

= Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea =

Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea is a seaside town in north @-@ east Kent , England , with a population of 6 @, @ 996 at the 2011 Census . It is within the Thanet local government district and borders the larger seaside resort of Margate . Its two sandy beaches have remained a popular tourist attraction since the town 's development in the 1860s from a small farming community .

The town is notable for once being the location of a Royal Naval Air Service seaplane base at St Mildred 's Bay , which defended the Thames Estuary coastal towns during World War I. The town is the subject of Sir John Betjeman 's poem , Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea . Residents have included the 19th @-@ century surgeon Sir Erasmus Wilson and former Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple . The artist Sir William Quiller Orchardson painted several of his most well @-@ known pictures while living in Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea . The British composer Arnold Cooke attended the town 's Streete Preparatory School in the early 20th century , and Eton headmaster Anthony Chenevix @-@ Trench spent the earliest few years of his education in the town .

= = History = =

Before the 1860s , Westgate consisted of only a farm , a coastguard station ( built 1791 and still standing in Old Boundary Road ) and a few cottages for the crew that surrounded it . These were located beside the coast at St Mildred 's Bay , named after Mildrith , Thanet 's patron saint and a one @-@ time Abbess of Minster . The town inherited its name from the Westgate Manor , which was located in the area in medieval times . In the early 20th century , the remains of a Roman villa were discovered in what is now Beach Road , where a stream once used to flow . Fresh water can still be seen rising from the sand at low tide .

During the late 1860s , businessmen developed the area into a seaside resort for the upper to middle @-@ classes . A stretch of sea wall , with promenade on top , was constructed around the beaches at St Mildred 's Bay and West Bay , and the land divided into plots to be sold for what would become an exclusive development by the sea for wealthy metropolitan families within a ' gated community ' , rather than for occasional tourists . The opening of a railway station , in 1871 , led to the rapid expansion of the population , which reached 2 @, @ 738 by 1901 . The demands of the increasing population led to the building of the parish churches of St. James in 1872 and St. Saviour in 1884 . St. Saviour 's was designed by the architect C.N. Beazley . In 1884 it was reported that Essex , on the other side of the Thames Estuary , was hit by a tremor so large that it caused the bells of St. James ' Church to ring . In 1884 , ownership of most of the resort passed to Coutts Bank , after the previous proprietors had gone bankrupt .

Around twenty schools were opened during the late 19th century , although many had only a few pupils or closed within a few years . The largest of the schools were Streete Court School , Wellington House Preparatory School and St Michael 's School .

Wellington House was established in 1886 by two clergymen , the Bull brothers . It closed in 1970 and was demolished in 1972 . Notable old boys included Doctor Who actor Jon Pertwee and cabinet minister John Profumo , known for his involvement in the Profumo affair . Streete Court School was opened in 1894 by John Vine Milne , the father of the author A. A. Milne . In the 1890s , the school was attended by St John Philby , the father of the spy Kim Philby .

The Coronation Bandstand was built by the cliff edge in 1903 , at a cost of £ 350 , to celebrate the coronation of King Edward VII . The following year , a group of French Ursuline nuns , who were banned from teaching in France , fled with some of their pupils to Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea and established the Ursuline Convent School , which in 1995 was re @-@ established as Ursuline College . In 1910 , a Swiss @-@ Gothic styled town hall was built . However , it was soon decided that the building could be put to better use , and in 1912 , it was transformed into the Town Hall Cinema . In 1932 , it was renamed the Carlton Cinema .

On 1 August 1914 , after the outbreak of World War I , a Royal Navy seaplane base was opened by the coast to defend the Thames Estuary naval towns against attack . It was at first used for both seaplanes and landplanes , but due to landing problems , a separate landplane base was opened in

Manston in 1916 . After the war , the seaplane base was decommissioned , and the landplane base in Manston eventually became Kent International Airport . During the war , the Coronation Bandstand was converted into sleeping quarters for use by the Royal West Kent Regiment . In 1925 , the bandstand was refurbished and reopened as the 600 @-@ seat Westgate Pavilion theatre . By 1931 , the town 's population had reached 4 @,@ 554 . During World War II , several schools were evacuated to inland areas , with some , such as Streete Court School , leaving the town permanently . On 24 August 1942 , a German fighter pilot , Herbert Bischoff , was captured after being shot down and crash landing in a field adjacent to Linksfield Rd , just south of the town .

On 27 April 1944 a Liberator aircraft from the 392nd USAAF bombing group Based in East Anglia near Wendling , Norfolk , crashed off the beach , adjacent to the Westgate Pavilion , with five of the crew killed and four injured in the crash . A special memorial service was held for the crew by the Mayor of Margate and veterans organisations on 27 April 2009 at the war memorial overlooking the crash site .

In 1975 , five historic church bells were transferred to St Saviour 's Church from the Holy Cross Church in Canterbury , which had closed in 1972 . Three of the bells date back to the early 17th century and one was cast in the 14th century . From the 1970s to the 1990s , the Westgate Pavilion was a bingo hall , after which it closed and became derelict . In 2001 , a group of volunteers formed a charitable trust to repair the pavilion and it was eventually reopened as a theatre .

### = = Geography = =

Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea is located in northeast Kent , on the coast of the Thames Estuary . It is bordered by the town of Margate to the east and the village of Birchington @-@ on @-@ Sea to the west . The town is built beside the two sandy bays of St Mildred 's Bay and West Bay , which both have a sea wall and groynes to prevent coastal flooding . Chalk cliffs are present in between the bays and either side of the bays . The whole of the northeast Kent coast has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest .

The town is situated on the Isle of Thanet , a separate island from mainland Kent until around two hundred years ago , when the channel in between silted up . The geology of Thanet consists mainly of chalk , deposited when the area was below the sea . The Isle of Thanet was formed when the English Channel was formed by the sea breaking through , an island of chalk being left on the east side of the county . It was separated from the rest of Kent by the Wantsum Channel .

### = = = Climate = = =

In East Kent , the warmest time of the year is July and August , when maximum temperatures average around 21 ° C ( 70 ° F ) . The coolest time of the year is January and February , when minimum temperatures average around 1 ° C ( 34 ° F ) . The average maximum and minimum temperatures are around 1 / 2 ° C higher than the national average . East Kent 's average annual rainfall is about 728 millimetres ( 29 in ) , with October to January being the wettest months , compared with the national average of 838 millimetres ( 33 in ) .

These are average temperature and rainfall figures taken between 1971 and 2000 at the Met Office weather station in Wye , around 25 miles ( 40 km ) southwest of Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea :

### = = = Transport links = = =

Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea railway station is on the Chatham Main Line , which runs between Ramsgate in East Kent and London Victoria . Other stations on this line include Broadstairs , Margate , Herne Bay , Faversham , Gillingham , Rochester and Bromley South . Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea is around 1 hour and 45 minutes to London by fast @-@ service train . A National Express coach service runs between London Victoria and Ramsgate , and a selection of trains run to London 's Cannon Street station , primarily for business commuting . There is a Stagecoach bus service running to neighbouring Birchington and Margate , and a service running between

Broadstairs and Canterbury via Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea . The A28 road runs between Hastings and Margate via Ashford , Canterbury , Birchington and Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea . 4 miles ( 6 km ) southwest of Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea , the A28 crosses the A299 road , which leads along North Kent towards London , becoming the M2 motorway at Faversham .

#### = = Demographics = =

At the 2001 UK census , the Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea electoral ward had 6 @,@ 594 residents and 2 @,@ 845 households . Of those households , 38 @.@ 0 % were married couples , 8 @.@ 4 % were cohabiting couples and 9 @.@ 4 % were lone parents . 39 @.@ 2 % of all households were made up of individuals and 21 @.@ 9 % had someone living alone at pensionable age . 23 @.@ 6 % of households included children aged under 16 , or a person aged 16 to 18 who was in full @-@ time education . There was a high percentage of households made up of individuals , compared with the percentage for the whole of England . The average household size was 2 @.@ 7 .

The town has a low proportion of non @-@ white people compared to national figures ; the ethnicity recorded in the 2001 census was 97 @.@ 4 % white , 1 @.@ 0 % mixed race , 0 @.@ 4 % Chinese , 0 @.@ 6 % other Asian , 0 @.@ 3 % black and 0 @.@ 3 % other . The number of foreign @-@ born residents is relatively low , with the place of birth of residents in 2001 being 94 @.@ 5 % United Kingdom , 1 @.@ 0 % Republic of Ireland , 0 @.@ 5 % Germany , 0 @.@ 6 % other Western Europe countries , 0 @.@ 3 % Eastern Europe , 0 @.@ 8 % Far East , 0 @.@ 6 % North America , 0 @.@ 5 % Africa , 0 @.@ 4 % South Asia , 0 @.@ 2 % Middle East and 0 @.@ 2 % Oceania . Religion was recorded as 75 @.@ 8 % Christian , 0 @.@ 5 % Muslim , 0 @.@ 2 % Hindu , 0 @.@ 1 % Buddhist and 0 @.@ 3 % Jewish . 14 @.@ 4 % were recorded as having no religion , 0 @.@ 3 % had an alternative religion and 8 @.@ 3 % did not state their religion .

The age distribution was 5 % aged 0 ? 4 years , 13 % aged 5 ? 15 years , 5 % aged 16 ? 19 years , 28 % aged 20 ? 44 years , 22 % aged 45 ? 64 years and 27 % aged 65 years and over . There was a high percentage of residents over 65 , compared with the national average of 16 % , mainly due to seaside towns being popular retirement destinations . For every 100 females , there were 85 @.@ 7 males .

#### = = Economy = =

As a seaside resort , the economy is mainly based around tourism ; there are several hotels and guest houses near the seafront , to accommodate the influx of visitors during the summer . The High Street has a variety of shops and services , and there are a small number of factories . The elderly population has led to many health and social care jobs at local care homes . At the 2001 UK census , 6 @.@ 9 % of the population resided in a medical or care establishment , compared with the national average of only 0 @.@ 8 % .

At the 2001 census , the economic activity of residents in the Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea electoral ward was 32 @.@ 9 % in full @-@ time employment , 12 @.@ 3 % in part @-@ time employment , 7 @.@ 8 % self @-@ employed , 4 @.@ 3 % unemployed , 2 @.@ 1 % students with jobs , 4 @.@ 3 % students without jobs , 18 @.@ 1 % retired , 6 @.@ 2 % looking after home or family , 9 @.@ 5 % permanently sick or disabled and 2 @.@ 3 % economically inactive for other reasons . The percentage of retired people was significantly higher than the national figure of 14 % and the percentage of unemployed people was high compared with the national rate of 3 @.@ 4 % . The number of permanently sick or disabled people was much higher than the national figure of 5 @.@ 3 % . 12 % of residents aged 16 ? 74 had a higher education qualification or the equivalent , compared with 20 % nationwide . The Office for National Statistics estimated that during the period of April 2001 to March 2002 , the average gross weekly income of households was £ 430 ( £ 22 @,@ 421 per year ) .

The industry of employment of residents , at the 2001 census , was 16 % retail , 16 % health and social work , 13 % manufacturing , 9 % construction , 9 % real estate , 9 % education , 7 % transport and communications , 5 % public administration , 5 % hotels and restaurants , 3 % finance , 1 %

agriculture and 6 % other community , social or personal services . Compared with national figures , there was a relatively high number of workers in the construction and health and social care industries and a relatively low number in finance and real estate . Many residents commute to work outside the town ; at the 2001 census , the town had 2 @, @ 388 employed residents , but only 1 @, @ 464 jobs .

= = Politics = =

Since the constituency was created in 1983 , the Member of Parliament for North Thanet , covering northern Thanet and Herne Bay , has been the Conservative Roger Gale . At the 2005 general election , the Conservatives won a majority of 7 @, @ 634 and 49 @. @ 6 % of the vote in North Thanet . Labour won 32 @. @ 2 % of the vote , Liberal Democrats 14 @. @ 4 % and United Kingdom Independence Party 3 @. @ 9 % . At the 2001 general election , the Conservatives had a higher share of the vote with 50 @. @ 3 % but a lower majority of 6 @, @ 650 . During Labour 's landslide victory at national level at the 1997 general election , the Conservative majority in North Thanet was reduced to 2 @, @ 766 , with the Conservatives on 44 @. @ 1 % of the vote and Labour on 38 @. @ 4 % . The voter turnout during the past three general elections has been between 59 @. @ 3 % and 68 @. @ 8 % .

The town is in the Thanet local government district . It is within the electoral ward of Westgate @- @ on @- @ Sea , which has three of the fifty six seats on the Thanet District Council . At the 2007 local elections , two of those seats were won by the Conservative Party and one by an independent candidate . Conservative candidates in the ward won 45 @. @ 8 % of the vote , independent candidates won 27 @. @ 0 % , Labour Party candidates 17 @. @ 6 % and a Grey Party candidate 4 @. @ 6 % . The turnout was 34 @. @ 5 % .

In 2015 Thanet Council set up a parish council for the Westgate @- @ on @- @ Sea ward . The new council took office at its first meeting in May 2015 as Westgate @- @ on @- @ Sea Town Council . It meets in Westgate @- @ on @- @ Sea Town Hall .

= = Education = =

The town 's secondary school is Ursuline College , a specialist sports college and Roman Catholic aided comprehensive school , with nearly 800 pupils and facilities for boarding students . In 2005 , 32 % of its pupils gained at least five GCSEs at grades A \* ? C including English and maths , ranking it 71st out of Kent 's 120 secondary schools . Many secondary students commute to schools in other nearby towns , especially to the grammar schools in Ramsgate and Broadstairs . The Westgate College For Deaf People for students aged 16 and over closed on 11 December 2015 . An inspection the previous month by the Care Quality Commission uncovered what the inspectors called " shocking examples of institutionalised failings and abuse " and the trust running the schools subsequently went into administration . The London House School of English provides English language courses for foreign students .

The primary state schools are St Crispin 's Infant School and St Saviour 's Church of England Primary School , which is owned by the church but run by Kent County Council . Chartfield School is an independent primary school , educating children from 3 to 11 years .

= = Culture = =

The town has sandy beaches at both St Mildred 's Bay and West Bay . The larger of the beaches is at St Mildred 's Bay , where it is possible to hire beach huts , deck chairs and jet @- @ skis . The beach is a short distance from tennis courts and a golf putting course . At West Bay , there are many small rock pools , which are popular with children . Each beach has nearby cafés , restaurants and public houses , and a European Blue Flag Award is shared between them due to their cleanliness and safety .

The town centre has several Victorian canopied shops , a library and the three @- @ screen Carlton

Cinema . In addition to the theatre , the Westgate Pavilion is a venue for discos , yoga , indoor bowls and dance classes .

Formed in 1896 , Westgate and Birchington Golf Club has an 18 @-@ hole 4 @,@ 889 @-@ yard ( 4 @,@ 471 m ) course on the cliff tops between Westgate and Birchington . Based at Hawtreys Field , Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea Cricket Club runs two Saturday teams and two Sunday teams . In the 2007 season , both Saturday teams played in the Kent Cricket Feeder League East ; the Saturday 1st XI team in Division 1C and the Saturday 2nd XI in Division 2C . The Sunday teams do not play in competitive matches . In 2006 , Thanet Council opened a free skatepark at the Lymington Road recreation ground . Designed by local young people , the park caters for skateboarders and in line skaters of all ages and skill levels .

= = Local media = =

= = = Newspapers = = =

There are four local weekly newspapers providing news on the Thanet district area . Isle Of Thanet KM Extra is owned by the KM Group , and the Isle of Thanet Gazette , Thanet Adscene and Thanet Times are owned by Trinity Mirror . Isle Of Thanet KM Extra and Thanet Adscene are free newspapers , whereas the other two are paid @-@ for . KOS publish newspapers covering this area .

= = = Radio = = =

KMFM Thanet is a radio station on frequency 107.2FM , owned by the KM Group and previously known as TLR ( Thanet Local Radio ) . Community radio station Academy FM ( Thanet ) launched in 2010 on 107 @.@ 8 .

= = Notable residents = =

Notable residents of the town have included :

the 19th @-@ century surgeon Sir Erasmus Wilson , who spent the latter part of his life in the town until his death in 1884 .

former Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple , who died in the town in 1944 .

In 1888 , the astronomer and journalist Joseph Norman Lockyer built an observatory on the side of his house in Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea , from where he took observations that formed the basis for his book , The Sun 's Place in Nature .

British composer Arnold Cooke attended Streete Preparatory School in the early 20th century .

The artist Sir William Quiller Orchardson painted several of his most well @-@ known pictures while living in Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea . He was buried in the town in 1910 .

While staying at nearby Birchington @-@ on @-@ Sea in the 1930s , the poet Sir John Betjeman wrote about the town in his poem Westgate @-@ on @-@ Sea .

In 1957 , suspected serial killer Dr John Bodkin Adams spent two weeks in hiding in the town ( to escape the press ) following his controversial acquittal at the Old Bailey .