer of fine grit. Water well with a fine spray. Cover with clear plastic (a polythene bag will do nicely) and remove it once the seeds germinate. Learn from my mistake one year and don't forget to label the pots!

Potting up summer bulbs is generally left until late spring, but I always pot up one or two pots in February. It allows them to get established and provides a nice early display for my patio.

Happy gardening.



## New Footbridge for Westgate Train Station

Network Rail have commenced the improvement works for the replacement of a footbridge at Westgate on Sea train station. The works are due to be completed by the end of May 2020.

The major works will be undertaken during night time hours from approximately 2200 hours until 0700 hours and during the day from approximately 0700 hours until 1600 hours. However, you may see staff on site 24 hours carrying out any types of work that can be done while the station is open. They will also be working during line closures at weekends.

The schedule for the main works to the footbridge are:-

**11-12 January 2020** - Installing sheet piles

**8-9 February** - Building the foundations for the footbridge

**22-23 February** - Installing the new footbridge

**24 February - 13 March** - General finishing works

**23-24 May** - Removal of old footbridge

**30 May - 7 June 2020** - Completion works and de-mobilising

There will be a road closure on Westbury Road on 11 January 2020 and a road closure on Station Road on 22 and 23 February, also 16 and 17 May 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns please visit [www.networkrail.co.uk](http://www.networkrail.co.uk) or telephone 24-hour National Helpline on **03457 114141**.



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### 'See Me and Hear My Voice'.

This is a collaboration between East Kent Mencap, photographer Sarah Wyld, and writer Lucy Edematie. It brings together a group of women to whom the charity has provided support. It was originally created to celebrate the Power of Women and was first shown in Margate's Pic Factory Gallery as part of the POW Festival in March 2019.

In a series of photography and interview sessions participants speak candidly about their lives, aspirations and passions - all of which extend far beyond their shared association with the organisation. Through photographs, narrative and soundscape, the exhibition portrays the individuality and rich life experiences of this unique group of women.



Please come and see it! And hear it!



There is also a lovely book. Please leaf through it. And another book for your comments. Tell us what you think.



The display is available for viewing Monday-Thursday 10am-12:30noon here at Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Offices.





Are you retired or have spare time on your hands? Sat at home bored and lonely? Spend your day watching telly?

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We are starting up a new group to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by repairing and/or up-cycling. We have the space – we just need helper's! Skill levels from keen to expert are needed. Come & join us - this is the place for you. We would like to hear from any ex Armed Forces personnel who can help with our Armed Forces Covenant Bid.

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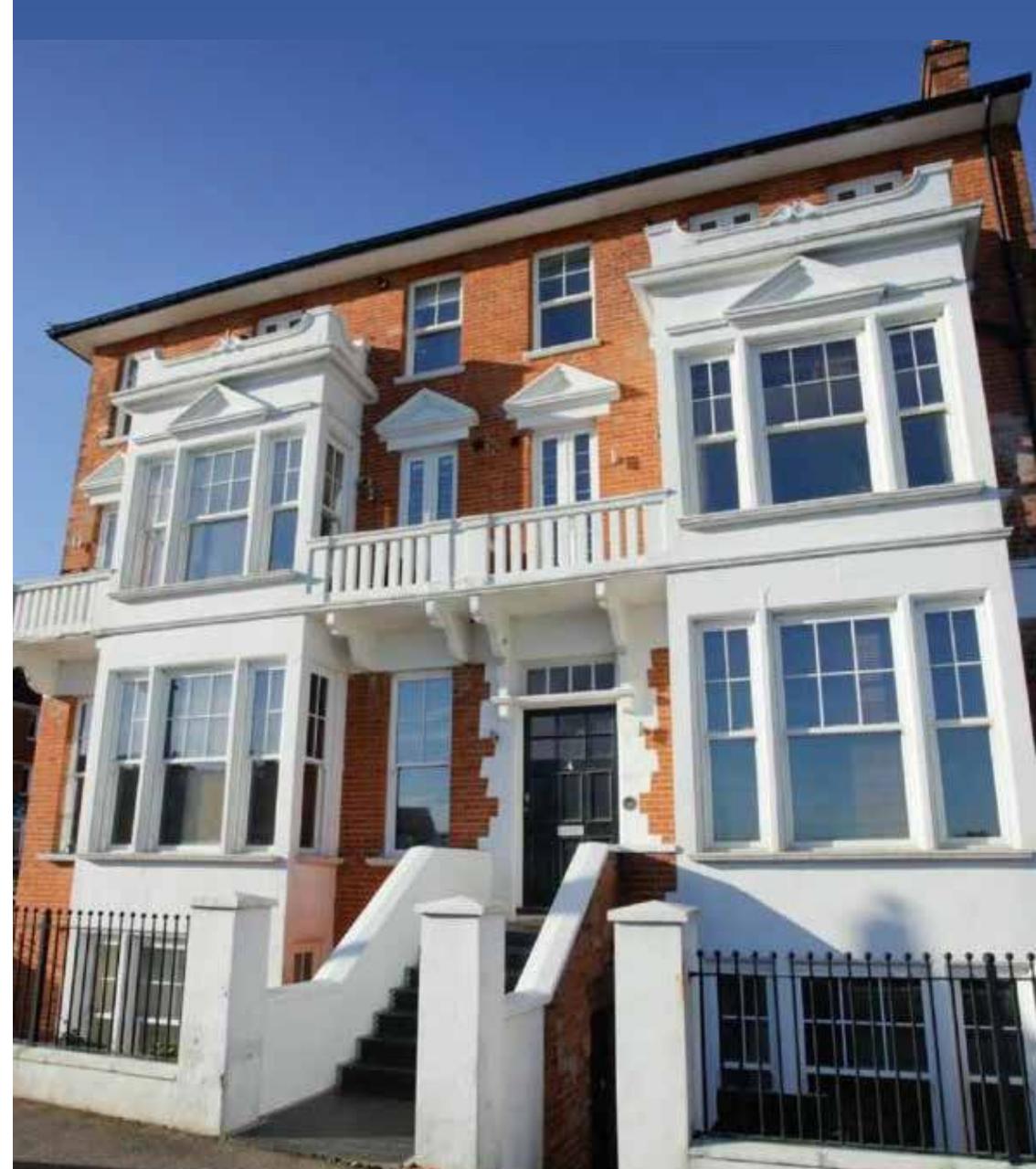
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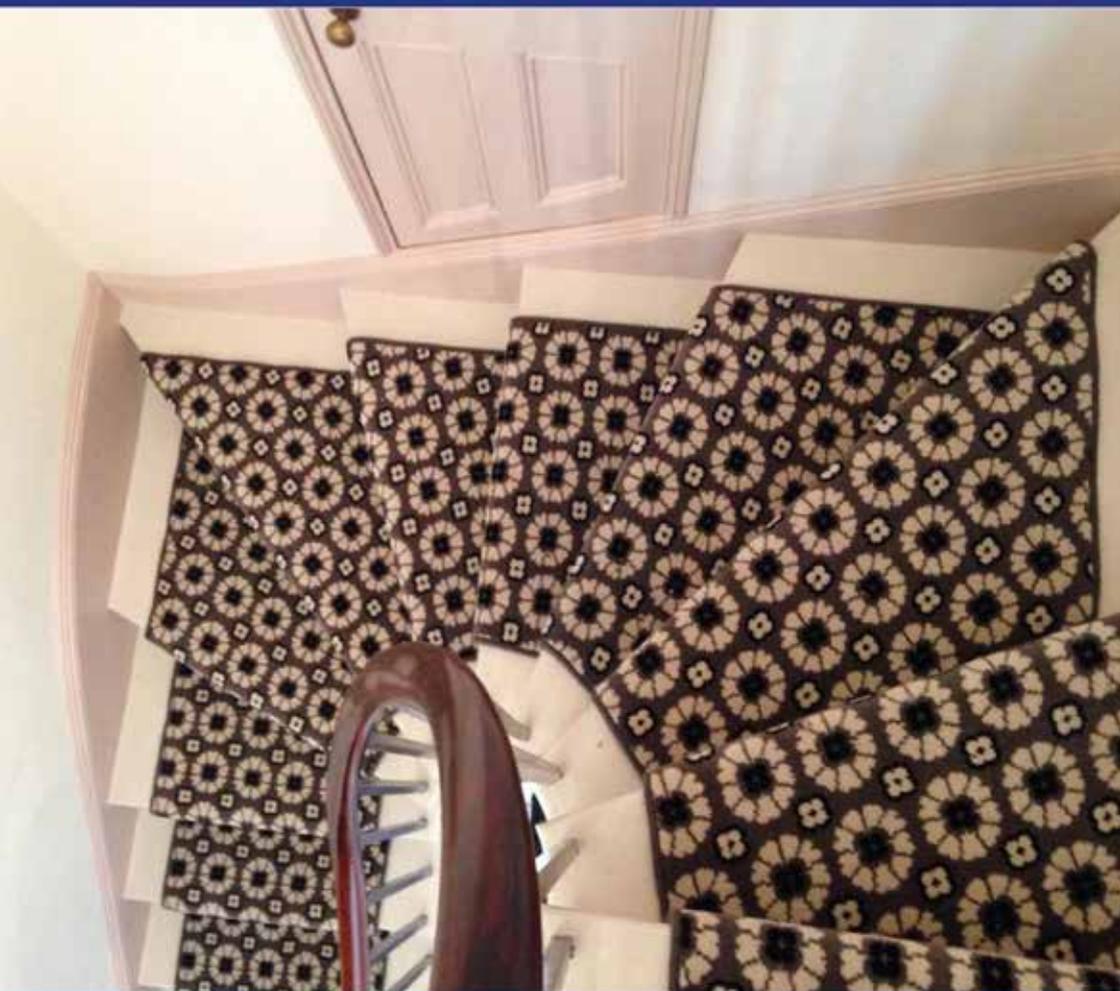
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