



Photo Ivy Green



What's in your Chorlton Voice

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Dates for your diary

March 10th Chorlton Voice AGM
7-30pm Chorlton Library

March Weds 11th Beginner's
Guide to Retrofit 6-7.30pm, Os-
wald Road School, Chorlton

March 15th St Patrick's Day
Parade Manchester 12pm

March 19th-April 4th Dementia
Exhibition Chorlton Library

May 17-24th Chorlton Arts
Festival



ST. PATRICK'S PARADE

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2020

Chairs Introduction

What's been new in Chorlton Voice over the past year?

I have written a full report of the past year for the AGM on March 10th – do try and come along. In my report I mention some of the new things happening in Chorlton Voice which we encourage anyone who is interested to become a part of. I thought I would just mention a few of them here, all involving committee members.

As you know Hazel Gibb has brought new colour and form to the Newsletter which has been great. We hope you do like it. We still do deliver some newsletters (thanks to Anita Clokie and her delivery band). In addition to the interesting speakers we have had, this year Cath has increased the number of trips to other places of historical and civic interest. These have included Robinson's Brewery in Stockport; Victoria Baths in Rusholme; and Chorlton's very own golf club, housed in one of our oldest buildings. We also held social gatherings in Spring, summer and winter – if you didn't come to any of these, see you next year!

Mary has skilfully continued communicating with members – if you would like more or fewer communications from us, please let us know. Lindy has been keeping up the website and the numbers of tweets we make (Chorlton Voice @chorltonvoiceCS and Chorlton Arts @chorltonarts.) are increasing as well as our Facebook presence. We could really do with someone who was a social media whizz – if this is you, come and join us!

Peter has headed the Arts festival, with support from other committee members and some others. This was a great success last September and we are now in the throes of organising the 2020 festival for May 17-24th.

Dealing with planning applications is an important part of the work of any Civic Society, and Barry keeps tabs on and reports on planning matters for Chorlton Voice. It seems that sometimes we get listened to and sometimes we don't. Barry also manages the money!

And me? I have been working on increasing our networks and trying to find and support different ways of connecting groups across Chorlton. This has meant convening the new Chorlton Alliance (a group of groups), supporting Chorlton Connected (which organised the two Great Get Togethers), getting together with the other south Manchester civic societies, as well as with the North West Association of Civic Societies, keeping up with the goings on in other groups such as the traders, Friends of Chorlton Park.

We have all (Hazel in particular) supported the Stayin' Alive campaign for the co-op funeral Home. And it is great that CV member, Jenny Slee has run (with Cath) Chorlton Lifesavers sessions, as well as promoting an end to weedkilling in the streets and the planting of more trees in the streets. If any other members would like to initiate projects, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Oh, and you might have seen the Weaklie News – a new publication from Chorlton Voice, produced by Peter, and distributed around the district by all of us. This is to bring more attention to both Chorlton Voice and to the Arts festival, as well as to bring a smile to people's faces. So if you haven't seen a copy, pick one up from many of the shops or the Library.

Talking of which, very many thanks to the Library for making the Community Room available for our meetings.

So, come and join the Committee – lots to do with a very friendly group of people.

Carolyn Kagan chair@chorltonvoice.org or 0161 881 6887

Co-op Funeralcare Home Update

Chorlton Co-op funeral home is Stayin Alive

Early January came the disappointing news came that the Co-op had rejected the community bid let by Chorlton Community Land Trust (CLT). Two weeks later amazingly the news came through that the Co-op has offered the Chorlton Community Land Trust more time to deliver the proposed community-based redevelopment of the Funeralcare building in Chorlton once the Gaumont cinema where the Bee Gees first performed.

The Co-op have accepted the CLT's published offer of £2.2m on the basis that the final proposal delivers the key community elements that the CLT have stated.

The Co-op will work with the CLT during this period as they develop their proposal which involves retaining the former Gaumont Cinema .

If the sale to the CLT does not proceed, The Co-op will go ahead with alternative development plans for the property.

Steve Goslyn, Chorlton CLT Chair said, We are delighted with this outcome, and look forward to working with the Co-op and the Chorlton community to bring together a wide range of entrepreneurial and creative talents to fully realise our vision for the old Gaumont Cinema to be transformed as the heart of our community.

A spokesman for The Co-op said; "Throughout this process, we've looked to ensure an outcome which would benefit the community and a solution for the site which is deliverable and sustainable. The Co-op is a different kind of business with community and sustainability at our core and, contrary to some reports, the sale of our Funeralcare building was never just about achieving the best financial value for our members. We are pleased, therefore, to announce a way forward with Chorlton CLT, that we hope will ensure the use of the site in the future that will benefit the local community."

The Gaumont first opened as a cinema in 1920

The Gibb family lived on Keppel Road Chorlton and attended Oswald Road Primary School. The Gaumont was a cinema/venue and was close to both the school and the Gibb home.

During their time in the Gibb brothers formed their first band The Rattlesnakes a sniffle-influenced rock and roll group started by Barry, with the younger Robin and Maurice joining as vocalists, and their friends Paul Frost and Kenny Horrocks they sang live on stage at the Gaumont after breaking the record they were going to mime to during interval at the Saturday matinee.



Chorlton and Whalley Range Dementia Action Group

The Dementia Action group had a well attended meeting about the latest medical research about dementia. If you would like to take part in researching dementia, then you can register at www.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk You will then be told about studies you might be interested in taking part in – they could be about almost anything – diagnosis, treatment, care. You don't have to have a diagnosis of dementia to take part – the idea is that all sorts of people with all sorts of backgrounds might be suitable for different kinds of studies.

The group has also produced a booklet - 10 Big Ideas for making Chorlton and Whalley Range a better place to live with dementia which is currently being printed and will be available around Chorlton. It is for everybody not just those with direct experience of dementia. There will also be an exhibition at the Library from March 16th – April 4th.

Together dementia Support is looking for volunteers who can visit people with dementia in their own homes, helping to keep them active. Contact admin@togetherdementiasupport.org if you are interested.

Carolyn Kagan

UK Climate Assembly

Did you know that the UK Parliament set up a citizen's Assembly to advise on climate change actions? See <https://www.climateassembly.uk/>

The Climate Assembly UK brings together people from all walks of life to discuss how the UK can reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. At the assembly, participants learn about climate change and how the UK can address it, take time to discuss this with one another, and then make recommendations about what should happen.

In June 2019, six Select Committees of the House of Commons called a citizens' assembly to understand public preferences on how the UK should tackle climate change because of the impact these decisions will have on people's lives. (A Select Committee is a group of MPs from different political parties – they examine policy issues, hold the Government to account and make proposals for new laws.) The six Select Committees involved are Business Energy and Industrial Strategy; [Environmental Audit](#); Housing, Communities and Local Government, [Science and Technology](#); Transport; and Treasury.

The citizens' assembly was launched before the dissolution of Parliament for the general election, to ensure that the assembly's report will be available to the new Parliament as it begins its work. It should shortly report to these same select Committees – so whether we will see the outcome of their deliberations...well, we will see.

Do you think Manchester should set up its own Citizens' Assembly? Tell us what you think or go along to any of the Ward Climate Action Meetings and share your thoughts.

Carolyn Kagan

Retrofitting homes in Chorlton

Last year, you may remember that Jonathon Atkinson from the carbon coop came to talk to us. Due to popular demand, Carbon Coop will be running the next Beginner's Guide to Retrofit session in Chorlton, South Manchester. The training will be followed by a discussion on how to support more retrofit in Chorlton. 6-7.30pm, Weds 11th March 2020 Oswald Road School, Chorlton

Book at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/90301946553>

Improving the look of Chorlton

At the last Chorlton Alliance meeting we discussed the Vital and Viable report (see last newsletter). Three main areas stood out for discussion.

- **Local people have more power than they think they have, especially if they work together.**

That's the Alliance and all the members of the groups in the Alliance

- **Different clusters of activity** were recognised in the report (with poor connections between them):

- Vibrant urban destination – Chorlton centers (precinct area)
- Local retail service centre – Beech rd
- Traditional high street – Barlow Moor Rd (only considered up to McDonald's)
- A diverse urban service centre - Manchester Rd

We may or may not agree with these clusters and would want to include the rest of Barlow Moor Rd to Merseybank in discussions about Chorlton – but this area not considered the District centre which is what the report was about

- **'Brand' Identity** – a lot was made in the report of Chorlton being inconsistent in how it presents itself and is communicated, incommensurate with what residents think of the place.

This is linked to:

Place identity– what does Chorlton look like to visitors at points of arrival?

We had a lot of discussion and came up with ideas about how the look of Chorlton could be improved as well as how it could be presented. The comment made in at CCLT blog about Chorlton having '*private wealth but public squalor*' resonated. Lots of ideas were discussed.

Points of arrival –

How do people know where to go for the 'attractions' of Chorlton when they arrive by tram? Need signs, maps, themed trails (heritage, vegetation, bird watching - Chorlton Voice may be able to help with but need community involvement).

Bus station !!!! Something needs to be done!

Chorlton as One big car park

How to reduce number of cars parking all over the place including on pavements which blight some of the activity clusters (see for example, how awful Beech Rd is for shoppers, browsers, visitors). Push for the Precinct car park to have 1 hour free parking. What might we do if we began to think of cars as '*glorified expensive litter*'? (Brings a whole new meaning to a community litter pick!)

Planting

There are lots of small places that could be planted. Traders have a little money that could be put towards maintenance. Considering starting a Chorlton in Bloom . Include tree pits.

Art

There is soon to be a mural on the Mcr Rd side of the Precinct (see Floragrphics – is this right?). But we could put murals on gable ends (as in Burton Rd., Old Trafford), shop blinds and this would make an immediate improvement to the appearance of Chorlton.

Metro stops and Metro Lift shafts (dreadful grey concrete pillars – blank slates for art). Altrincham has artwork at metro stop and this and the exit from the station makes a good impression on visitors.

It was noted that we should raise funds for art projects and not rely on MCC.

Modelling alternative visions of Chorlton

We could ask Editional studio on Beech Rd might if they could draw up some visualisations of what Chorlton could look like.

What do you think? What ideas do you have for improving the look of Chorlton? We'll discuss this further at our AGM on march 10th. If you can't come to that, let Carolyn know your thoughts at chair@chorltonvoice.org

Carolyn Kagan

Come and Join the committee

We are a very friendly group of people. We meet once a month and discuss planning matters and all things Chorlton. **And we have vacancies.** We have to be realistic as to what we can achieve with limited human and other resources – it would be great to have a full Committee as we move forward to try to:

- Involve more people in the work of Chorlton Voice
- Hold some events about the proposed development of the Precinct and the Picture House
- Develop our links with schools
- Develop our social media presence
- Create a welcome pack for people new to Chorlton
- Continue to work with others to keep Chorlton a great place to live, work and play.

If you are interested contact Carolyn at chair@chorltonvoice.org or 0161 881 6887 – you will be most welcome.

Carolyn Kagan

Chorlton Area Action Plan

The Chorlton Alliance has proposed that we should develop a Chorlton Area Action Plan 2020 – there hasn't been a Chorlton Plan for some time. We are at early stages but by the middle of next month we should have an outline timetable for involving residents of Chorlton. So, watch this space. If you have experience and skills relevant to preparing local action plans, then please do get in touch with us.

Contact Carolyn at chair@chorltonvoice.org

Manchester's Local Plan consultation.

Manchester City Council is consulting on its “Local Plan” – actually the plan for the whole city. Each council has to have an up to date local plan or else they face penalties from central government. The council describes it as a framework for how the city should meet the need for new development over the next 15–20 years., including “where new development should happen, which green spaces and other aspects of the environment should be protected or enhanced, and how transport and other infrastructure will be improved”.

The first stage of the consultation is on the key issues and approaches that should influence the Local Plan. Later stages will allow comments on particular policy areas.

There are some good things in it, for example on becoming carbon neutral and on protecting and enhancing green space. However these ambitions are in contradiction with other elements like expanding the airport and a continued building boom for flats, offices and warehouses in certain areas.

For the Southern part of the city, where we are, the key issues are described as:

- The need to maintain the character and popularity of the southern neighbourhoods, particularly within the conservation areas (did you know we have three conservation areas in Chorlton?)
- Improving the standard of living and reducing levels of deprivation in parts of the southern neighbourhood area
- Managing demand for student housing, and ensuring that the sustainability and amenity of neighbourhoods are protected
- Improving underperforming district centres
- Recognising there are relatively limited sites with potential for development
- Providing better links east to west across the area, and opportunities for employment and training.

Are these the right priorities? What do you think this misses out? Does this set out anything like a compelling vision for how we might want our part of the city to be over the next 20 years?

The consultation document can be downloaded or viewed on screen via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/McrLocal> where you can find info on Local Plan events (not very local to us). Hard copies are available (only) from the Central Library.

Comments can be made until Friday 3 April 2020 in the following ways:

- 1) Use the online consultation website at <https://tinyurl.com/ConsPortMcr> or
- 2) Email comments to planningstrategy@manchester.gov.uk or
- 3) Send comments by post to Planning Strategy, Manchester City Council
Level 3, Town Hall Extension, PO Box 532, Manchester, M60 2LA

Mark Burton

Planning News

Permission has been refused for the proposed changing digital advertisement hoarding at 583 Barlow Moor Road, facing the Three Banks crossroads. An appeal has been lodged against the decision.



An application has been submitted to regularise the use of 535 Wilbraham Road as a bar. The property, last used as Mono Bar, only had permission for use as a restaurant. Outstanding Brewery want to take over the premises and are arguing that the use as a bar has been going for so long that it is immune from enforcement action.

There are plans to demolish the existing modern single storey house at 550B Wilbraham Road, within the Conservation Area, and replace it with a new three-storey house.

Southway Housing have applied to build 12 apartments on land Between Nell Lane And Brookstone Close and to build 12 houses on land north of 9 And 11 Ennerdale Avenue

Chorlton and Chorlton Park Climate Ward Action Plans

Lots of people are getting involved in the Ward Climate Action Plans. If you are not signed up to receive the fantastic Chorlton Big Green challenge newsletter, then go to <https://mailchi.mp/e32cfc9b373e/chorltonbiggreenchallenge>

There are heaps of good things in the newsletter. The Chorlton park group is focusing on communication and Businesses – let us know if you want to get involved.

Next Chorlton Park meeting is Thursday 26th March. Contact Nahla Eljack n.eljack@manchester.gov.uk



Coming Soon

May 17-24th Chorlton Arts Festival

Do you enjoy Hough End ?

If you are someone who takes to the woods, cloughs and fields of Hough End, and care about what happens to this gem of open space in Chorlton, then you might be interested to know that Friends of Hough End are looking for more members.

Contact Cllr Dave Rawson if you are interested.

Cllr.d.rawson@manchester.gov.uk



Manchester residents are being urged to help shape the future of their local library by taking part in the Public Library User Survey.

Next week (from Monday 24 February), the survey will be available in all libraries run by Manchester City Council, giving people the chance to offer their thoughts on the service, what they think is being done well and any ways they think their library could be improved.

The survey, designed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), is open to anyone aged 16 or over, should take no more than ten minutes to complete and can be filled in anonymously.



The last CIPFA survey conducted in Manchester, in 2016, found that 94 per cent of customers rated their local library as either good or very good, with 93 per cent saying that customer care was good or very good.

Satisfaction with the attractiveness of libraries' internal and external appearance also rose compared to the previous CIPFA survey, which was conducted in 2012.

In line with suggestions received in the 2016 survey, a range of improvements have been introduced to libraries across the city, including a full makeover for Withington Library and increased opening hours, improvements to Newton Heath Library, new computers and printers at all libraries, ground floor improvements and extended opening for Wythenshawe Forum Library, more temporary exhibitions on display at Central Library and new soft furniture for smaller children at the Arcadia Library and Leisure Centre, Levenshulme.

Central Library's services and facilities are used by more than 2 million people per year, making it the busiest library in the UK. 250,000 people have attended special events and activities at Central Library since it reopened its doors in 2014, following a major transformation project.

Executive Member for Skills, Culture and Leisure, Councillor Luthfur Rahman, said: "There's always lots going on and so much to do in your local library, whether it's reading, browsing, attending an event or a family activity, but we want to know how we can make our offer even better.

"Taking part in the Public Libraries User Survey gives you the chance to have your say on what you enjoy about your local libraries and what you think could improve. Our team goes through the responses carefully to see what positive changes can be made, so your suggestions can make a big difference.

"The last survey revealed that the vast majority of users were happy with their experience of Manchester's libraries, which is really encouraging, but we know there is always more we can do. We'd be really grateful if you would take the survey and have your say."

To find out much more about what happens in the venue and how you can join in by volunteering, go to www.manchester.gov.uk/libraries.



Chorlton Voice – Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2019, 7.30pm

Chorlton-cum-Hardy Library

31 members present

Annual General Meeting

- Apologies received from Joanne Midgely, Lindy Newns, Mandy Shilton-Godwin, Margaret Manning and Margaret Williams.

- Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

- Committee Nominations:

The following nominations were unanimously approved:

Chair - Carolyn Kagan

Treasurer - Barry Whitmarsh

Other Committee members: Catherine Brownhill, Hazel Gibb, Mary McGovern, Lindy Newns, Peter Topping.

No nominations were received for the post of secretary

Additional volunteers are still sought to join the committee.

- Chair's Report: Carolyn Kagan presented her review of the past year's achievements and thanked the volunteers who run the group and present talks. The Society currently has 200 registered members.

- Treasurer's Financial Report: In March 2018, the Society had a bank balance of £807.55. In the last year we have spent £271.71 [on printing, website maintenance and subscriptions]. We have received donations of £182.80. Our bank balance now stands at £822.55.

- The Chair and Treasure's reports were accepted.

Chorlton Voice

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2020, 7.30pm

Chorlton-cum-Hardy Library

19 members present. Apologies received from Terrence MacNicol and Councillors Joanna Midgely and Mandy Shilton-Goodwin.

Christmas Window Displays:

The winners of the 2019 window competition were announced:

Beech Road (Mary Paul Cup):

Runners-up: Floral Affairs and Love Lucy

Winner: Curious Fox

Chorlton (Chorlton Cup):

Runners-up: Fosters Cycles, Out of the Blue and Vision Care

Winner: Chorlton Bookshop

The judges were thanked for their efforts.

Speaker:

Karen described the work of Emmeline's Pantry, a charity run by women for women in need, ensuring they are provided with the best possible support.

The charity has been running for eight years, originally based at the Pankhurst Centre in the City Centre, but increasingly outgrew the space available. They are now based in the former Sure Start Centre in Chorlton Park. They moved in in April 2019, with a five year lease from the Council.

Their core service is as a food bank for women. They differ from other food banks in providing fresh food and clothing, cosmetics, baby goods, pet food etc. They also run a food pantry, a membership based service aimed at helping all local women and families that may be struggling to feed or clothe everyone. They work with 62 organisations who refer women to the food bank.

Since moving to Chorlton Park, they have had a 43% increase in footfall, both from local people and city-wide. Most days, the centre is women-only, but Thursday sessions are mixed gender. They also work with Sure Start, who run parents and toddlers sessions from the centre.

They rely on donations (mostly through the Facebook page) to keep the charity going and are having a Jamboree event on 8th March. If anyone would like to visit the project, Mondays, Tuesday mornings, Wednesday, Thursday afternoons are the best time to visit.

A room collection raised over £55 for Emmeline's Pantry

Planning Issues:

Permission has been granted for the use of 518 Wilbraham Road as a bar, for the new school at Hough End and for the redevelopment of 419 – 412 Barlow Moor Road with apartments.

The Council have declined to determine the application by Tutku Cafe, 428 Barlow Moor Road, to retain the canopy they built without permission, as it is subject of an enforcement notice.

An application has been submitted to use the pawnbrokers at 448 Wilbraham Road as a hot foot take-away. The proposal does not comply with the policy on clustering of takeaways. It was agreed to lodge an objection.

Demolition of the unlawful extension to the former Post Office Cafe is mostly complete, but reinstatement of the original building facade and forecourt is stalled. Council officers are still pursuing completion.

The Council are expected to launch consultation on issues to be taken account in a planned update to the city-wide planning strategy.

Chorlton Developments:

Co-op Funeral Home: Steve Gosling reported that the Community Land Trust submitted a bid to the Co-op, following a very successful crowd-funding appeal, in partnership with developers Generate. However, they have been told that the Co-op have accepted the bid from Churchill Homes, who plan to demolish the building and develop retirement homes, subject to their getting planning permission. The Land Trust are holding a public meeting on 30th January to discuss their next steps. Thought is being given to applying for the building to be listed.

Chorlton Park: The Friends Group are planning to plant 300 new trees, including a new avenue from the school to the playground.

The Vital and Viable Chorlton Report, prepared by the Metropolitan University has been published. Among its conclusions are that better promotion of the shopping centre and waymarking within it are needed. Chorlton Voice has helped set up the Chorlton Alliance to co-ordinate the work of local groups and further discussion of the report will be undertaken by the Alliance.

Climate Action Plans for both Chorlton wards are being developed.

Jenny Slee proposed a new project: Civic Society volunteers have previously helped with door-to-door consultation in streets where there are opportunities to plant new street trees. Funding is potentially available for new planting, and it is proposed to repeat the exercise. If there are any new volunteers, please contact Jenny on 07570 879 091. Alternatively contact any of the councillors re new trees or trees that need replacing.

Members are reminded that the Council will stop applying weed killer on stretches of pavement where all residents agree. Inform Pete Whitely of the agreement to stop weedkilling – p.whitely@manchester.gov.uk

Events:

Save Ryebank Fields are holding a wassail and fruit tree planting on 17th January.

Chorlton Lifesavers are holding defibrillator training at the Bowling Green PH on 3rd February.

A talk on dementia research is at Chorlton Central Church on 4th February.

Fair Trade Fortnight is from 24th February to 8th March.

Thursday 5th March, Helen Pankhurst will unveil a plaque at the Pankhurst centre, Nelson St. 2pm.

Chorlton Voice's Annual General meeting is on Tuesday 10th March.

The Friends of Hough End, who manage the area of woodland around Hough End Clough (which follows the course of Red Lion Brook) are running short of volunteers. They are holding a bird walk on 21 March to promote their work.

Chorlton Voice Spring Social event is on 14th April.

The Chorlton Fun Run, normally held on the first May Monday Bank Holiday, will not be held this year as the holiday has been switched to the Friday (when there will be national bell-ringing). However, other events will be run at St Clements Church throughout the Bank Holiday weekend.

Chorlton Arts Festival 2020 will be from 17th to 24th May.

Any Other Business:

There are plans for a bench to be installed on Beech Road in memory of Mary Paul and to provide a resting place on the route to the shops. Funding may be available for other new benches as part of the Age Friendly Initiative (anyone interested in finding suitable locations in Chorlton, contact Carolyn at chair@chorltonvoice.org).

There have been recent incidents of vandalism around Barlow Hall Road. The police and ward councillors have been informed. Jenny belongs to the Independent Advisory Group to the police so can take any issues forward (contact Jenny on 07570 879 091).