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TOWN COUNCIL MAGAZINE





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Despite the difficulties with the new methods of virtual communication, Westgate-on-Sea Town Council (WosTC) has seen the fruition of ideas inspired by residents.

Voted on by Councillors and enabled by the Town Clerk (TC) new benches at Lymington Green (requested by resident Ernestina at Cllr's Surgery) are installed at the 'social hub' end of the green.

We now have our very own flagpole, erected at the Memorial Garden thanks to the persuasive abilities of Lorraine H and negotiating skills of the TC; the flag flying will be in the hands of knowledgeable Ex Royal Navy man Ray. The railway station plantings are flourishing thanks to Peter Hasted of Sunken Garden fame, Bex from the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust, the TC and volunteers Ray and Christina of litter picking fame. The Sea Road Gardens have been transformed over the last few months by volunteers assisted with TDC and the friendly expertise of Kevin Presland the Tree & Biodiversity Officer. The gardens are now a place to walk and sit in contemplation, as originally intended.

We have new 'experimental' sea gull proof bins around the Town with one on the Bridal Path at Minster Road. Defibrillators have been placed at The Swan, the Surgery and the Dentist's with the promise of another for the Community Centre.

In addition to all the hard work, there has been some fun: 'The Scarecrow Festival' trail, which



was the brainchild of residents Lorraine & Richard H, was a huge success. The weather was typically glorious on Saturday and wet on Sunday but no deterrent to admirers in their rain wear!

At the end of September, the residents, the TC and the Cllrs took part in the 'The Great British Clean Up'. Ray and Christina led their group of perennial pickers Jan, Dee, Dave B and a group of six Round Table members picked along Shottendane Road in exchange for the hire of a local venue. The Round Table members' haul can be seen in the image below. As this goes to print the Takeaway McMillan coffee morning will also have been a success!

Finally, with the KCC scheme imposed on our Town emotions are running high. This scheme has suffered from a lack of proper process by engagement with the businesses and residents. The Localism Act 2011 has been overlooked and the future of the Town is in the balance despite full support with the Government 'shop local' mantra from the 23rd March 2020 lockdown.





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Sadly, this year the popular Westgate Day Event, which was due to be held on 18th July, had to be cancelled due to Coronavirus. However, Lorraine Hambidge, from the Westgate-on-Sea Community Spirit Craft Group ensured residents were not too disappointed by organising the first annual Westgate on Sea Scarecrow Trail.

The Scarecrow Trail was a great success, with residents, community groups, schools and businesses displaying over 45 scarecrows for all to enjoy. The two-day event was blessed with beautiful weather on the Saturday and saw large numbers of families enjoy the event. On the Sunday, the weather was less than favourable, but this did not put scarecrow seekers off!

The judges had a fun, if not difficult, task in choosing the scarecrow competition winners. The categories included Most Humorous Scarecrow, Best Traditional Scarecrow, Best Scarecrow Created by a Young Person, Most Skilfully Crafted and Best Shop Window Display. There was a wide variety of characters to choose from including Paddington Bear, mermaids, cats, cowboys, pirates and even Star Wars inspired scarecrows. After much deliberation, the winners were announced the following week.

After a fantastic first event, we look forward to seeing what wonderful scarecrow creations Westgate on Sea town residents create for next year's Scarecrow Festival.

Thank you to all those who made the day possible and to Wilfred Jenkins for providing the photos for this article. Please note all photos for this article were randomly selected.



Most Humorous Scarecrow

Winners - Ray and Christina Taylor

Best Traditional Scarecrow

Winners - Cllr Dr H. Scott, Terry Miles and Cllr J. Cornford



Best Scarecrow Created by a Young Person

Winners – St Crispins School, Purple Bubble for Harry Potter



Best Scarecrow Shop Window Display

Winner - BB Bridal and Alterations



Most Skilfully Crafted Scarecrows

Winner - Ann Short





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Meet the Councillor

Roy Nightingale was elected to the Town Council on the 7th May 2015 and currently sits on the Events, Tourism & Developments Steering Group. Hof Media asked Cllr Nightingale about his thoughts on elements of the role and the Westgate-on-Sea community.

You were one of the members heavily involved with the Council's response to the COVID-19 lockdown earlier in the year. What was that experience like?

Being involved in the council's response to the Covid19 lockdown I found a really rewarding experience. To me it showed what living in a caring community can achieve with so many prepared to give their time and abilities. I believe it also highlighted needs of some residents which had not been identified previously and can now be addressed.

What motivated you to stand for election in 2015 and how (if at all) has the role changed in the last 5 years?

I stood for election in 2015 as it was the first time that Westgate was to have its own Council.

I love the town and wanted to be part in hopefully not just setting up a new Town Council but seeing how this can best serve the local community. I think in the last 5 years the Council has become more united in our desire to serve the local community and in developing a number of joint Council/community events.

This made us better equipped to help deal locally with the Covid 19 lockdown.

The unfortunate cancellation of Celebrate Westgate Day was sad news for the Town, especially after the success of the inaugural event last year. As someone who sits on the Events, Tourism & Developments Steering Group, what are the plans moving forward for future events in the town?

It was sad that due to circumstances Westgate Day was cancelled as it had proved to be a great success last year and so much forward planning had already taken place, although we did have the very successful Scarecrow event.

Westgate Days in the future can only be better.



You are passionate about improvements to local transport. Has this been a challenging area during your time on the Council and what are some of the successes in the last few years?

I do believe that one positive from the lockdown period is that it has brought Westgate as a community even closer together and highlights how a local Council and community can work effectively together. Hopefully this can be acknowledged too with the abolition of the imposition of the one-way system.

One of my concerns are the communications of the town in particular train and bus services. Regarding the station some improvements have been made but I am still concerned that the new bridge is not "step free" and therefore difficult for some people with disabilities and buggies. In addition, there is no step free access from the platform to the train. It is still a big issue that so few trains stop at Westgate as this would be helpful for businesses in the town as well as local residents. I have continued requesting that the present bus service be improved however little seems to have changed. It is still not possible to travel directly to Broadstairs, although some of the buses still advertise "take the breeze to Broadstairs". I have also been asking why the last bus from Margate to Westgate is at 10.15pm, sadly there has been little response but the battle will go on with both the rail and the bus services.

Although there are things that can be improved, I still know that Westgate is a great place to live, with a real community that cares for one another. So my thanks to the community for allowing us to be part of it.



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An allotment was originally defined as the amount of land that could be cultivated during the spare time of a labourer - in other words it was intended to be used to produce food for a family, not for selling at a profit, for example. Usually an allotment did not exceed ¼ acre in size. A small holding, which could be used to produce an income, was anything from one acre to fifty acres. Local Councils often owned both.

The Local Government Act of 1894, by which the civil parish of Westgate on Sea was created, gave a stimulus to the movement, although Westgate was not affected by it for some years. In 1908 the Small Holdings and Allotments Act gave the power to local councils to purchase land compulsorily, if they wished and for some it was their duty to provide them.

In the First World War, as food shortages grew, the Parish Council encouraged anyone who had a small amount of land to spare to allow it to be used as allotments - some of the private schools gave up bits of their playing fields. At the end of the war these had to be returned, yet there was a growing demand for allotments especially from returning servicemen, some of who had been injured. Gardening proved to be therapeutic.

In 1919 County Councils were given the power to purchase land and lease it to Parish Councils, if they could not afford to purchase it for themselves. By April 1919 Westgate Parish Council had received six applications for allotments. Mr Burge of Dent de Lion Farm was asked whether he had any land he could lease or sell, but was unable to do so. By October 1919 thirty seven applications had been made and the Parish Council was desperate so the Parish Council asked Stanley Rogers, the agent of the owners of the Westgate Estate, Coutts' Bank, to try to obtain land from the Estate. The owners were in the process of selling off all that remained of their land, but as building land, and it was realised that such a transaction would not be cheap.

In November 1920 Coutts agreed to sell four acres south of what is now Lymington Road to the Council at £90 per acre and the Council agreed. In December 1920 instructions were given for it to be laid out in 10 perch plots (the old measurement of rod, pole or perch equalled 5½ yards) and an order put in to Lockwood's for



stakes. Each allotment was taken very quickly.

Early in 1921 permission was being sought to erect garden sheds and this was granted, as long as they did not exceed five feet in height. So popular were the allotments that in April 1921 more land was purchased from Messrs Longrigg and MacDonald of Streete Court School (to the south of the park in Victoria Road) at a cost of £324 13s 6d.

In 1922 water was laid on and in 1924 permission was granted for an allotment holder to keep no more than two pigs on his land. The allotments soon became self financing and the Council expressed its satisfaction and the subject disappeared from the Parish Council Minute Books.

When the civil parish was absorbed into the Borough of Margate in 1935 the allotments were taken over by the Corporation and remained in their care until the next re-organisation of Local Government in 1974, when they became part of the properties owned by Thanet District Council.

Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator of the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre



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Dr Dawn Crouch was born the daughter of a Shepherd in Chilham, Kent. Of quart pint size, she is as sharp as a pin with an eagle eye and a relentless blood hound instinct for historical fact.

Dr Crouch has received and compiled, from all over the country and abroad, archival material for the Westgate Heritage Centre which she conceived and achieved with the dedicated support of church members. The Centre was opened in 2007 by Sir Roger Gale and images of the day are available on the Heritage website.

In May 2015, the Westgate on Sea Town Council was established; the following year it was proposed that the town council honour Dr Crouch's achievements, by conferring on her the title of First Honorary Freeman. We were extremely fortunate to have the assistance of James Brazier, a former Borough Treasurer well versed in the procedures of local government. James very kindly prepared the Honorary Freeman Scroll to be presented to the newly conferred First Honorary Freeman with the ceremony taking place at the Town Hall Buildings on the 25th June 2016. The honour was in recognition of three decades working with St Saviour's School, the Church and ultimately the establishment of the Westgate Heritage Centre.

Prior to those three decades, Dawn was a teacher at Dane Court Grammar School but later her love of cars inspired her to train as a driving instructor, which in turn lead her to become an examiner and eventually running her own driving school. Many driving students were former pupils of Dawn's: a testament to the respect Dawn gained in her time as a teacher.

But what of Dawn's tastes and preferences? A keen internet shopper, her IT skills are well honed. She is a lover of the arts but a nonfan of piped music. Dawn is incredibly well organised and well-travelled; she thought nothing of setting out on her own across the globe to the continents of Australia and Canada. At home she regularly visited London Museums well into her eighth decade. Other passions are meringues, gypsy tarts and caramels all tempered with fresh fruits, for her five a day.

Dawn's experience spanned 90 years on the 4th September 2020, this went un-noted by the



town council thanks to their forgetful Chairman! However, through her engagement with the community, her all-embracing attitude to others and an ability to relate to what is current and happening now, Dawn was surrounded virtually by thirty friends and well wishers waving to her on her balcony at her bizarrely modern flat situated on the crest of the hill along Sea Road, overlooking West Bay. A home she unexpectedly purchased one afternoon in 1970 when it was still a hole in the ground and part of the demolition site of the former Victorian family house 'Danehurst'.

Today, undeterred by a recent fall, Dawn continues to gather and collate new stories and data on the history of the town, her creative imagination and drive belies her physical years.

I believe everyone will join us in thanking Dawn and all those who have steadfastly supported her, for the incredible contribution of invaluable historical records she has painstakingly researched and collated for Westgate on Sea, a unique town designed by the first developers during a bye gone era when the aristocracy and upper classes of London flocked to this coast to spend their summers away from the heat and dirt of the city; enjoying fresh air and clean sands, at West Bay and St. Mildred's.

Thank you Dawn, and a belated "Happy Birthday" from Westgate on Sea Town Council.



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The Town Council has recently purchased and installed seven new green public litter bins that have seagull aperture flaps that help prevent the gulls getting access to the rubbish.

Our three-person Cleansing Team have now added these to the emptying schedule which regularly takes place three times a week and over the weekends during the busy summer period.

The locations selected have been as a result of feedback from residents and Town Councillors who live locally and are aware of problem areas where litter can accumulate.

The bins are sited on Linksfild Road, Quex Road, Beach Road, 2 on Sea Road, Minster Road and Lymington Road.

Fly-tipping is the illegal disposal of controlled waste and has been a problem during lockdown; we would like to ask residents to be extra vigilant as the cost of removing items is often met by the taxpayer.

The removal of fly-tipped material is also a draw on limited resources for both the Town and District Councils. Thanet District Council use signage used in some locations to identify the penalties as the act of fly-tipping is a criminal offence which can result in the issue of a fixed penalty Notice or if prosecuted in court can lead to an unlimited fine and up to five years imprisonment.

Any private land is the responsibility of the landowner to clean and maintain. If you do notice any fly-tipping you can report this to Thanet District Council using an online form from the following link:-
www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/fly-tipping



Anti-Litter Campaign

Throughout the summer, Thanet District Council has been supporting local designers who have created litter posters to encourage people to be responsible with binning their rubbish when at our beaches and in our towns. Working with the designers, the District Council has been able to amplify the campaigns and help spread the anti-litter message by putting stickers on litter bins and banners in car parks.

It's now Westgate's turn, thanks to local graphic designer and illustrator Becky Thomas...

...(beckyismyname.co.uk)! Having reached out to the community in Westgate via social media to get ideas for slogans to input in her designs, Becky has created two posters which will soon be seen in shop windows and stickers on bins in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out!

Thank you to the members of Westgate Matters Facebook group who responded to the slogan request, the following two have been chosen:-

'Slam Dunk the Junk' and 'Take it Home'

And on both posters Becky is designing the tag line "Leave Westgate Clean" will be included.

Thanet District Council are in the process of producing the posters and stickers which it is hoped will raise awareness of local litter problems and Thanet District Council has agreed to meet the costs for producing these for the Town. We have been lucky to have had Becky's designs shared with us and they are included here.

Ray from Fixology is also the main contact for Westgate Against Rubbish which has relaunched and are looking for volunteers. Due to COVID-19 it is difficult at this time but please do get in contact if you are already litter picking on a regular basis and would like to buddy up with someone else? There are lots of local people in the community who give up their own time for the improvement of the Town and it would be great to hear from you. We are hoping to obtain individual accounts from the community with their own explanation of what they gain from volunteering and how they are motivated to become involved. Our cleansing team are always happy to help any groups that have collected public litter and arrange for the disposal for them.



GB September Clean

The Town Council organised two litter picks during the period 11th to 27th September 2020. We covered areas including St Mildreds Road, Station Road, Ethelbert and Adrian Squares, Shottendane Road, Linksfild Town Green, Lymington Recreation Ground, Community Centre green, Cambourne Avenue and Sea Road. Thanks to all those who took part and we are sorry that due to the current restrictions with the pandemic we could not extend the invitation to the wider community.





As a previous Thanet District Council employee, I am so pleased that Westgate-on-Sea Town Council has utilised an opportunity to work in collaboration with TDC Open Spaces team and a small group of volunteers to make a real difference to the gardens on Sea Road.

The outcome from the initial idea is breath-taking and the residents and visitors to the gardens on Sea Road are appreciating the hard work and efforts of a few people. It all started with a previous Town Councillor called Bob, who had a vision and drive to get things moving; I played a support role and got others enthused. We were also lucky to have a local man Mike, who has historic ties with the Town and who has worked tirelessly to tidy the gardens before the planting even began.

We were then fortunate to work with Emma, Steve and Kevin from TDC who have been engaged and instigated the plans for the planting schemes. The plants were purchased by both TDC and the Town Council and have been watered regularly during this hot weather by Ray, Christina, James, our Ward Councillor Matt, Mike and Phil on Sunday mornings and TDC during the week.

It has been amazing to witness the transformation of the area and has certainly sparked my imagination for my own garden. The comments from residents have been exceptionally positive and a number have stated that they have never seen the gardens look in such good condition for a number of years. One resident stated, "that whoever was responsible for the planting scheme should be congratulated on their exceptional choice of foliage and flowers".

The area is now proving popular with bees, butterflies and other insects as well, which is another benefit for the environment.

In these difficult times many people have commented that the gardens are now a haven of peace and tranquillity that has aided their mental health and wellbeing in a positive way.

I do hope we can all enjoy the gardens for years to come and the project will encourage other schemes in the District.



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In the UK in 2018, there were 6,507 deaths by suicide (a rate of 11.2 deaths per 100,000 people).

Rates vary across the UK, with the highest rate in 2018 observed in Northern Ireland (18.6 deaths per 100,000), followed by Scotland (16.1 deaths per 100,000 people), then Wales (12.8 deaths per 100,000 people) and England (10.3 deaths per 100,000 people).

Overall, men accounted for three-quarters of UK deaths by suicide in 2018.

Depression is a serious clinical illness.

Health professionals use the terms 'depression', 'depressive illness' or 'clinical depression' to refer to something very different from the common experience of feeling down, miserable or fed up for a short period of time.

The feeling of depression is much more powerful and unpleasant than the short episodes of unhappiness that we all experience from time to time. It goes on for much longer. It can last for months rather than days or weeks. Most people with depression will not have all the symptoms listed here, but most will have at least five or six.

Symptoms

You:

- Feel unhappy most of the time (but may feel a little better in the evenings)
- Lose interest in life and cannot enjoy anything
- Find it harder to make decisions
- Cannot cope with things that you used to
- Feel utterly tired
- Feel restless and agitated
- Lose appetite and weight (some people find they do the reverse and put on weight)
- Take 1-2 hours to get off to sleep and then wake up earlier than usual
- Lose interest in sex
- Lose your self-confidence and feel useless, inadequate and hopeless
- Avoid other people, feel irritable
- Feel worse at a particular time each day, usually in the morning
- Have suicidal thoughts



It is common for us to not realise how depressed we are, because it comes on so gradually. We may be determined to struggle on and can often blame ourselves for feeling lazy or feeble.

Other people may need to persuade us that it is not a sign of weakness to seek help.

When should you seek help?

- When your feelings of depression are worse than usual and do not seem to get any better.
- When your feelings of depression affect your work, interests and feelings towards your family and friends.
- If you find yourself feeling that life is not worth living or other people would be better off without you.

It may be enough to talk things over with a relative or friend who can help you through a bad patch in your life.

If this does not seem to help, you probably need to talk it over with your family doctor. You may find that your friends and family notice a difference in you and are worried about you.



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People of Westgate A Thank You

Soon after moving to Westgate from London in 2013, I met a man who was blind, on the number 8 bus, he needed to know which stop to get off at.

As it was also my stop we got off together and as we started to chat he commented that "Westgate is such a friendly place it reminds me of Bermondsey" where I was brought up. My ears pricked up as I also grew up in Bermondsey and amazingly it transpired that we had lived next door to each other in the 1950's.

I mention this because during the lockdown this friendliness has been confirmed and shown that Westgate residents are those who care and make this town a great place to live.

Thank you to all the shop staff, council staff and volunteers who worked so hard to support those who live here. Prior to my retirement I worked for over forty years as a social worker in hospitals and latterly in a hospice. One of my particular concerns was that people should receive all the health benefits they are entitled to.

During lockdown I came across instances where residents were not receiving their right entitlements and was able help them rectify the situation. I hope therefore when able, to offer a health benefits advice clinic probably in the Council Offices.

Finally I would like to thank the local resident who asked me for my surname, when I told her she replied with a chuckle:

"You must be so proud of having all these new hospitals named after you"
Thanks again to everyone

Cllr Roy Nightingale

Thank you

Remembrance Events 2020

Sun 1st Nov Poppy Installation

The Poppy Trail is now a regular installation in Westgate thanks to the Westgate-on-Sea Community Spirit Craft Group; the volunteers will be out in force again this year to install across the Town. To be involved please contact the Town Council by email: admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk

Sun 8th Nov Remembrance Services and Parade

We are awaiting further guidance from the relevant authorities on how best to approach this event in the current environment.

Please check the Town Council website and Facebook for updates.



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One of the many ways your Town Council are helping with dealing with Covid 19 & Coronavirus.

Whilst to many, the beautiful resort of Westgate-on-Sea is a historical, quaint & picturesque area, Westgate is also something of a technological forerunner. For example, Westgate had the first Electric Street Lights in the UK (1878), along with being the home of one of the very first Royal Naval Air Service Seaplane bases (the forerunner of RAF Manston). Yet, despite both of these, and many other areas where Westgate has stood at the very head of advancement in the world, Westgate is still seen as a charming & historical little hamlet – a bourg even!

Today, still keeping up with being at the forefront of technologic advances, and in the light of the current strict social distancing policies & the current 'Rule of Six' that Covid has presented the Country with, Westgate's Town Council are proud that they are able to conduct their Town Council meetings virtually - and have been doing so since early May this year.

Though some are aware of 'Virtual Meetings', there are still many who are not. A Virtual Meeting is just as the names suggests: a Meeting that is 'held virtually' - which means that the meeting isn't held in the traditional manner of 'people in a room', but in the 'ether' (so, on the Internet). Virtual meetings can be watched/attended by a variety of technological devices, including home PCs, mobile phones, tablets & smart TVs. There are several ways of holding these virtual meetings and your Town Council have chosen to go with the most popular one; Zoom. Whilst there are free options available, Zoom, being a professional operation, isn't one of them - but our Town Clerk has managed to negotiate an annual charge of under £60/annum – which equates to annual cost of around a mere 1p, per home, in Westgate each year.

The exact way you would attend a virtual meeting would depend on your method of watching it - if you know how to use Zoom, the connection details are given at the top of each Meeting's Agenda. For other 'newbies' to the scheme, there is even a trial way of accessing Zoom, so you can give it a test first. If you have any questions about connecting to, or using, Zoom, please e-Mail Cllr David Wallin (dwallin@westgateonseas.gov.uk) who will help you get it set up, which could be by phone, e-mail or even remote access.

The Town Council has now been in residence at 78 St Mildreds Road for more than one year and following feedback from some of the community the Town Council has now secured permission from Thanet District Council Planning team to have a dedicated noticeboard on the front of the Town Council office.

This will be used to display statutory official notices, including Agendas, Finance reports and Audit inspection details. This should prevent the need to clutter the windows, ensure that residents have more accessibility to the notices and the Town Council has met the statutory obligations as a Local Council.

We would like to thank Fixology who provided the labour during construction and donated some of the materials required.



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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!





I am not sure how many of our residents are aware, that Westgate-on-Sea has its own allotment site along Lymington Road.

It has 64 plots, that are leased by Westgate Town Council to local residents in ½ plots as the demand is so high these days. The Town Council hold regular meetings throughout the year and has site representatives for allotment holders to report any issues that may arise.

The allotment also has its own Westgate-on-Sea Allotment Association which is voluntary to join and for a small fee it provides a ‘shop’ for the purchase of fertilizers and other items, the provision of public liability insurance cover and the distribution of seed catalogues from the National Association. Seeds can be purchased through this catalogue at a discount. The Association has a community plot on which the shop is sited and provides an area that meetings and other community events can be held. At present it is “looking” after some trees that that been donated to Westgate in Bloom so that they can be brought on, ready for planting around Westgate.

Value of an Allotment during COVID 19 - during this very trying period in our lives, the allotment has been a good way of exercising and getting out, while keeping safe. The allotment allows social distancing at its best while still being able to wave hello to others therefore for some a lifesaver.

A few words from some of our allotment holders: For me, the allotment is a saviour for mental and health wellbeing. I personally hate the winter, so I turn my spare bedroom into the potting/ greenhouse in February get my mind going, planning about what we are going to grow and the reassurance that spring is on its way. Spring is full of planting out and nurturing. There is always someone to talk to at the allotment as well as just being able to potter about and before you know it, you have been up there for hours.

“In the Covid 19 chaos, our allotment has been an oasis of near normality.

During lockdown, instead of being isolated at home, we have been able to go to the plot every day, get plenty of fresh air, exercise and interact with our neighbours (socially distanced of course).

It’s been great for our mental and physical health and the veg tastes good as well “



“I see the privilege of an allotment as an essential part of my health and wellness and have to my delight been host to a wealth of wild creatures. I have found great companionship and peace in an increasingly difficult time”

The Westgate-on-Sea is a working allotment as these few photos will show you, but it is also a place to rest, watch and listen to nature, enjoy and reflect.

This year marks 100 years for Westgate Lymington Road Allotment Garden and I hope it still will be our own “hidden treasure” for the next 100 years.

Cllr O’Connor

Westgate Galleria

We are celebrating our first year on Westgate-on-Sea’s parade of independent shops and businesses, serving our local community and beyond. A big thank you to all our customers and neighbours, on behalf of our artists, makers and creatives, for your warm and friendly support.

We stock unique and beautiful artisan gifts, accessories and homeware, made by 75+ local independent artists, makers and creatives. We invite you to visit our large and airy, accessible and covid-safe, space at 29 Station Road, CT8 8RB. Free car parking and public transport are nearby. We are open 10am to 5pm Monday to Saturday.

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Home Energy Information for Residents



The Town Council will be working in partnership with Thanet District Council to promote new government initiatives that are available to access affordable heating and energy.

This includes:-

- Make sure that householders are aware of grants and assistance
- Raise awareness and ensure signposting to other organisations is in place
- In safer times, to present and undertake training sessions on affordable energy, fuel poverty, renewable energy

There will be further information soon in relation to vouchers available to householders to install energy efficiency and renewable energy measures (such as insulation, windows and air source heat pumps) – details to follow soon. There will be an information campaign starting soon and run by Thanet District Council to assist those who struggle to heat their homes, pay their bills or want to reduce their fuel bills.

Please use the link below to access Simple Energy Advice which is a Government endorsed advice site where you will find lots of information which may be helpful.

<https://www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk>



Heritage Centre Calendar 2021

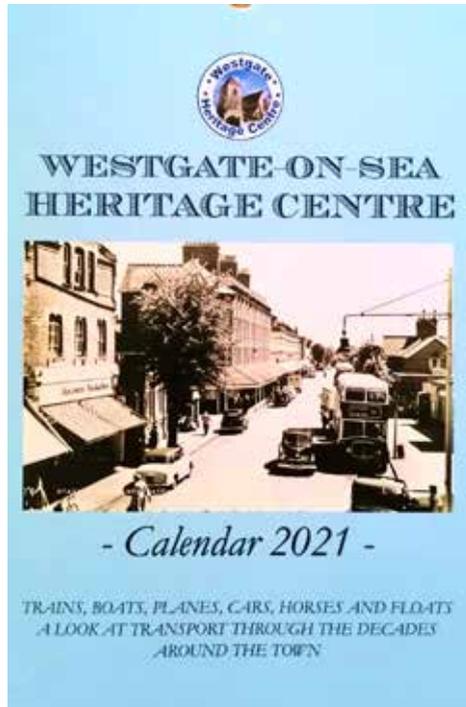
The theme is transport which ties in with the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Westgate-On-Sea railway station on the 12th April 1871.

There are pictures of trains, boats, planes, cars, horses and floats around the town from 1871 onwards.

The price is £5.00 plus £1.50 postage. Please send a cheque made payable to Westgate-On-Sea heritage centre to:

The Westgate-On-Sea Heritage Centre
Town Hall Buildings, 31 St Mildreds Road,
Westgate-On-Sea, CT8 8RE

In October 2020 the Heritage Centre's office in the Town Hall buildings will be open every Tuesday morning 10-12 am and calendars can be bought from there. Just press the office number on the intercom and a member of our team will be able to talk to you (there is no need to come inside the building)



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Fixology is Go!

Ray Taylor has now successfully launched the Fixology project, which is currently meeting at Grenville Lodge, 64 Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea.

Steve from Changing Minds had this to say about the initiative:-

"Fixology really is such a wonderful Community project and Changing Minds Kent has been honoured to be able to offer the space for the team to work with! We are really looking forward to what the fixology team will be able to achieve and to see them grow and thrive as a community initiative with a drive to help those who need it most."

The idea is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by repairing and/or upcycling. Their slogan is – DON'T BIN IT – FIX IT!

Here are just some of the comments from Fixologists:-

Pauline

"What a great project for Westgate".

Glynn

"I think it is an inspired idea. Everyone bringing different skills".

Pete

"Great project. Eager to get some projects going".

Pete W

"Looking forward to getting some great projects going to help the community".

Herbie

"It brings the residents together with different skills/experiences".

Len

"Love Fixology... thank you".

Danny

"Great project to benefit others".

John

"A very good idea".

The Town Council has worked to secure funding from Kent County Council on behalf of Fixology which has now been received and is going towards the set-up costs for the project to purchase tools and supplies.



Thanks to Cllr Emma Dawson for the support for this worthy community project.

Ray would like to thank Broadstairs Town Shed who have offered advice and shared best practice for the necessary statutory documentation required when setting up a new community group such as Fixology. Ray has also met with Kitchen CT9 who have offered workshop space for the bigger projects, this is a generous gesture and should ensure the project can expand when social distancing restrictions are lifted.

If you are interested in getting involved in either donating items to the project for repair or attending yourself please contact Ray Taylor – email – fixologyatwestgate@gmail.com or Facebook – "Fixology at Westgate".

If you are not online you can leave your contact details with the Town Council office by telephone **01843 836182**.

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New Defibrillator for Westgate

During the summer, a mysterious yellow box appeared on the front of the Swan public house, if you have not already noticed here is a photograph!



The Town Council worked in collaboration with various organisations to get this one installed, our thanks go to The Swan on Sea Road for agreeing to host the new defibrillator; also Thanet Business Network for sponsoring the payment of the parts needed to install the outside cabinet. Garry from ELS Electric Lighting Solutions for the labour supplied to get the installation completed and the Thanet Community First Responders for their support.

The picture below is Michelle, the manager from The Swan and Dave who is a member of the Thanet Business Network.



The picture below is Cllr Tim Green, our most recently elected Town Councillor and Johnny who is Team Leader for Thanet Community First Responders.



It is hoped that in the coming months the free training sessions provided by the Thanet Community First Responders can continue in Westgate; Government guidelines permitting during the COVID-19 situation.

These training sessions were popular last year and provide awareness and essential skills for the use of CPR and how to use an AED.

If you would like to register your interest in the training sessions when they become available please contact the Town Council – email – admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk



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Flagpole on Sea Road

The Town Council worked in collaboration to secure the movement of a flagpole from 117 Canterbury Road to the War Memorial on Sea Road.

The Town Council would like to thank Lorraine Hambidge, Miles and Barr, Thanet District Council and House of Flags for making this proposal a reality and providing expertise and/or support.

It is a fantastic addition to the Memorial Garden and will be utilised for the Remembrance Service and Parade in November this year. The Union Jack will be flown on civic occasions and ceremonial events.

We hope that the community enjoy the gardens on Sea Road which are now well established and agree that this is a welcome addition to the street scene.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk on **01843 836182** or by email townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk.



Picnic, Anyone?

The Town Council is pleased to have two picnic tables with benches installed on the green next to the Community Centre on Lymington Road.

They have been manufactured and installed by Evans Fencing and we hope you agree they make a welcome addition to the open space. There have already been families enjoying the autumn sunshine and using them to have alfresco lunch.

As you can see from this picture, they are designed to allow prams, pushchairs and wheelchairs to be pushed in the gap between the seats on one side. We have also been informed that elderly residents find them easier as they do not have to climb over the long bench seat to sit down! The recently planted trees should mature, and this will then be a welcoming corner of the green for families and friends to utilise for get togethers (Covid restrictions permitting of course).



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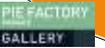
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Street Scene

Thanet District Council Street Scene is part of a joint enforcement team, who focus primarily on waste crimes in Thanet.

The team consists of six investigators, one operational support officer and an education officer, whose main roles include investigating fly-tipping, dumped waste, duty of care offences, household waste issues, and commercial waste crimes. The district is split into five areas, where one investigator predominantly covers to build local relationships etc, although there is of course overlap subject to number and scale of incidents.

The joint enforcement allows officers in other roles, such as civil enforcement, dog warden, CCTV (both overt and Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act approved covert) etc, to act as eyes and ears and to support where necessary, providing synergy benefits.

The legislation mainly used to enforce against the waste crimes is the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Fly-tipping in normal times (pre-Covid) is dealt with by rummaging for evidence or utilising witnesses/CCTV. It is a criminal offence and the investigations abide by all Police and Criminal Evidence legislation.

For more serious fly-tips, we would have sought prosecutions through magistrates (fines up to £50,000), and lesser amounts are often dealt with by immediate £400 fixed penalty notices (FPNs).



Dumped waste and household waste presentation issues are broad, but generalising are dealt with by FPNs as above, Section 46 notices, Community Protection Notices, formal warnings or education. It depends of course on circumstances.

Duty of Care is key for your residents to understand, they must check anyone they pay to remove rubbish has a legitimate waste carriers license. If not, and evidence is found in a fly-tip that it is their rubbish, they are responsible under Duty of Care, and would be liable for a FPN and a full investigation.

Commercial waste crime is a growing issue in the District, and the team work closely with the Environmental Agency, Kent Police on monthly Op-Assist days, and other partner agencies to combat this crime.

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Westgate-on-Sea Councillor Contacts



Cllr Joanna Cornford
Chairperson
Appointed Committee:
Planning, Highways and
Environment Committee and
Human Resources Committee
Contact: 07896 092324

Email: jcornford@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Pauline O'Connor
Vice Chairperson
Appointed Committee:
Finance and General Purposes
Committee and Human
Resources Committee
Contact: 01843 836182

Email: p.oconnor@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr David Donaldson
Appointed Committee:
Finance and General Purposes
Committee and Human
Resources committee
Contact: 07977 544697

Email: ddonaldson@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Timothy Green
Appointed Committee:
Finance and General Purposes
Committee
Contact: 07914 412965

Email: tgreen@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Roy Nightingale
Appointed Committee:
N/A
Contact: 07733 011723

Email: rnightingale@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Helen Page
Appointed Committee:
Planning, Highways and
Environment Committee
Contact: 01843 836182

Email: hpage@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Martyn Pennington
Appointed Committee:
Human Resources committee
Contact: 07710 030278

Email: mpennington@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Dr Hannah Scott
Appointed Committee:
Planning, Highways and
Environment Committee
Contact: 07411 815157

Email: hscott@westgateonsea.gov.uk



Cllr Matthew Scott
Appointed Committee:
Finance and General Purposes
Committee
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

Westgate-on-Sea District & County Councillors

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 Emma Dawson
County Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea which
forms part of Division
Contact: 03000 411009
Email: emma.dawson@kent.gov.uk

Cllr Liz Hurst
County Councillor for Westgate-on-Sea which
forms part of Division
Contact: 03000 411009
Email: liz.hurst@kent.gov.uk

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

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



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

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

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

www.thanet.gov.uk
01843 577000
Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1HX

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

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