



Westgate-on-sea
TOWN COUNCIL MAGAZINE

CELEBRATE WESTGATE

SUNDAY 21 JULY 2019
12 - 9PM

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ISSUE 1

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Following the elections in May we welcome two new councillors, both Davids! Cllr David Donaldson and Cllr David Wallin have joined our team and will be adding their skills and experience to our efforts to revitalise the town. With summer fast approaching we have much to achieve in a short time - Westgate in Bloom is going to be a big success, and our very first Westgate Day on 18th and 21th July will bring the town together in a new and remarkable way. Wherever you live in Westgate, we hope that this summer will be special!

You may already have seen the improvements at the railway station, with better trimming of the foliage and a renovated and re-opened waiting room on the London-bound side; more will follow, as we prepare its 150th anniversary in 2021.

Like me, you've probably been moved by the recollections of the D-Day landings; not only the amazing heroism of the troops, but the meticulous planning and intelligence work which prepared it. It is good to remember the horrors of war. And the Heritage Centre has done a great job in having two special benches made to commemorate the role of the town in World War II. I'm convinced the Centre has a vital role to play in putting Westgate back on the map.

As before, the Council is committed to supporting all the community groups in Westgate which bring us together, which is why we're setting up a steering group to plan the different events through the year and share experiences and resources. Several groups have already joined up; if you have such a group and would like to join, get in touch!

Regards

Martyn Pennington
Chairman

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Be Aware, Show You Care! Reduce your Speed!!

Westgate on Sea Town Council has been pleased to see the positive effects from the running of their Speedwatch Programme, at the end of 2018 stats showed that 17% of all drivers monitored were driving above 35mph in 30mph areas, the latest figures show that this number has dropped to 12%.

Speeding has been a continuous concern for the residents of Westgate on Sea. Our wide residential roads have often encouraged dangerous driving and thoughtless parking, which can and has led to accidents, injuries and unfortunately even loss of life. The Speedwatch initiative was set-up to help raise the awareness of careless driving on residential roads that hold a high risk of potential accidents and fatalities. Co-ordinated by Cllr Matthew Scott and our Town Clerk Gill Gray, the initiative works in connection with Kent Police and has been running since October 2018 with a growing team of volunteers which run sessions in various local locations at varying times of the day.

So what is Speedwatch?

Speedwatch schemes help community volunteers reduce excessive speeds on local roads. Operating at the roadside in 20mph, 30mph and 40mph areas, volunteers monitor speeds using a speed indication device (SID).

The owners of vehicles who have been repeatedly seen speeding or have been recorded at more than 50% over the limit are sent a letter of advice. Speedwatch activity never directly leads to prosecutions or penalties however officers may visit the registered owner's address in cases of repeat offenders.

The scheme main aims are:

- Increase drivers' perception of the risks from speeding and encourage them to slow down
- Reduce collisions and the severity of injuries on local roads
- Improve the quality of life for local communities.

As an active volunteer Cllr Matthew Scott has seen the positive reception and support from passing pedestrians, cyclists and even other motorists:



Cllr M.Scott "Having seen improvement in such a short period of time is very encouraging, however there is still a long way to go, we note that a large proportion of drivers slow down when seeing Speedwatch in location and we need these drivers to realise that speeding causes loss of lives and drivers should be driving within the speed limits at all times. Speedwatch is not there to 'catch people out', but to make road users aware of their speed and therefore continue to make Westgate on Sea's residential roads safer."

Cllr Scott also states the increasing need for more volunteers is essential for the growth and momentum of the Programme. "We want to run Speedwatch sessions more often and in more locations and as such need additional volunteers, after training the commitment is only one hour per month which is a small amount of time with big benefits for all of the community."



How can I get involved?

Please visit <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/community-support/speedwatch/> for full details of the scheme alternatively contact Westgate on Sea Town Council for further details.

E-mail: admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk Telephone: 01843 836182

All volunteers need to be over the age of 18. All necessary training is free and is provided by Kent Police.



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Come and see us to have a look around or contact the team to find out more.

We hope to see you very soon.



St. Michael's Care, Elm Grove, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent CT8 8LH

T: 01843 834 917 | E: admin@stmichaelscare.org | W: stmichaelscare.org

The Westgate-on-Sea Town Council and residents of Westgate-on-Sea have been vehemently against the allocation of 1000 houses on top quality agricultural land in and adjacent to the town, which has recently been increased to 2000 houses due to the reallocation of houses intended for the Manston Airport site.

The Town Council believes that some houses should be built, especially affordable and family houses as well as housing for older people to downsize to. However, 1000 houses are too many for the area and 2000 is complete over development of the town.

The Town Council also believes that the planned 17,100 houses for Thanet to 2031, corresponding to over 1000 houses per year, is massive overdevelopment and will cause great pressures on the infrastructure of the area, which is already over stretched e.g. The QEOM, doctors surgeries and our road system. Well over 8000 of these houses are planned for agricultural land classed as excellent (grade 1) and very good (grade 2) which is know as the "best and most versatile agricultural land" in the UK. The Town Council believes that high quality agricultural land should be preserved for growing food, especially at a time when the future of importing food from other countries is uncertain due to climate change.

The Town Council set up a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, chaired by **Cllr Dr Hannah Scott**, and asked the residents their views on the new proposed development. The majority of residents were extremely upset about the proposed destruction of the farmland and many did not want any of the land used for housing, stating that we should use brownfield land instead. Also residents said that if some housing did have to go ahead then the numbers should be limited and developers should build them in a way that does not encroach right up to existing residents, the development should include all the necessary infrastructure (doctors, dentists, roads) along with green spaces throughout, with respect to nature.

During the summer months, the Town Council will ask residents to read and comment on the Westgate-on-Sea Neighbourhood Plan that they have written. The are very proud of the



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Neighbourhood Plan as it showcases the area and, although it cannot completely stop the current housing allocation, it aims to get the best development possible and also protect the town from over development in the future. The Town Council hope that everyone will get involved in the consultation.

It looks like Westgate-on-Sea and Garlinge will have up to 2000 houses built next to them and the law – the National Planning Policy Framework - allows the destruction of farmland.

The law states that if farmland has to be built on within a Local Plan to fulfil the housing need of the area, that lower quality land should be used first. This is where the problem lies – the majority is excellent and very good farmland – showing that the framework is not fit for purpose in Thanet. At the Local Plan hearing in public Cllr Dr Scott raised these issues however was told that the hearing was not the place to question the National Planning Policy Framework.

The Town Council will continue to fight this allocation and are adamant that the 1000 houses that were put onto Westgate from Manston should be put back onto the Manston site if it is reallocated as housing again - brownfield land should be used before agricultural land.

In the meantime, as some houses will inevitably be built, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering

Group will continue to talk to Millwood Homes (developers of the Westgate site) to try to get the best possible development for the area, with good design, open spaces, all vital infrastructure included and respect for the existing residents. Millwood Homes intend to consult the local residents in the autumn and the Town Council will keep the residents informed of this. The Town Council will now begin to look at ways to take our concerns higher and to change the law on building on agricultural land.

This level of destruction of best and most versatile agricultural land cannot continue otherwise Westgate and the whole of Thanet will be concreted over in the future.

Cllr Dr Scott will be speaking at the Local Plan hearing in public on the environment and climate change on Wednesday 10th July, Austen Room, TDC offices.

To view the TDC draft local plan and supplementary documents go to: <https://www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/local-plan-updates/>

The Local Plan hearing in public has nearly finished however the last few days are between 9th July – 19th July at the TDC Council offices which will discuss Climate change, Transport, Manston and open space.

Map of allocation for proposed 2000 houses in Westgate and Garlinge.

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Upcoming Events



**SATURDAY NIGHT FURY'S
WESTGATE UNITED SERVICES CLUB**
Saturday 27th July, 9pm

Come on over and be entertained by rock and roll duo; The Rockin Furys. This promises to be a great night!

**Town Hall Buildings, 23 St Mildreds Road
Westgate, CT8 8RE**
01843 831135



**WESTGATE ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION
ST SAVIOURS CHURCH, WESTGATE**
Monday 12th August – 26th August

We are open from 10 to 4pm Monday to Thursday 12noon to 4pm on Fridays and Saturdays 10 to 1pm it is free to come in where members work is on display and for sale. We have a raffle to win an art piece, a craft piece and homemade card. It's free to come so drop in!

Fbook: Westgate Art, Crafts and Cards group



**COASTAL CRAFTY CREW CRAFT FAIR
QUEX PARK, CT7 0BH**
Sunday 4th August, 10am – 3pm

Handmade craft fair with unique handcrafts made with love by our wonderful Crafters. Free entry and free parking to find us go to main car park through the main building where there is farm shop and restaurant directly opposite you see a door go through this door follow the path pass the aviary and you see us.

All enquiries: coastalcraftycrew@gmail.com



**BREAD & BUTTER DUO @ PAUL'S BAR & BISTRO
42 STATION ROAD, CT8 8QY**
Sunday 8th September, 4pm -7pm

Performing for the first time at Paul's Bar and Bistro - Bread and Butter duo entertain you with some Buttery Twisted Songs from the Past to Present of your favourite artists ... ensuring to get your Feet Stomping, Hands Clapping, Bottoms Wiggling and everyone having lots of fun.

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THURSDAY: Discover Thunder Drums.
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Friday: Netsuke.
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KEY

- 1 Stage
- 2 Community space
- 3 Fun fair
- 4 West Bay Cafe
- 5 Craft market
- 6 Food market
- 7 The Swan pub
- 8 St. Saviour's Church and Heritage Centre
- 9 Christ Church URC

WELCOME

Sunday 21st July 2019 is an important date for your diary. Come and join us on this historic first-ever celebration day for Westgate-on-Sea.

It's happening from 12 noon to 9pm on the coastal greens in Sea Road. Where we will have a Fun Fair; a Performance Stage; Community Stalls, Activities and live broadcast from Academy FM. Also taking part in that location are West Bay Cafe and The Swan pub.

At the same time, in Adrian Square and Ethelbert Square you'll find over 50 stalls selling artisan food and handmade products.

Our churches in Westgate Bay Avenue (United Reform Church and St Saviour's Church) will also be marking the occasion in their own unique ways.

| TIME | EVENT | LOCATION | MAP |
|----------|--|--|--|
| 12 NOON | EVENT STARTS | THE GREENS - SEA ROAD, ETHELBERT SQ, ADRIAN SQ | 1 2 3 5 6 |
| 12-1PM | KENSEI TAIKO Japanese drumming | MAIN STAGE | 1 |
| 1-2PM | THANET BIG SING COMMUNITY CHOIR | MAIN STAGE | 1 |
| 2-2.30PM | SIGN 2 SING Local school children performing songs and using sign language simultaneously | MAIN STAGE | 1 |
| 2.30-3PM | MONSTERS MAYHEM Created with storyteller (see community space) | MAIN STAGE | 1 |
| 3-4.30PM | ROCK CHOIR Community choir | MAIN STAGE | 1 |
| 4.30-5PM | WISEWOOD DANCE Local dance school | MAIN STAGE | 1 |
| 5-6PM | ISLAND UKES Ukelele band | MAIN STAGE | 1 |
| 6-7PM | JOHN ROBERTS Singer / keyboard | MAIN STAGE | 1 |
| 7-8PM | ALICE AND DAVE Singing duo | MAIN STAGE | 1 |
| 8-9PM | ELEPHANT'S EYE Band | MAIN STAGE | 1 |
| 3PM | LIVE MUSIC AND BBQ | THE SWAN PUB | 7 |
| 5PM | SONGS OF PRAISE | ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH | 8 |
| 9PM | EVENT CLOSES | | |

ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE DAY

COMMUNITY SPACE 2

THANET ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

DOG DISPLAY TEAM

FACE PAINTING

HOG ROAST VAN

HOOLA HOOP

STORYTELLER (also 2.30pm Main Stage)

YOGA

FUN FAIR 3

RIDES

CANDY FLOSS

HOT DOGS

TOFFEE APPLES

WEST BAY CAFE 4

BBQ'D HOME MADE BURGERS / ICE CREAM POD

ARTISAN MARKET 5 6

LOCALLY PRODUCED CRAFTS, FOOD AND DRINK

PSYCHIC 6

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED:

Website: www.westgateonsea.gov.uk

Email: townclerk@westgateonsea.gov.uk

Tel: 01843 836182

In case you do not know it, the celebration is for the Town's Anniversary – which falls on 18th July. But so that as many people as possible can come and join the fun, the celebration day is being held on the nearest Sunday.

The Anniversary has been created to acknowledge Westgate-On-Sea as a unique town that all the Community is proud of. And the event has been put together with people from the Community participating and showcasing their skills. We hope people on social media will use the hashtag **#WESTGATE PROUD** on all of their posts.

So be a part of history, make a note of the date - 21st July 2019 – the first ever Westgate Day Celebration and bring your friends and families to enjoy all that Westgate-on-Sea has to offer.

For more info please e-mail: admin@westgateonsea.gov.uk

Meet the Designer

How long have you been a designer and what got you into designing?

I've worked as a commercial graphic designer for 18 years but before that trained as a pattern designer and screen printer so have always loved being creative. In fact most of my early memories involve me painting or drawing. I guess I fell in to graphic design as it was a sustainable creative career but I love the fact it allows me to build relationships with all sorts of different people and industries through working with them.

What has been your most challenging project?

After spending 17 years securely employed, in the Midlands and London, I've now set up on my own which allows me the freedom to go back to my roots and combine my commercial design work with illustration and print. Projects can be individually challenging but that's part of the fun - finding a way through the fog. I think setting up as a freelancer in Thanet and building my business from scratch has been a huge challenge and one I'm very proud to say is working so far.

How did you come up with the idea for the Westgate Day design?

I met with members of the Town Council and we discussed the Town and the event at length. We identified 4 key characteristics of the town which informed the colours - the sea - blue, sand - yellow, green spaces - green and the railway - red. Then I took the 4 areas which Westgate Day is focused on - heritage, creativity, coastal beauty and literary talent. I came up with the oblong motif from a section of the W in Westgate, and used it to create a celebratory bang of confetti for the logo. But the confetti could also be the Town's historic buildings, paint splashed on a canvas, our coastal flora or words on a page.

Where can we find out more about you and your work?

Visit - www.beckyismyname.co.uk
Instagram - @beckyismyname_design
Facebook - @beckyismyname.design
Etsy - www.etsy.com/uk/shop/beckyismyname

You've recently produced some products based on your love of Westgate-on-Sea how did this come about?

I moved here last year after having my daughter, although we've had links with the area for a while. I wanted a project which would get me out with my camera and help me meet people locally to kick start my business. I spent days walking the town, photographing all of the beautiful scenes and buildings. I then decided I could make some illustrations from them which have since become the calendar, prints and magnets.

Last year you produced a sell out Westgate-on-Sea Calendar will there be a new version for this year?

Yes there will! I've canvassed my Facebook followers and had some great suggestions of new places to include. I'll be taking pre-orders on my stall at the Celebrate Westgate event on 21st July. I'll also be selling photographic and illustrative prints on the day too.

You obviously love Westgate-on-Sea, what do you love most about living here?

I love that I see the sea every day. It's the most calming influence. After living in cities for so long, seeing the horizon is really special. I am going to try very hard to never take that for granted.

If you could recommend one place to visit in Westgate-on-Sea to a stranger where would that be?

Take a walk along the coast, stopping at the fort above St Mildred's Bay and at the sea shelters. The view across the coast takes my breath away on a clear day. Then lunch at Millie's with the sea right beside you. That's almost better on a stormy day - the sea looks wild but you're safe inside. I suspect I bore my friends talking about how great Westgate is!



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£10,000 grant from The National Lottery Community Fund

Almost £88 million of National Lottery funding has been awarded to over 3,000 projects across England this quarter. The good news comes ahead of Loneliness Awareness Week (17 – 21 June), an annual event dedicated to raising awareness of loneliness and helping reduce the stigma.

The funding has gone to support many different groups and projects taking innovative approaches to tackling loneliness and isolation, amongst other things. Recipients all share one thing in common – they understand what's needed in their communities and are focused on bringing people together to improve lives and provide support.

In Bloom by Westgate-on-Sea Town Council will use the £10,000 awarded to start a project of beautification to the Town, this will include the planting of new trees, flower beds, eat and grow gardens, wildlife areas plus raised beds for easy planting by our older residents. In addition, we will place new seating around the town for residents to be able to take in the views of our blue flag beaches and historic landmarks. We hope the beautification project will leave a legacy for future generations, bring together people of all generations, backgrounds and abilities to work on the project and in turn bring new footfall and visitors to our Town to support the local businesses.

Westgate on Sea Town Council previously announced the biggest green space regeneration plan ever earlier in the year, the plan is being co-ordinated by Town Clerk Gill Gray and Vice Chairperson Cllr Robert Micallef and will take approximately three years to complete.

So far 150 trees and hedgerow plants have been planted that were sponsored by **OVO Energy**.

On 12th July **The Bumblebee Conservation Trust** who have taken on the sponsorship of the Westgate-on-Sea Train Station (their largest project to date) will launch the first planting at the station which will include wildlife attracting plants, herbs and the launch of an eat and grow garden. The Trust have also donated a large amount of Meadow Seeds and Poppy Seeds to be planted across the town.



The bulk of this project will be completed using donations of plants, financial grants/donations and the local volunteers all of which we are open to receiving now.

James Harcourt, England Grant-Making Director at The National Lottery Community Fund, said: "Thanks to National Lottery players we are able to support more projects addressing loneliness and social isolation than any other funder in the UK.

"We're delighted that many of the projects we have funded this quarter are focussed on bringing communities together, enabling people to make new connections and empowering their communities to thrive. With their ideas, knowledge and passion, this money changes lives."

Cllr Robert Micallef Vice Chairperson, from Westgate-on-Sea Town Council, said: "Thanks to National Lottery players we are able to start work on creating a long-lasting legacy for our Historic Town.

This money will give a great start to our In Bloom initiative leading to the beautification and revitalisation of our Town, bring people of all ages and backgrounds to work together in creating beauty across Westgate-on-Sea and in turn bring much needed footfall and support to our local businesses.

We could not achieve this without the support of those that play the National Lottery and give thanks to each and everyone one of you"

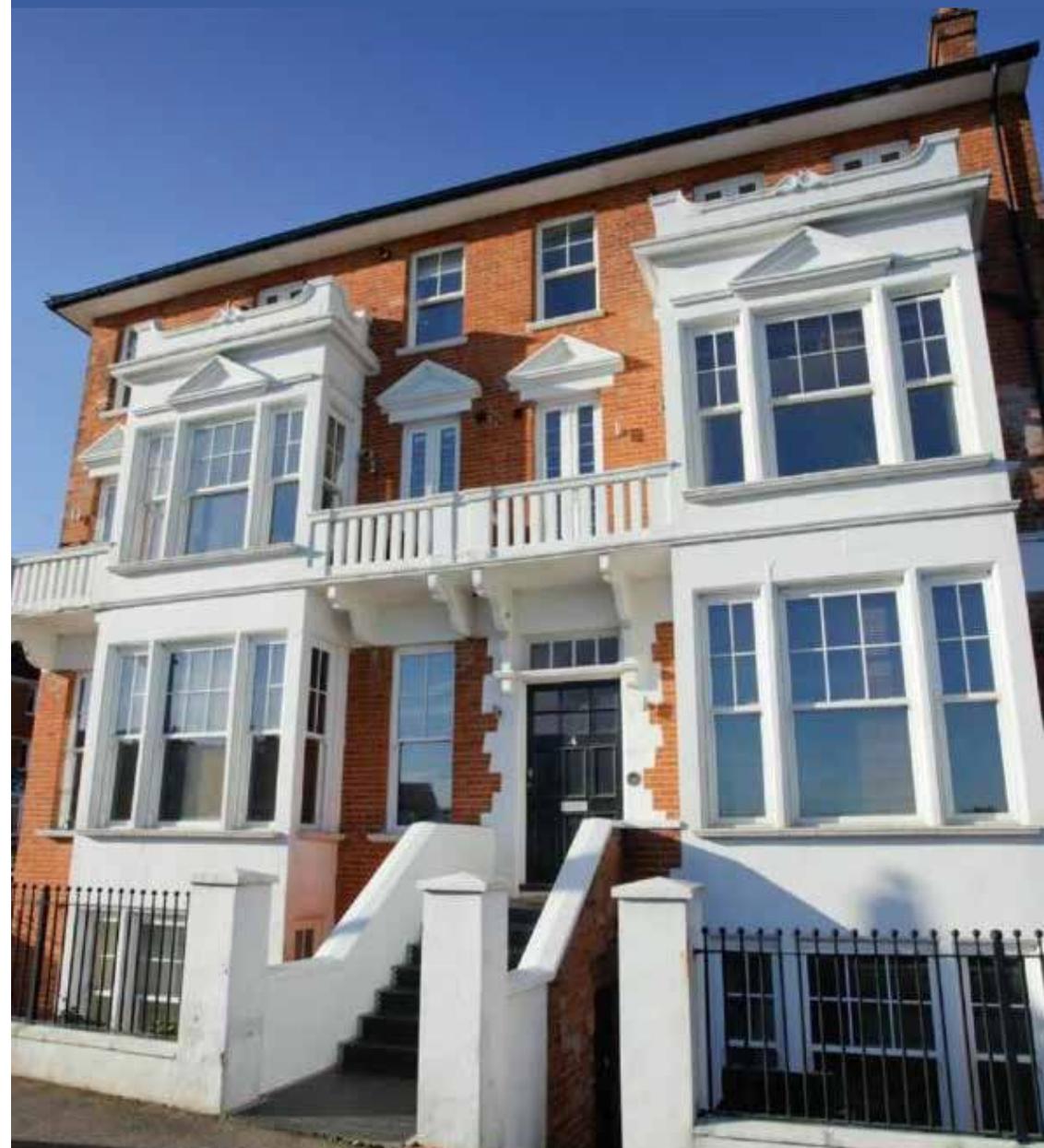
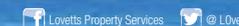
To get involved pick up a project pack from the Town Council offices or e-mail: admin@westgateonseas.gov.uk for a copy of the Westgate in Bloom Presentation.

For Further Information & Queries:
E-mail rmicallef@westgateonseas.gov.uk
or Telephone **07515 257298**

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01843 230690 or 861455 or 848382



Westgate-on-Sea Town Council on the move

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council are pleased to announce that they are moving from their current premises at 11 Ethelbert Square, CT8 8SR to a new larger premise at 78 St Mildreds Road, CT8 8RF.

The move due to happen on 1st July will allow the council to expand its services, open for longer, have a more accessible location and provide additional community space. The new space formally Birchington Brides will be almost double the size of the current premises, which will allow Westgate-on-Sea Town Council to deliver more local services.

As well as being able to open longer hours each day, the new space will also house a Food Bank, Tourist Information Point, Ticket Office and Recycling Location.

Moving to 78 St Mildreds Road will also allow the council to move all meetings in house rather than paying to hold them in other locations which will provide a saving in their annual budget.

It is also hoped that the new space will be able to be a host location to many new community-based services and classes building on the success they have had with things such as CPR & Defib Classes and Bumblebee Wildlife Training.

Westgate-on-Sea Town Council are also keen to start developing its own revenue streams to be able to put money back into community projects, as such the new space is hoped to be rented and used privately for exhibitions, events, gallery space, launches and community events which will not affect the day to day running of the council offices but will bring in additional revenue.

The move will not see any additional costs to residents.

Chairperson Martyn Pennington said, "The new premises not only offer good value for money but will be open to all the community as a facility".

Note: Westgate-on-Sea Town Council increased their precept by 1.8% for year 2019/2020 (TDC & KCC 3%)

For Further Information & Queries: -
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Chair Gina May

I am proud to be part of this amazing community filled with diversity, difference and history, and I welcome all, through the doors of the W&WRA

As a new committee, the first thing we need to increase active membership. To do this we need to increase the appeal of the Association for people of all ages by widening the demographic to make it something so special that people are desperate to be part of it, get involved in it and be a power force of the community. This will involve creating a unique identity for the W&WRA that sets us apart from all other organisations but at the same time allows us to work in collaboration with other organisations such as the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council, Thanet District Council and other groups in and around Westgate.

Our heritage and history are vital to celebrate but at the same time we need to modernise and move with the times. The constitution that we are based on is at the heart of all we do but we now need bring it up to date to include equality and diversity, child protection and PREVENT policies. This update will ensure that we are compliant with all current laws and at the same time benefit us by allowing us to apply for outside funding such as lottery & community grants which will provide events, services and support for people of all ages and backgrounds.

I want to be both reactive and proactive when it comes to the needs of the W&WRA and the local community and to help do this I believe we need to find a way that we can lease our own permanent multi-functional space which will be a place where people want to come. But while it would be good to do everything at once, we are a new Committee so we have to walk before we can run and as such we have a short, medium- and long-term plan.

In the very Short Term: First and foremost, we need to consult our members on what they want from the Association. To do this we need to update our contact lists with best ways of contact, whether it be via the Royal Mail, e-mail, notices posted locally (our notice board is on the wall outside the Krusty Kobb in Station Road),



social media etc. Therefore I would be grateful if current members could email the Membership Secretary at westgateandwestbrook@gmail.com to let us know, and if new members could be sure to tick the box giving us permission to include you in mailings notifying you of upcoming events and opportunities to become more involved. Secondly, as you can see, we have moved The New Record into the News & Directory Magazine which means that we have a large presence straight into 10,000 households. Every issue will include our news and an application form to join the W&WRA, listing the benefits residents of Westgate and Westbrook will get by joining us. Finally, we need to get the coffee mornings back on track with good numbers attending and profit being made, this may mean making changes to the format or location.

In the Mid Term: We need to become more visible to the community, so intend to have stalls at both Westgate Day and the Christmas Fair to promote the Association, attracting new members, reminding current members we are still here and raising funds for the exciting events we have planned. To end the year, we will have a Christmas Party for both children and adults to celebrate all that we have achieved and to promote all we have lined up for 2020.

This takes us to my long-term plan, making 2020 the year of the W&WRA! Starting in February, I would like us to take back the Pancake Races from the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council and re-launch them by running the first one in the original 1950's style, celebrating their heritage but adding a modern twist. VE Day celebrations in May of next year will be an important event for us, so we will start the day by paying tribute to the fallen and all those that kept us safe at

home and abroad. Then we will celebrate with a parade of local children dressed in 1940's style through the town leading them to baking classes using wartime recipes and wartime rations with the cakes being sold in a wartime staged café. There will be a range of intergenerational events with talks, authors and musicians and to end the day, a Tea Dance with 1940's music and a dancing display which will evoke an authentic atmosphere. The events will be run in conjunction with the local schools as part of wider community project, involving multiple businesses, groups and organisations. There will be WW2 themed displays and we hope to persuade local businesses to theme their shop windows.

In August, if we can attract funding and do effective fund raising ourselves, the plan is to revive the old Westgate Summer Fair. This would involve something for everyone and we imagine multiple groups getting involved in setting up and running a fun fair, craft stalls, dog show, sports day races for children, cake baking competitions, flower displays, morris dancers, barber shop singers, traditional ice creams and cream teas. The possibilities are endless.

As you can see, the Committee are committed to doing the very best job possible for the members of the W&WRA - but we cannot do this alone! We need new and existing members to get involved, sharing their skills and helping to raise the profile of the Association. For those who don't have time to do that, we need you to spread the word about what we are doing and share your ideas about other things we can do, by speaking to us direct or contacting us by email. We hold a General Meeting on the second Monday of the month alternating between the Bake House in Westgate and the Bowls Club in Westbrook. The August meeting will be at the Bake House so please come along, meet the new Committee and find out how you can get more involved.

Finally, as the new Chair, I would like to address who I am and what I do outside of the W&WRA. Books are my passion and one of the first things I did when I moved to Westgate was start a book club which is going from strength to strength. I have also been fighting hard to keep the library open as it is a community hub and

its importance to the local community cannot be over emphasised. My company, Gina May Events, has set up a Literary Festival for the 14th and 15th of September with authors in eight venues over two days, including Terry Waite. Running alongside this is a festival for children, KidsLit, with children's authors and lots of fun events which I hope will encourage them to read. All the children's events are free but places still need to be booked so that we have an idea of numbers for health and safety etc.

Tickets for the Festival are available at www.westgatelifest.co.uk. The Literary Festival will put the Westgate-on-Sea on the map bringing money and tourism into the town.

None of this will take away from my promise of hard work and commitment to being Chair of the W&WRA. Westgate-on-Sea and Westbrook are great places to live, work and socialise, so please help the Committee and I to make it even better by becoming part of the most amazing Resident's Association in Kent, if not the world! Buildings make a town, but people make a community.

To join, you can email us with the details requested on the application form, in person at the General Meeting or by sending the form to: The Membership Secretary, Westgate and Westbrook Resident's Association, St Augustine's Business Centre, 125 Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent CT8 8NL. Payment can be made in person at the meeting, by cheque, PayPal or direct credit.

An advertisement for PGA SERVICES. The background is black with yellow and white text. At the top, 'PGA SERVICES' is written in large, bold, yellow letters. Below it, in smaller white text, are the services offered: 'General Building Maintenance • Handyman service • Painting and Decorating • Locksmith Service • Gardening • Landlord Cover'. A yellow box contains the text 'Call for a free quote' and 'Dino Amato 07534 174897'. At the bottom, there is a row of various power tools and hand tools, including a drill, a saw, a hammer, and a wrench. The email address 'pga-services@hotmail.com' is written in white at the very bottom.

WWRA: Our Bee Conservation Project



People who insist on having every blade of grass exactly the same length and swathes of earth where weeds are terrified to show their heads along with insects because they know they will be sprayed into instant extinction are, as the saying goes shoot themselves in the foot.

Research has shown that bees are very choosy as to which flower they will visit but insects are not. As long as there is a supply of nectar at the base of the bloom they will visit to feed thus brushing the pollen onto themselves which will brush off onto their next hosts stamen and fertilise it. So if the gardener leaves an adjacent area of untidy garden where they can dwell hidden away under a shrub etc. then not only will the gardener benefit from an increase in crop or flower yield insects and bees will have an undisturbed area to nest, hibernate and breed thus helping our endangered species. So those of you who have a garden like mine now have the perfect response to the tidy garden fanatics.

The plunge in numbers of bee species has many causes, some of the major causes are:

Genetic over-breeding where breeders are trying to breed the perfect honey gathering docile easily controllable bee. In doing so they have bred out the bees natural resistance to disease

Mega farming. This requires the removal of hedges and areas of trees and shrubs which in some cases contained unique small habitats of diverse species of bees and insects which had adapted to living in them.

Spraying of pesticides. Even in a very light breeze the fine spray of the pesticide can travel a considerable distance outside its intended area and encroach on neighbouring habitats killing insects and bees etc. in these areas. In very small doses this can sometimes upset the biological balance within the bodies of the resident ecology.

To ensure crops are well fertilized honey bees are transported in numbers from one place to another and can actually deprive resident bees of sufficient foraging to maintain their numbers so the bee population in the area will decline.

Also these temporarily imported bees may carry diseases to which they have become resistant but the local native population has not.

How can we help?

Personally I am turning almost half of my lawn into a wildflower meadow and I also intend to grow bee friendly flowers and shrubs. I will also provide bee and insect nesting and hibernating sites where ever I can. Also I have been given a bee hotel by one of my grandchildren for Christmas so this can be screwed to the fence, these are easy to make and need not cost a great deal. I must also cut holes in the base of my fence panels to allow the passage of hedgehogs (should I be lucky enough to host any) from my garden into my neighbours to increase their foraging range.

When cutting a wildflower meadow it is essential to either collect all the ripened seed heads or allow the cut meadow grass to lay for a few days to allow the seeds to drop from their pods before collecting up the cuttings. In both cases it is essential to set the mower at its highest setting to preserve any nesting bee burrows.

What can we grow. Basically for bees you need to plan to have flowers and shrubs in flower all the year round. The type of flowers should be such that it allows the bees easy access to the carpels, which is surrounded by the stamens so the hybrids that have heads that look like up to four flowers all growing out of one stem are generally inaccessible to bees.

Winter. It is essential to have plants that bloom throughout the winter because if we have a warm spell bees can be roused from hibernation and will forage for food. I am lucky to have a shrub that starts blooming in the autumn and is in full

bloom all winter and into spring with attractive yellow flowers. I believe it is of the pea family but I grew from a cutting obtained from a friend and he didn't know its name either.

Names such as winter jasmine, nemesia, heather, mahonia, Christmas Rose, violas, sweet alyssum, viburnum and clematis cirrrosis will all give you winter flowers.

Spring We can start with snowdrops, crocus, daffodils etc. plant once and walk away and forget them, Plant bluebells and they won't forget you and will increase each year (make sure you plant English bluebells not Spanish that are hybridising with our native variety and driving them to extinction.

Summer and autumn I can leave this to your imagination, anything that bears accessible blooms will be welcomed by our bizzzy buzzy friends.

Shrubs loved by bees. Berberis have spring flowers and many have attractive leaves with bright coloured berries in autumn which will please your garden birds. St Johns Wort (Hypericum), Lavender, Hawthorn, Honeysuckle, the wild yellow honeysuckle is easy to grow from cuttings taken from the countryside hedgerows and lasts most of the summer and autumn. There are myriad others which you can look up on the internet.

Basically Support our bees, help them to increase in numbers to & pollinate our crops or you could choose to allow your descendants to starve to death because we don't have enough pollinators for our crops.

News in Brief

W&WRA General Meetings

We have our General Meetings on the second Monday of the month either in The Bakehouse or at the Bowls Club, Westbrook. The meetings always start at 1915 but it is recommended that you be there by about 1900 to guarantee you get a seat! You can raise any issue either during the meeting or by contacting a member of the Committee prior to the meeting who can speak on your behalf.

Urgent Appeal - Flat Screen Monitors.

If there are any lonely flat screen monitors out there who would like to meet up with a new friend who is fully ready and raring to go on an adventurous journey to a far away country to join a new and grateful family but cannot do so without you please get in touch with me as soon as possible. I will arrange to collect and you will no longer have to languish in a boring and dark and dusty place. **Don Eacott** - local collector for Tools With a Mission, Tel **01843 833653**. See what we do at: www.twam.uk

Westbrook Bowls Club, Royal Esplanade, Westbrook.

Three years ago Sport England gave us a grant which enabled us to improve both the surroundings and also the facilities for both our members and for other groups that hire the venue.

We are now just coming to the end of some of the Winter activities that we organise (darts, carpet- bowls, table -tennis, cards & board games, Bingo, quizzes & coffee mornings.) so our members are now looking forward to bowling outdoors on our green adjacent to the sea at Royal Esplanade Westbrook. CT9 5DL. Our outdoor season will start on Sat 20th April. and continues until the end of Sept.

The green-keepers have continued to work hard to ensure that the green will be ready for bowling. During the summer months we take part in Competitive bowling:- (Ladies' League, Men's League, & Catherine Wheeler mixed triples League matches.) We also have friendly matches with other clubs, internal club competitions, our own roll-up sessions (usually three a week) together with fun bowling which is often combined with a social event. New members will be given a very warm welcome whether they are new to bowling or experienced bowlers.

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The Westgate-on-Sea Literary Festival 2019

The Westgate-on-Sea Literary Festival is a new two day event to celebrate literature for all, embracing established and new authors and works across all genres for all age groups.

The Festival comprises talks and activities delivered by Writers and Experts from the industry. The Festival runs over the 14th-15th September 2019 in venues across Westgate.

This new Festival seeks to showcase local and national authors and literary talent through workshops, talks and panel discussions, experts in children's writing, published novelists and non-fiction authors. Current strands include Crime Fiction, Romance, Mystery, Science fiction and Fantasy, Children's Fiction, ePublishing and Autobiographical Writing. There will also be a range of writing workshops and a wandering poet who will be writing about Westgate as they go.

Running alongside the events for adults, there are events across the two days for children. These include children's authors reading from their stories and talking about the characters, dressing up, a writing workshop and much more. Waterstones will provide a pop-up bookshop where signed copies of the authors' work will be available and there will be refreshments available across all the venues.

To encourage budding authors, there is a short story competition which has both adult and children's categories. This year also sees the launch of a new literary competition specifically for authors aged over 65. **The Dee May Prize for Fiction** has a 5,000 word limit and must be on the topic of aging.

Please have a look at our website where the names of all the authors will be announced shortly and tickets will be available to purchase.

Pictured from Top: Tessa Boase, "Mrs Pankhurst's Purple Feather" at a WestgateLit Afternoon Tea. A packed WestgateLit Afternoon Tea session. Crime Writers William Shaw and Lisa Cutts at a WestgateLit pre-festival event. Whitstable based Crime Writer Julie Wassmer will be speaking at the Festival. Terry Waite CBE will be speaking about his travels with the Archbishop and his incarceration in the Middle East at the Westgate Literary Festival



For further information visit www.westgatelitfest.co.uk

WESTGATE LITERARY FESTIVAL 2019 ITINERARY

| Day 1 14th Sept | The Function Room. Town Hall Buildings St Mildred's Road, Westgate | CC's Gin Bar Station Road, Westgate | Christchurch URC Church Hall Room 1 Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate | Christchurch URC Main Church Hall Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate | Bake House St Mildred's Road, Westgate | Out and About in Westgate |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| 10:00am - 11:30am | Giles Chapman, Trevor Agnew and Nick Evans - Petrolheads - Westgate's own Top Gear £8 | Jane Taylor from Thunderpoint publishers, Wales. £6 | Westgate and A.A. Milne by Dr Dawn Crouch of the Westgate Heritage Society. £6 | Coz Crawford & Tim Shephard Living History Workshop - fun and games across the ages for children. Free of charge to children under 16 | LGBTQ+ Writing with Roger Newman | Gary Studley - Poet in Residence - based downstairs in CC's Gin Bar |
| 12:00pm - 1:30m | Lesley Cookman Murder Mystery Fiction - Author of the Libby Sarjeant Mysteries. £8 | Maggie Harris - Commonwealth Poetry Prize Winner. £6 | Nick Evans on Dreamland, Margate. The social history of the iconic amusement park. | Helen Seton - War Children - Stories about Ramsgate Children during the Second World War written for children today. Free of charge to children under 16 | TBC | Gary Studley - Poet in Residence - based downstairs in CC's Gin Bar Morris Dancers out and about at lunchtime |
| 2:00pm - 3:30pm | Julie Wassmer - Author of the Whitstable Pearl Mysteries £8 | Frances Knight, Derek Sellen and Mary-Jane Smith - Poetry Is Where You Find It - Words and musical performance. £6 | David Shaw Mackenzie. £6 | Claire Burgess Gardening for Kids. Help your children know where food really comes from and to grow their own. Free of charge to children under 16 | Inspirations Writing Group | Gary Studley - Poet in Residence - based downstairs in CC's Gin Bar |
| 4:00pm - 5:30pm | Lisa Cutts and William Shaw - Crime Fiction from the authors of the DC Nina Foster and DI Alex Cupidi books. £8 | TBC | Mark Stay Fantasy Writing £6 | Tim Parsons talking about his Paramedic Chris series of books, with a guest appearance from the actual Paramedic Chris. Free of charge to children under 16 | TBC | Gary Studley - Poet in Residence - based downstairs in CC's Gin Bar. Jill Hogben Author of a Wartime Romance based at RAF Manston - talking to visitors about her work, downstairs in CC's |
| 6:00pm - 7:00pm | TBC | TBC | TBC | Terry Waite - The former envoy to the Archbishop of Canterbury talking about his life, his incarceration as a hostage, and returning home. £12 | TBC | TBC |

| Day 2 15th Sept | The Function Room. Town Hall Buildings St Mildred's Road, Westgate | CC's Gin Bar Station Road, Westgate | Christchurch URC Church Hall Room 1 Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate | Christchurch URC Main Church Hall Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate | Changing Minds in Westgate | Out and About in Westgate |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| 10:00am - 11:30am | Alex Brown and Cressida McLaughlin Women's Fiction. £8 | Martin Gurdon - Chicken Keeper £6 | N/A | N/A | Just Write Workshop with Sue Emm | Gary Studley - Poet in Residence - based downstairs in CC's Gin Bar |
| 12:00pm - 1:30m | Tessa Boase - Mrs Pankhurst's Purple Feather - Social History of the RSPB and the Formidable Women who made it happen. £8 | Stephen Tuffin - working class writer - flash fiction. £6 | N/A | N/A | Workshop with Sue Emm | Gary Studley - Poet in Residence - based downstairs in CC's Gin Bar |
| 2:00pm - 3:30pm | Tom Rasmussen - Diary of a Drag Queen £8 | Jude Adams music and literature. £6 | Steve Dunn Science Fiction and Fantasy Author. £6 | Sam Gayton writing workshop for kids 2:00pm - 4:00pm Free of charge to children under 16 | Stephen Tuffin - working class writer - Writing Workshop | Gary Studley - Poet in Residence - based downstairs in CC's Gin Bar. Barbershop singers strolling around Westgate entertaining |
| 4:00pm - 5:30pm | Maurice Rutherford A Life with Poetry. £8 | Connor Sansby - Open Mic Poetry | Evie Wyld - Award winning writer. £6 | Children's Short Story Competition Winners Ceremony on the stage | TBC | Gary Studley - Poet in Residence - based downstairs in CC's Gin Bar |
| 6:00pm - 7:00pm | TBC | TBC | TBC | Adults Short Story writing competition announcements | TBC | TBC |

New Games for Old Courts

For tennis enthusiasts there's nothing so depressing as walking past local authority tennis courts slowly disintegrating and under-used because of neglect.

For tennis enthusiasts there's nothing so depressing as walking past local authority tennis courts slowly disintegrating and under-used because of neglect.

Despite the intense public interest in the Wimbledon championships, councils often turn a blind eye to these public sports areas as they wrestle with the problems of providing much-needed services with ever shrinking budgets. When a choice has to be made between care for children and older people or replacing cold hard asphalt, it is not difficult to understand what the outcome has to be.

Thanet council, with some of the most deprived areas in the south east, has its share of these problems. But there could be other ways to solve some of these dilemmas and provide extra cash for facilities that would otherwise be left at the back of the money queue.

The beginnings of an answer to the neglected spaces conundrum, could be provided by a small tennis group launched a few weeks ago at the St Mildred's Bay tennis courts, bordering Westgate in Westbrook Avenue. Every Sunday afternoon a group of players from beginners to more experienced players are meeting to learn, practice and compete with a view to one day forming what could become a multi-sports club. It's an ambitious concept that will need a good deal of effort, cooperation and planning and, not least of all, a large sum of money. How will this be possible?

Fortunately, there are examples of small groups that have been able to raise substantial amounts of cash through local donations, crowd funding, sponsorships, and grants from organisations like Sport England. For example three volunteers in Hingham, in Norfolk, were able to raise £91,000 in two and half years to renovate two derelict courts, provide floodlights and build a clubhouse now serving 200 members. For their efforts they received a "club of the year" award from the Lawn Tennis Association.



The courts at St Mildred's Bay could not be described as derelict but two courts could benefit from resurfacing and one court has back fencing missing at both ends. Two courts were resurfaced a few years ago through the generosity of a local councillor, according to one local resident.

To achieve results like those in Hingham a step-by-step approach will be needed. Starting at the end of April, the new tennis group has continued to grow and has been welcomed by officials at both Thanet and Westgate councils who a keen to promote health and fitness through activity on open spaces.

Assuming growth continues and there is agreement about forming a club, the next step would be to ask Thanet council to grant the club for a long-term lease which already happens in the case of local clubs like Margate and Broadstairs. A lease is important because grant-giving bodies need to be assured that money invested will be used for facilities available for use for years to come. Another reason is that a club needs to be able to allocate court time to members at designated times during the week. This is not say that the courts would be closed to members of the public who want to use the courts. Complimentary open-court sessions and free coaching would be available as a means of increasing members and promoting tennis generally.

One important question arises when considering the formation of a sports club and that is whether there will be enough members paying subscriptions to meet the expenditure on a lease, resurfacing courts in future years and other items like nets and other maintenance.

Costing anything from £6,000-£,000 a year, raising this kind of sum by a small group would be difficult unless two courts became available for use by other sports. Fortunately, there are now tufted carpeted surfaces which now can be used for a variety of games like netball (growing fast since our Olympic success), basketball, football, cricket as well as tennis. So, given sufficient interest, it would be possible for a Westgate and Westbrook tennis group to morph into a multi-sports club.

Developing two-courts in this way would greatly widen the opportunities for both adults and children to engage in sports to their liking and provide the necessary income to maintain and develop a thriving sports club serving the local community.

One further hurdle would need to be cleared before this vision could become reality. Every club needs a clubhouse where equipment can be stored and members can shelter when a summer day turns wintry. A clubhouse can also provide an important focal point to social activities or just a place to relax with a cup of tea or coffee after a hard game.

One small step has been taken to achieving this ambitious project. If successful in the future, the view over the courts will give cause for optimism not gloom.

* The tennis group meets every Sunday 2.30-4.30 pm. Inquiries about the group or developing the courts for other sports to : westgatetennis@hotmail.com

Facebook: Westgate and Westbrook Tennis Club

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New CPR and Defibrillator at The Swan



Westgate-on-Sea Town Council in conjunction with the British Heart Foundation Grant Scheme are pleased to announce that they have purchased another Defib machine which this time is to be placed at The Swan on Sea Road.

This Defibrillator machine forms part of the rolling training programme being done by local Community First Responders who demonstrate how easy it is to treat someone who has had a cardiac arrest or heart has stopped by using CPR or a Defibrillator. The monthly training being offered to the whole community has so far trained 50 residents and councillors.

So what is a Community First Responder (CFR)? – CFRs are volunteer members of their community who are trained to respond to emergency calls in conjunction with SECAMB. As they respond in the local areas where they live and work they are able to attend the scene of an emergency within a few minutes, and often before the emergency service arrives. They are able to offer life-saving first aid further increasing the patient's chances of survival.

SECAMB currently has more than 400 CFRs spread across Kent, Surrey and Sussex and north east Hampshire.

CFRs attend roughly 20,000 emergency calls per year of which were categorised more than 10,000 are categorised as life-threatening including more than 1,000 of which are cardiac/respiratory arrest calls. A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the heart through the chest wall to someone who is in cardiac arrest. This high energy shock is called defibrillation, and it's an essential life saving step in the chain of survival. If you come across someone who has had a cardiac arrest, it's vital to call 999 and start CPR. Then you should find out if there is a defibrillator nearby.

There are many defibrillators available in public places in Westgate-on-Sea such as Westgate Surgery, My Dentist, Edwards, The Bake & Alehouse, King Ethelbert School, St Saviours Church of England Junior School and the Fire station.

You shouldn't be afraid of using a defibrillator if someone has had a cardiac arrest, the machines have built in vocal instructions and only works on the patient if needed. Come and find out more on our 90 minute training course.

To Book on a training course:

E-mail admin@westgateonseas.gov.uk or Telephone **01843 836182**

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INGREDIENTS

- 250g raspberries
- 225g caster sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 4 egg yolks
- 600ml double cream
- Raspberries or other fruit for serving



METHOD

Place the raspberries in a pan with 2 tbsp of the sugar. Cook on a medium heat until sugar dissolves into the pulp. Simmer for 5 mins until thickened, then push the pulp through a sieve into a bowl and discard the seeds.

Place the eggs, egg yolks and remaining sugar into a bowl. Whisk with an electric whisk hand whisk to combine everything, then place over a pan of gently simmering water – the bowl should not touch the water. Beat with the electric whisk for 3-4 mins until thick and pale. Remove from heat and continue beating with the whisk until cool.

In another bowl, whisk the cream until it forms soft peaks, then gently fold into the cool egg mix until just combined. Pour the mix into a shallow container or dish that can be frozen. Just before you freeze the mixture gently swirl the raspberry puree through, cover with cling film and freeze for at least 6 hrs. Remove from the freezer about 20 minutes before serving. Place scoops of the ice cream into bowls with extra raspberries or other fruit. It's also gorgeous in cones.



ST. MICHAELS CARE
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