

Chorlton Voice Bulletin April 2021

Introduction

What a year this has been! We have decided to keep on with bulletins until we are able to meet again, and thereafter return to Newsletters. We hope you have found them useful and the source of the occasional smile. Have you noticed more people smile as they pass on their daily walks? I hope this doesn't disappear when more of us are out and about more. I was reading an article today about the increase in dog ownership – 2 million additional dogs being kept as pets and many of them puppies. It has been difficult to socialise puppies when visits to the home are virtually non-existent, and contact outside is limited. One consequence has been an increase in hospital attendances for dog bites. At Alder Hey Children's hospital, lockdowns have improved children's physical health (with fewer infections) but this has been balanced with an increase in attendance for dog bites. So dog owners, and the rest of us, beware!

See below for some requests for help for some of the great things happening in Chorlton. Carolyn cmkagan@gmail.com

The CLT and the Picture house bid – community pressure put on Co-op.

The CLT's negotiations with the Coop for the Picture House (former Funeral Home) are on a knife edge - see the most recent update from the CLT. <https://chorltonclt.org/index.php/category/staying-alive/> . We have worked to get a letter from the community sent to the Chair, CEO and President of the National Members Council. I am sorry if you did not get an opportunity to sign the letter – I was unable to ensure that the letter signing co-incided with a Bulletin. The letter was sent with over 560 signatures from organisations, traders, and residents from the Chorlton Alliance (which we have convened). This was a unique opportunity for us to show local support for the efforts of those local residents working in the CLT who have been working to secure a long term improvement in the centre of Chorlton that will benefit us all.

Our Green Chorlton

A group of volunteers from Let's Reimagine Chorlton have produced a fantastic leaflet and map to encourage people to enjoy spending time outdoors locally. This will be landing on your doormat any day.

See it at <https://ourgreenchorlton.org.uk/map>

They have been funded to provide a copy for every household in Chorlton and now need your help to distribute them! **If you have a couple of hours between now and the end of April, please sign up at <https://forms.gle/Anwp7eDC3tJAcFb69>**

Planning News

Planning permission has been granted for a pair of semi detached houses on the site of the existing bungalow at 25 Chandos Road South and for a canopy to the frontage of the shop at 59-61 Manchester Road (which used to be an appliance shop and is soon to open as a grocery).

Permission was refused for the extension of 15 - 19 Cranbourne Road to create 2 additional flats on the grounds that it would be over-intensive use of the site, increasing competition for on-street parking, and having an impact on neighbours.

The committee lodged an objection to an application for a covered outdoor dining area at Ruyi, 101 Manchester Road. Although we have objection to canopies in principle, we considered this one would be too obtrusive because of its depth and design.

Other recent planning applications include a request to retain the canopy on the side of Mary and Archie, 111 Manchester Road for a temporary period of 3 years.

We are very pleased to see that work to restore the shop front and forecourt at the Post Office Cafe, Wilbraham Road is nearly complete, following the demolition of the extension that was not built in accordance with the approved plans. We are grateful to the Council's enforcement team for all their work in ensuring this was put to right.

Our Streets Chorlton

One of the many things that the lively Our Streets Chorlton project has initiated is a photo challenge, leading to a community collage. You can see details here – do pass the word round.

https://ourstreetschorlton.co.uk/chorlton_community_collage/

The website is worth dipping into regularly, finding ways to get involved, or sign up for on their mailing list at <https://ourstreetschorlton.co.uk/get-involved/> (Scroll down on the page to find the sign up button)

Chorlton Arts Festival

This is planned for September 11-19th. Applications for artists are now open at

<https://chorltonartsfestival.org/> (please encourage budding or established artists to take part. This year there is likely to be a large outdoor element, so if you have a good gatepost, wall or fence that could accommodate some visual art, or have any ideas about spaces for performances or music, either sign up as a venue (<https://chorltonartsfestival.org/>) or contact eventa@chorltonarts.org.)

We are also seeking volunteers for all manner of things, so if you are interested, please sign up at <https://chorltonartsfestival.org>

Word about recent Arts Festivals has spread far and wide, and Peter and Carolyn were invited, by the new bank of community Ideas, (see <http://www.ecpa-online.com/new-bank/> for inspiring stories about communities from around the world) to deliver a webinar about a volunteer-led, local arts festival. This we did, and folk came from Netherlands, Germany, USA, Kenya, Italy to discuss how they might do something similar in their very different places.

Friends of Chorlton Meadows needs volunteers

The Mersey valley and the Meadows – indeed all the green spaces so well captured on the Green Map (see above) have been important for many of us during the Last year. Friends of Chorlton Meadows have a call out for volunteers to help keep the biodiversity on the site.



**Friends of Chorlton Meadows
Volunteers Needed**

Support your local nature reserve

Drop-in Tuesdays in April & May
Path maintenance & step building
9.30am - 12 noon

13th, 20th, 27th April
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th May
Meet at Chorlton Ees car park, at end of cobbled road.

Drop in to any session that you can.
Wear suitable footwear and dress for the weather!
We will provide all the necessary tools.
All welcome - no experience necessary!

The Friends of Chorlton Meadows have agreed to organise regular volunteering sessions to help manage our local nature reserve. The emphasis is on tasks which help preserve the biodiversity of the site.

Follow us on Facebook:
friends of chorlton meadows
Contact Dave Bishop (FoCM Chair)
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