

## **Chorlton Voice Bulletin September/October 2021**

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### **Introduction**

So that's the summer gone – I am not sure how. Having said that, organising the Arts Festival which took place in September was pretty much a full time job, so I wasn't sorry it was raining a lot of the time. We took the Arts festival stall to the MerseyFest local festival and two Maker's Markets, talking to people about not just the Arts Festival, but also the Civic Society – we even managed to recruit a few new members. Any group is always only as good as its members, so please do tell us what you would like to see in meetings as we cautiously resume our bi-monthly meetings, on the second Tuesday of the month, from November, in the Community Room at the Library. Any why not bring a friend along? We hope to see you in person very soon.

**Carolyn, cmkagan@gmail.com.**

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### **Chorlton Voice meetings to resume in November**

We think it is time we began to meet face-to-face – mindful of the ever increasing COVID infection rate. To this end, unless there is a change in the rules, we would like to hold a bring-and-share-come-back-together social on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 7.30-9.00. **We warmly invite all Chorlton Voice members and friends who have been double-vaccinated to the community Room of the Library** (which has direct access from the street). We will also put up some gazebos outside – so wear warm clothes!

If everyone brings just a little bit to eat we will have a great spread and of course good company. Peter and Andrew will tell us about their plans for another book about Chorlton – another good reason to come along.

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### **Planning News**

- Permission has been granted for the conversion of the former travel agents at 2 Chorlton Place into an off-licence and bar.
- The redevelopment of the former Co-op food store at 479 Barlow Moor Road (originally The Palais De Luxe Picture House) has been approved. The new building will be four storeys high, with retail on the ground floor and 13 flats on the upper floors.
- West Didsbury And Chorlton Football Club have succeeded with their application to extend the number of evenings they can use floodlights at their ground at Brookburn Road.
- Alterations to the exterior of 577 Barlow Moor Road (formerly the TSB bank) as part of its conversion to a restaurant have been approved.

- Permission to retain the canopy at the car wash at 302 Barlow Moor Road has, for the third time, been refused.

Recent new planning applications include:

- Change of use of 276 Barlow Moor Road (formerly Blaggs) to a hot food takeaway. We objected to this application because of the concentration of existing takeaways in the area
  - Retention of the unauthorised timber canopy at the front of Seb's bar, 97 Beech Road.
  - Application was received for an extension at 12 St Clements Road, which is in the conservation Area. We objected to the application because the modernist extension planned was not in sympathy with the surrounding area.
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### **Remembrance Day**



Friends of Southern cemetery and the Bereavement Service are organising a community event for Remembrance Day. This is a community event and all, of all ages, are invited. They hope for a good turnout. November 11<sup>th</sup>, assemble 10.40 by the cross of Remembrance (first right from entrance on Barlow Moor Rd). Organised by Friends of of Southern Cemetery and Bereavement Services

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### **Response to Consultations from the Council**

We responded to a consultation from the Council about permitted developments. These are developments that can go ahead without formal planning applications and therefore also without local people's scrutiny. We argued that as well as a handful of office blocks which should always have to seek planning permission before converting to dwelling units, so should all retail units across Chorlton. Success! The Council is now proposing that all retail units and some other buildings are exempt from the Permitted developments. We will be writing in support of these changes that will apply to a large part of the centre of Chorlton (as well as other large-ish retail districts across Manchester. We are delighted with this result, though expect there will be a lobby against the proposals from developers and some traders.

### **Independent Advisory Group – Community Liaison with the Police**

Jenny Slee has been a longstanding member of the Police Advisory Group and thinks it would be good to have some 'new blood' involved. So we are looking for a new volunteer to go along and let the Police know what concerns there are from the community. Meetings a quarterly and attended by senior officers (probably Commander level). Volunteers will need to be vetted. These are not meetings to be briefed by or hold to account the Police, but rather give them insight into community issues. Anyone interested please contact Jenny for more information on 07570879091

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### **HAY Baby**

How Are You? (HAY) is a new drop-in group, providing a supportive and confidential space where new parents can come, have a hot drink and meet others. Tory is a mother of two (a 6 and a 3 year old), who struggled at times and found it to be helpful meeting others who shared the same experience. The isolation of parenting can sometimes be daunting and she wanted to create a group to provide a relaxed atmosphere where new parents can come and just be. Tory is not a professional in any capacity, she is a mum and that is where she gains her experience. This group will be managed and run by volunteers. HAY will be running in the Meeting Room in Chorlton Library every Monday during term from 10am-12pm. The group will begin on Monday 4th October. For more information please visit our Facebook group page: How Are You?

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### **Line Dancing activity for beginners.**

Want to have some fun and be active at the same time? Line dancing for beginners takes place every Monday afternoon, 13.00-14.00 at BMCA, Meseybank Avenue.. All welcome.

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### **Let's Reimagine Chorlton**

The Chorlton Alliance spawned a new discussion group as lockdowns were fading out last year – Let's Reimagine Chorlton meets every other Sunday on Zoom – 17<sup>th</sup> October, 31<sup>st</sup> October etc. Contact Shaun at [hello@chorlton.coop](mailto:hello@chorlton.coop) to be put on the mailing list for notices of and notes from the meetings. We have already seen how discussions such as these can turn into beautiful things, with the production of the Our Green Chorlton map. The project had some tents at the Art in the Park event during the Arts festival, in Beech Road Park, and had lots of conversations with people about things they would like to see happen in Chorlton. Hopefully they will be available soon. Discussions are taking place at the moment about how best to connect people, events, traders

together, online. Why not go along and see if the discussions interest you?

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### **Picture House**

No news on the Picture house front – negotiations are still continuing.

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### **Chorlton Development Plan**

A project, led by the CLT, is looking to draw together what we already know about what should change in Chorlton, with a view to then creating an action plan for ensuring that we are in a position to draw down funds from outside to help regenerate the area. We will let you know how this progresses. Chorlton Voice is part of the steering group for the work.

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### **Chorlton Park**

The success of the Tibetan Kitchen cafe has been recognised and the cafe is likely to remain over the winter months, albeit on reduced opening hours. The White House project is now considering whether or not to continue trying to push for a cafe in the ex-changing rooms containers (which, we understand have been condemned, so would need to be replaced with some other buildings). If you have any views about this, please let Carolyn know and she will pass them on.

[chair@chorltonvoice.org](mailto:chair@chorltonvoice.org)

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### **Our Streets Chorlton**

Our Streets Chorlton project has just completed some activities with two residential roads – Burrows Ave and Westfield Rd. Both roads were closed for three days to vehicular traffic and residents took part in talks, entertainment and food – and of course appreciated the absence of traffic. These events are seen as a model for how other streets could get neighbours together and learn about, as well as contribute to discussions on how to make Chorlton greener and more accessible. If you think you and your neighbours would be interested to know more, see <https://ourstreetschorlton.co.uk>

A traffic count was undertaken on Egerton Road North this week – it really surprised me that, at least between 7am -10 am, traffic was heavier going towards Chorlton than towards Manchester. Also, during this period, over 300 cars went towards Chorlton and 18 cycles. Say no more! To see more about the data the project has collected on traffic but also on air pollution, go along to the website under 'News'.

You can find out more about the project and how it is going if you go along to the next Community Forum – sign up on the website or at [hello@ourstreetschorlton.co.uk](mailto:hello@ourstreetschorlton.co.uk) to get all the information.

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### **#InOurNature**

Closely linked to the Our streets project is a Manchester-wide project, In Our Nature.

In Our Nature is a new programme that will help Manchester residents, businesses and organisations create a green, healthier and better-connected city.

They have some great tips on how we can tackle climate change on their Twitter account. More info can be found by visiting their website at [www.zerocarbonmanchester.commonplace.is](http://www.zerocarbonmanchester.commonplace.is)

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### **Brightening up the area**

Chorlton Voice has initiated two mini-projects which might brighten up the area. The first is the **Community Garden** – we are convening a group of interested people to explore the possibilities of taking over the Community Garden and restoring it to a valuable community facility, open to all. Watch this space. If you are interested in being involved in this, please contact Peter – [events@chorltonarts.org](mailto:events@chorltonarts.org).

I think it was 2012 we first discussed in Chorlton Voice the possibility of putting **art on the Metro** and in particular on the eyesores of the lift shafts. Well, Transport for Greater Manchester and Metrolink have agreed to a lift shaft project in principle. We will be working with them and other groups as well as the Neighbourhood Officers to work up a proposal for this. The bureaucracy seems pretty complex, so this is unlikely to happen very soon. We have put down a marker for the St Werburgh's stop as well. Chorlton first, and then if that goes well, St Werburgh's is next. With a bit of luck those ugly concrete boxes, blighting our neighbourhood will soon be items of joy– another space to watch.

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### **Chorlton Open Gardens**

The popular Chorlton Open Gardens is hoping to return on the last weekend of June 2022. A two day event is being considered, with day 1 being one part of Chorlton and day 2 the other. – do you think this is a good idea? Please let Carolyn know what you think.

[chair@chorltonvoice.org](mailto:chair@chorltonvoice.org)

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### **Chorlton Lifesavers**

Following the 'gap year' forced upon us by the pandemic, we have started back delivering CPR and defibrillator training. The sessions have proved popular, particularly following the high profile cardiac arrest during a European football match when a player collapsed and was resuscitated and defibrillated on the pitch. We have provided training at St. John's Boxing Club, Chorlton Golf Club, The Bowling Green pub and private houses for groups of neighbours. To date we have trained in excess of 700 people. We are keen to push on and reach our target of 1000. Please help us to do this by coming along to a session. Upcoming dates are Monday 1st and 8th November 7pm-8.30pm at the Bowling Green pub, Brookburn Road.

For enquiries or to book a place contact Jenny on 07570879091

Cath and Jenny

Chorlton lifesavers

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### **Victorian Society**

We received a notice from the Victorian society :

As a group, we have decided the time is now right as we move away from the heights of the Covid pandemic to make plans and we are delighted to send you a programme for Jan-April 2022.

However, we have had made a few changes for now:

- We are asking you to book places for the talks as, although we do not have to socially distance, we would prefer to have an idea of numbers so we can lay out the room to take advantage of the space and avoid being too close together, while also ensuring there are not too many people for the room's capacity.
- We are using Stretford Public Hall. After the last Manchester Group AGM (Jan 2020) many of you said how much you liked the venue and it is easily accessible by car and by public transport, including the tram. We are also supporting a community hall, which is Victorian. We do have to consider when Manchester United are playing at home: this is why the AGM is slightly earlier in January than usual to avoid a fixture.
- We have moved to a day/weekend meeting time for a while. We would be interested to see if this is popular with members. We also have to work around the availability of venues as they have to be commercially viable.

I look forward to our being together at an event soon. More details for the AGM will be sent out nearer the time.

Saturday 15th January 2022 at 2 00 pm for 2 15 pm  
Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford M32 0LG  
AGM

In light of Covid precautions, it would be appreciated if you would indicate

attendance by emailing [anne.hodgson@hotmail.com](mailto:anne.hodgson@hotmail.com)

Saturday 19th February 2022 at 2 00pm for 2 15pm  
Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford M32 0LG  
Digging the Bridgewater Canal: recent research at Worsley  
Green Workshops and Worsley Delph  
Speaker: Dr. Michael Nevell

Industrial Heritage Support Officer for England at the  
Ironbridge Gorge Museum

Please book at [anne.hodgson@hotmail.com](mailto:anne.hodgson@hotmail.com)

£7 Please pay on the day

Sunday 20th March 2022 at 2 00pm  
The Villas of Edgerton, Huddersfield.

A guided walk by author and local historian, David Griffiths

£7 Please pay on the day.

Booking and further details from [anne.hodgson@hotmail.com](mailto:anne.hodgson@hotmail.com)

Saturday 30th April 2022 at 2 00 pm for 2 15 pm  
Stretford Public Hall, Chester Road, Stretford M32 0LG  
Marching to Zion: Non-Conformist Chapels and Meeting  
Houses of the North West Speaker: Dr. Roger Holden  
Independent historian and council member of the Chapel  
Society.

Please book at [anne.hodgson@hotmail.com](mailto:anne.hodgson@hotmail.com)

£7 Please pay on the day

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### **Open Gardens**

The popular Chorlton Open gardens is planning to be back on the last weekend of June, 2022. So that's something to look forward to. If you'd like to explore putting your garden, alley, balcony in to the Open Gardens, contact [chorltonpengardens@gmail.com](mailto:chorltonpengardens@gmail.com)

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### **Health Resources and activities across Chorlton Park**

The Health Development worker, Fiona, has recently circulated a tool for finding activities and resources in the Chorlton Park area (which also covers Disbury and Burnage). You can find this [here](#). It is a spreadsheet that can be filtered to find what you are looking for. We have asked for Chorlton Voice to be included and hopefully this will be added soon. If you are looking for dance classes, walking groups, food banks – whatever - you will find it here.

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### **Chorlton Arts Festival 2021**

The Arts Festival took place from September 11-19<sup>th</sup>. It was challenging to organise as most potential venues did not know whether they would be allowed to open until mid July. Nevertheless, with only a few hitches and glitches, the Festival went ahead. There were 155 artists performing or exhibiting in 114 different events – which is tremendous. We hope you did manage to get to something, whether this was the display of Chorlton CoE pupils' self portraits on their school railings, or the art exhibitions in the Home Instead offices on Barlow Moor Road, or in a marquee behind the Royal Oak (amongst many other places). Music emanated from a number of bars and some of the churches hosted dance and storytelling. If you missed the festival, there are three ways you can see or hear events online – just pop along to [www.chorltonarts.org](http://www.chorltonarts.org) *Virtual Art Festival* and see visual artists' work in the Arts Steps Gallery; click through to performance artists from the Solstice festival field; or re-visit the re-vamped virtual streets of Chorlton. We will be inviting some of the exhibitors to talk to Chorlton Voice meetings over the next year as there really was some fascinating work. And – have a look at the cock-and-bull mural on the wall of the Precinct. The artist told me his researches had revealed that the area used to host cock and bull fights – thus the mural. One innovation this year was Art in Your Street – several roads took part in this, ranging from street closures with a street party to more sedate display of Mandalas we provided in windows. We hope to build on this.

There are too many people to thank here but we are currently reviewing the Festival and will write a report about it. One thing I can tell you is that the AF took many visitors to new places in Chorlton, which is lovely to hear. The date for next year's Festival is under discussion.

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### **Ideas for meeting**

If you have any ideas or requests for Chorlton Voice meetings – speakers or activities, please let Cath know.

[Catherine.Brownhill@ntlworld.com](mailto:Catherine.Brownhill@ntlworld.com)