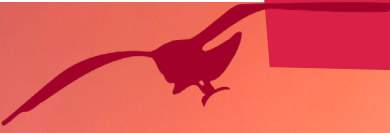


WORKING HARD FOR THE WHITSTABLE COMMUNITY

# whitstable news



## WHY DECENT WAGES MATTER

Fighting for fair pay at this  
difficult time

## MAKING NEW FRIENDS

Whitstable's support for  
Ukrainian people

## REWILDING WHITSTABLE

Labour leads the Green  
agenda



SHERNAZ; ALREADY PAYS THE LIVING WAGE

# WHY DECENT WAGES MATTER

The rising cost of living has many of us understandably worried. Good wages matter to local families.

In April, local councillors Valerie Kenny & Chris Cornell called on Canterbury City Council to join more than 2,800 employers in becoming an accredited Living Wage Employer.

The council already pay the Living Wage to most of its staff, but have recently taken measures to ensure they don't have to extend this offer to street sweepers and bin men.

As an accredited Living Wage Employer, the council would have to pay the Living Wage and set out a plan to encourage other local businesses in its supply chain to do the same. The Conservative Cabinet rejected this move out of hand.

Shernaz, who runs a shop in Harbour St, has paid the Living Wage for over ten years. She said, "it is shameful that this council won't stand up and provide a bit of moral leadership when people are struggling."

## Keeping the pressure on Southern Water



Our Labour MP called on government ministers to meet with SOS Whitstable in the House of Commons last month after a successful public meeting.

After another summer of sewage in our seas, your local Labour party is backing the SOS Whitstable campaign to renationalise water industry. **Sign the petition at <https://bit.ly/3EmP0aK>**

## Celebrating the Queen

Over 7,000 of you used a website built by Labour to co-ordinate the Queens Platinum Jubilee in town.



Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we were so lucky to share this weekend together.

## Building bridges



For the first time in over two years the Mayor of Dainville visited Whitstable this summer. Dainville, near Arras, is one of five towns that we are twinned with. Local Labour councillors hosted Dainville residents with a cream tea.

**Find out about twinning at [www.whitstabetwinning.co.uk](http://www.whitstabetwinning.co.uk)**



# WELCOMING OUR NEW UKRAINIAN FRIENDS

When the first bombs fell on Kyiv many of us watched on helplessly. Yet less than ten days later more than 120 people gathered at St Peter's Church for a meeting called by Cllr Chris Cornell and Rev. Rachel Webbley to work out how we, as a community, could help.

The Whitstable Welcome Network was formed that evening and has since provided support to over 50 local families who have opened their doors to over 100 displaced people.

Working with Whitstable Rotary, the Network has raised over £15,000 to buy bus passes, school uniforms and generally support the Ukrainian community here while they are waiting to claim benefits.

"We just had to do something", said Chris. "There was so much goodwill that night that just needed a little direction."

The Network started online as a resource bank to help people with the visa application process. As people began to arrive it ran weekly

welcome sessions with staff from Rosie Duffield's office. Wednesday mornings at the Umbrella Centre soon became a place where people got advice on how to register for benefits, get their children into schools and access local services.

Nicola May, who led the Welcome Team, said: "We helped arrange free football training for kids, art classes for the elderly, bikes to help get people to school and dozens of jobs in local businesses. In the last few months some of our guests have returned home but many continue to live among us - not as refugees but as friends."



UKRAINIANS MEET BISHOP ROSE HUDSON WILKINS AND LOCAL COUNCILLORS



# MAKING A MARK

This Easter, Canterbury City Council invested more than £20,000 in a project designed to tackle graffiti across Whitstable. The project was proposed by local Labour councillors back in 2021 following emails from residents.

In the Gorrell Tank car park the pumping station has been cleaned and fixings used by graffiti artists to climb on to the roof removed. The windows here and at the Angling Club on Harbour Street have been covered in such a way that they can be easily cleaned of paint.

Holes in the hedgerow along Stream Walk were filled with 21 semi-mature trees and shrubs to prevent the back of people's fences being tagged.

The tags were replaced with community murals on the railway bridge and yard on Beresford Road. Other artists shared their work for free and covered 25 6ft boards alleyways near Whitstable Station and by Westmeads School.

Morag Warren, a local mother whose kids use the bridge every day on the way to school said, "the kids love Crabby. He is now a firm fixture on our morning commute."

"Much like an art gallery-" said Cllr Valerie Kenny, "you don't have to like all of it, but I think we can



all agree the area is smarter and more engaging as a result of the new art."

Since then your local councillors have worked with Catman to have the famous 'Shop Local' sign reprinted on Borstall Hill and are working on a permission wall in the centre of town where murals can be painted all year round.

Local artist Ben Dickson said; "I was happy to take part in this community project to tackle the graffiti problem. It is great that community leaders are taking positive measures to maintain and improve the look of our beloved town." **You can report graffiti for cleaning at [graffiti@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:graffiti@canterbury.gov.uk)**





# HELPING OUR HIGH STREET AFTER COVID

A host of great ideas suggested by local traders and Labour councillors have been taken up by Canterbury Council as part of government's Welcome Back Fund designed to help support the high street recover from lockdown.

Although other areas in the district struggled to spend their allocation, Whitstable obtained additional funds because of Labour's clear plan.

Local residents and shop keepers donated more than £10,000 for Christmas lights. The council provided brackets and plugs along the high street. The new lights are owned by the town and will go up every year to ensure Whitstable sparkles.

"Working with local traders", Cllr Kenny said, "we have managed to create a sustainable solution to a long running problem and we are working to have lights in the Harbour this year."

Labour councillors have secured funds for large community noticeboards which are being used by local venues to advertise special events. Also funded were electrical supplies to key sites

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***delivering community led solutions where the council have failed***

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to help with sound projection for the Remembrance Day parade and also new cycle racks at St Alphege Church, the South Quay Shed and Whitstable Umbrella Centre (who have also added a cycle repair station).

This summer your councillors organised bunting and a large "Welcome to Whitstable" sign. This autumn they are working to launch "Fiver Fest" in town.

"Over 100 Local traders will simultaneously offer five pound deals between the 8th and 22nd of October" explained Cllr Cornell. "Local people can show their support for independent businesses and grab a bargain in the process".

**Find out more at [about this initiative at](http://about.this.initiative.at) [www.totallylocallywhitstable.co.uk](http://www.totallylocallywhitstable.co.uk)**



# WRITING A NEW CHAPTER

This August, Labour councillors, created community libraries in two of our town's iconic red telephone boxes. The kiosks, which had been decommissioned, were derelict and unloved. They now have a new purpose and lease of life.

The libraries are being adopted by Kent Little Free Library and will be looked after by local residents. Readers are encouraged to take a book, leave a book and share reviews by making notes inside. It is hoped the project will tackle loneliness and support reading.

Katy Diamond-Jalloh, who is the Reading Doctor in Whitstable said, "this is a great project because children will enjoy the surprise of finding books in unusual places - if we can place books along the routes that children pass, we can bring the fun of reading directly to them."

Councillor Chris Cornell said, "we hope that these two libraries will only be the start. We are fundraising to set up other libraries across town starting with the Grimshill Estate". Donations can be made online at [www.kentlittlefreelibrary.co.uk](http://www.kentlittlefreelibrary.co.uk)

## Advice with bills



Locally your Whitstable Labour Party has launched a guide to help people

struggling with bills this winter. The guide provides advice on where people can get help with food, debt and reducing energy bills and follows attempts to force the council to print something similar.

You can download the guide at [www.canterburylabourcouncillors.co.uk/costofliving](http://www.canterburylabourcouncillors.co.uk/costofliving)

## Middle Wall repairs made following pressure

Local residents are overjoyed that planned upgrades to the flats in Middle Wall are going ahead after almost ten years of lobbying. The scale of missed repairs under East Kent Housing is only now becoming truly known.

New windows and roofing repairs will help reduce bills before winter sets in.

## Re-homing the Invicta



A 8ft scale model of the Invicta train owned by the Whitstable Carnival was

facing almost certain ruin this Easter.

The model which had been rotting outside at Whitstable Football Club has now been moved into the Whitstable Harbour Sheds thanks to the intervention of Cllr Cornell. We are looking for a long term home if you have space.





# ALL CHANGE AT THE BELMONT

Whitstable Town Football Club has invested almost £300,000 to replace its existing pitch with hardier artificial pitch. The new pitch will meet the growing ambitions of the club. Despite a strong business plan and obvious community benefit, the Conservative-led Canterbury City Council shamefully refused provide any financial help. Other clubs in the league have been helped by their local council. Labour councillors have contributed to the shortfall in funding.

This March, Cllr Chris Cornell raised the issue of investment in sports fields in a council meeting, highlighting flaws in the council's thinking. The council believe that there are a little over 20 football teams across our town needing space. Whitstable Town FC has over 26 teams across all age ranges. These council's figures don't include the teams at Rising Stars, Tankerton Football Club and many amateur teams.

"It's ridiculous that kids in our community often travel to Herne Bay to train" said Chris Cornell.

"This council is just sticking its head in the sand and hoping no one will notice."



**Labour councillors carry out bi-monthly litter picks across town. Why not join us on:**



**Sunday 16th October, 3.15pm  
Tankerton**

*Meet at St Anne's Tennis Courts*



**Sunday 18th December, 3.15pm  
Westmeads Recreation Ground**

*Meet on Westmeads Road*



**Sunday 19th February, 3.15pm  
Glebe Way**

*Meet at Canterbury Road Co-Op*

All kit provided. Families welcome

**BERYL FISHER  
SADDLETON ROAD**



**“Labour councillors just seem to care more about our town than the other lot. They are always available and full of good ideas”**

Whitstable



[www.whitstablelabour.org.uk](http://www.whitstablelabour.org.uk)

 [info@whitstablelabour.org.uk](mailto:info@whitstablelabour.org.uk)

 01227 250 640

 @Canterbury Labour Group

 @WhitLab



## **LEADING THE GREEN AGENDA**

Over 40 families joined Labour's Bee-bombing workshop as part of the Wild About Whitstable Festival. During the week, organised by the CT5 People's Forum, Councillor Val Kenny launched "Rewilding Whitstable" - a comprehensive plan to improve biodiversity in our town. The plan was praised by Rosie Duffield and local environmentalists at a round table discussion she chaired held at the Waterloo Centre on Waterloo Road.

Natural Whitstable said it was "really impressed when it read the report. There's so much covered". The report includes plans to improve pollination, reduce the impact of new building on our environment and better engage the community. **You can read the full document at [www.canterburylabourcouncillors.co.uk/rewilding](http://www.canterburylabourcouncillors.co.uk/rewilding)**

"The Wild About Whitstable week has been a wonderful expression of how much our town loves where it lives", said Val. "Labour is the only party with a solid plan for how we can do more to protect our environment for generations to come."