

Chorlton Voice Bulletin June 2020

Introduction

Volunteering has always been strong in Chorlton, with lots of different kinds of groups all run by volunteers with opportunities to get involved. Never more so than during the pandemic.

We could be forgiven for finding all the new volunteering opportunities confusing. There is the Government scheme, run by the Royal Voluntary Service; The Council Scheme – Manchester VIP for CoronaVirus volunteering; Manchester Volunteer Centre for voluntary sector volunteering run by MACC; GNCA wading in to signpost people to volunteering opportunities in each authority; and participating in the dozens of street level mutual aid groups. Beyond this, for example, sewers have been sewing scrubs, masks, headbands, hats; cyclists have been delivering goods by bike; plants are being shared and sold for good causes; jams and chutneys are being made for neighbours to buy for good causes; people who might be lonely are being telephoned; young people are doing sponsored runs; food banks are working their socks off and others are still managing to donate. And of course neighbours are helping each other out with all sorts of things. As MACC has said, ‘this is the biggest act of organised kindness in our City’s history’.

One of the things volunteering does is give us a sense of purpose as we are able to give to others. And **give**, is one of the now well known *Five Ways to Wellbeing*. The others are:

notice – so when we note the silence of no traffic, the singing of the birds, or the cleanliness of the air, we are taking notice; **learn** – so when we have tried a new or forgotten skill, discovered something we didn’t know through our children’s home learning, watched a new play on television, or had some new ideas, we are keeping on learning; **connect** – this has been hard for some of us during recent months, but smart phones, computers, I-Pads and the trusty telephone, and every conversation we have had with family, friends or acquaintances, without the need to pay for data or phone bills, are all ways we have been able to stay connected; **be active** – one of the hardest things to do for many of us since March, but those walks round our gardens, round our apartments, up and down our stairs, doing the housework, as well as those on-line exercises have all been ways of keeping active (if only for half an hour a day!).

Somewhat paradoxically, then, these most extraordinary of times have thrown up some opportunities to keep our wellbeing ticking over, even if our physical beings are under threat, and it has been hard at times to feel optimistic about ever getting make to any kind of normality. We hope the easing of the lockdown proceeds carefully and successfully and that it will not be too long until we are able to enjoy each other's company – without having to sit, at a distance, under umbrellas in the garden!

Carolyn Kagan, chair@chorltonvoice.org

Chorlton Voice Meetings

We do not know when we will be able to hold face to face meetings again. For now, the July meeting is cancelled. We are cautiously optimistic that we may be able to hold a meeting in September, but wont be surprised if that is still too early.

Friends of Hough End Hall

It is with some regret that at the last AGM of the Friends of Hough End Hall, it was decided to close the organisation. The Company was formed to acquire, restore and manage the Hall for the good of the community of Chorlton. As the Hall has new owners and functions to serve the South Asian community, there is no further role at this point in time for the Friends of Hough End Hall. You will be pleased to know that after considering a number of options, the Directors and Committee members agreed that the remaining funds (just over £1,000) should be transferred to Chorlton Voice (Civic Society), to be earmarked for heritage projects. This should boost our coffers somewhat and give us a chance to develop some creative ideas to showcase the history of the area. This will be a theme of Chorlton Voice during the forthcoming year. So thinking caps on!

The friends group acknowledged and registered their thanks to Chorlton Voice for all the enthusiastic support given to the original project . If you haven't seen the interpretation Boards in the park – do go along and have a look. They should be graffiti clear at the moment! If you haven't bought the Hough End Hall Story book, why not get from the library or buy a copy from the bookshop? Andrew Simpson is finding new things out about the occupants of the Hall, so go along to his blog at <https://chorltonhistory.blogspot.com> . If you have forgotten what the Hough End Hall project was, there is a summary at

<https://houghendhall.files.wordpress.com/2020/07/bulletin-13-july-2020-1.pdf>

Congratulations to Reach Out

Reach Out to the Community, based in Chorlton was one of the organisations to be awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. Very well done to them and to the vital support they have been able to give to people who are experiencing homelessness across South Manchester, and to help them rebuild their lives. Great news and justly deserved. Other nearby groups to have received the award include Sow the City, based in Hulme and Love Withington Baths. Fantastic!

Welcome back to Manchester!

There is a useful resource with advice for moving out of lockdown, complete with a #MCRHUG to be found at www.welcomebackmanchester.com

Library re-opens

Talking of welcoming back...Chorlton Library re-opened on Saturday July 4th. The Library website given the following information on opening times:

Opening times for library

- Tuesdays from 11am to 3pm
 - Thursdays from 11am to 3pm
 - Saturdays from 11am to 3pm
 - The library will be available for use by over 60s from 10am to 11am on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
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Bike delivery consultation

In the first two months of running during lockdown (well, cycling) Chorlton Bike delivery made nearly 400 deliveries, travelled over 500 miles and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by the amount of 10 trees over their lifetimes. They are now doing a survey to see how –or if- to take the work forward.

<https://forms.gle/v51cj6maXZFnn7oH9> or email chorltonbikedeliveries@gmail.com

Design and Make a Cake for Chorlton

The cake challenge is still open. This is the opportunity to really put Chorlton on the map through the invention of the Chorlton Cake. Either send a picture of your cake plus its recipe to events@chorltonarts.org or upload it on the Chorlton Cake facebook page www.facebook.com/ChorltonCake. Please do tell

your friends and neighbours who may have missed the challenge – they can send their ideas to Chair, Chorlton Arts/Cake, 37 Chandos Road South, M21 0TH.

Capture the Pandemic (not literally) for NW Film Archive – a reminder

The [North West Film Archive](#) is appealing for the public's help to gather video footage of life in the North West during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The [#lockdownlife](#) appeal aims to find a wide range of footage taken during the lockdown to paint a picture of what life was really like in the North West of England and to preserve our experiences for future generations.

The archive wants to show as many different people's perspectives of life through this unique period of time.

Ideas for films include those that show social distancing, lockdown life, connecting with friends and loves one from far away, life at home or work, empty streets, experiences of key workers, Zoom parties, or the weekly applause for the NHS on our streets.

If you'd like to be involved in the [#lockdownlife](#) project, please send your videos straight to n.w.filmarchive@mmu.ac.uk, or using the same email address via file transfer services such as WeTransfer or DropBox.



Planning

Planning applications seemed to have quietened down during lockdown.

There have been some applications to change use from bar to restaurant.

We were really disappointed to see that the National Planning Inspectorate overturned the Council's refusal for planning permission for an electronic moving advertising hoarding for 583 Barlow Moor Rd. We had objected and so had several residents and so did the Council. Terrible that they can just swan in and overturn local objections on the basis not of just applying the rules, but on personal impressions and 'feel' for the place.

The Arts Festival

Since we last reported, we have been approached by Jess and Jim of VisionLab, who are keen to try out a digital or virtual arts festival. So we are hoping to put on a small, experimental arts festival on 3 and 4 October, to coincide with national Fun Palace events (see <https://funpalaces.co.uk/>). This is all very exciting – so we'll keep you informed.

Drinking Alcohol in the Street

Nahla, one of our Neighbourhood officers sent us the following message about a consultation on drinking alcohol in the street. See link to the consultation at the end of the message.

You may be aware that there are a number of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in place across Manchester that restrict street drinking. These PSPOs were originally introduced as Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) to tackle identified crime and antisocial behaviour caused by street drinking. As a result of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, all DPPOs transitioned into PSPOs in October 2017. These PSPOs impose restrictions on public drinking and make it an offence to fail to comply with a request from a police officer (or other authorised officer) to refrain from drinking and/or surrender alcohol.

The Orders are due to expire in October 2020 and the Community Safety Team is considering whether there are areas across Manchester where street drinking may be problematic and whether new Orders may need to be introduced. We're looking at this afresh as some of the DPPOs were made nearly 20 years ago. The Team has developed a public survey to ascertain people's experiences of street drinking.

We would be grateful if you could complete the survey, share with colleagues and promote via social media channels & during conversations with residents and businesses. The survey will also be promoted to residents via our neighbourhood teams, corporate comms, councillors, police, and housing providers. The survey results will help inform where we may need to consider introducing new PSPO(s) and undertake statutory consultation.

The survey can be found by clicking [main consultations page](#) or [directly](#). The survey closes on 27 July 2020.

Chorlton Alliance

You may remember that we convene a group-of-groups, known as the Chorlton Alliance. We held a Zoom meeting in the middle of June. Matters of interest discussed:

CLT and the Picture House: the Funeral Home is back in use so the CLT has been given additional time to prepare a proposal for the building, and they are working with a new developer on this. Simon Borkin has taken over from Chris Peacock steering the project.

Chorlton Irish Club has been listed as an asset of community value and three community groups have expressed an interest in putting in a proposal for the building.

Chorlton Baths - no update.

Chorlton Connected. We had a lot of discussion about how to maintain the momentum of the mutual aid groups, so that they have a life after the pandemic. The Health Development Workers are leading on this. So if you have any ideas, do get in touch with them – Dawn Harris dawn.harris15@nhs.net for Chorlton and Fiona Vincer fiona.vincer@nhs.net for Chorlton Park. Just contact them if you would like to receive their regular informative bulletins.

Community Engagement Platforms – no, not places on which to wait for the tram, but internet ‘places’ to connect people. The Alliance, along with the CLT, the Coop and Chorlton Connected is looking into these internet resources to assess if they might be useful for Chorlton.

We recognised that we must not lose sight of the place-initiatives we were discussing earlier in the year. For example, pull together the work the Traders did with N’hood officers around ‘place’ with the work we, Chorlton Voice, did around signage, benches (both important if we are trying to reduce the

amount of car use). Wider consultation on this matters could be a test of any platform.

Cycleway - no further news.

A *Chorlton Recovery Plan* is in the offing but we haven't heard anything about it.