

Westgate Residents Association Newsletter

WGRA

Autumn 2017

WGRA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 25th November 2017 at 10am (*please note new time*)

St Wilfrid's Church Hall

Our local County Councillor **Louise Goldsmith** will address the meeting on the progress of the White House Farm Development, followed by free tea/coffee, cake and doughnuts

See Page 4 for the current members of the Committee seeking reelection

We have 3 types of membership:

1. Everybody who lives in Westgate is a member of the Westgate Residents' Association and is welcome to attend any of the events and to express their views at meetings, including the AGM.
2. Those residents (including those from neighbouring areas such as Tollhouse Close and Orchard Street), who have asked to be kept in touch, most of whom have given the Secretary their e-mail addresses receive a bulletin every month via the internet or via a "Buddy".
3. Those residents who have paid a contribution, currently £10 per household per year, towards the running costs of the Association have the right to vote at the AGM and are at the heart of looking after Westgate.

Contributions will be due at the AGM and we urge as many households as can afford it to support the WGRA. The Association is remarkably successful, we are involved with meetings, where we are able to promote the needs of Westgate Residents and the social programme has encouraged residents to meet one another and helped Westgate to become one of the most popular residential areas of the city.

Residents are encouraged to notify the Chairman of newcomers to the area, he will send a letter of welcome and introduction: chair@westgatera.org.uk

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

First Saturday of the month COFFEE MORNING at the Crate and Apple 10 - 11 am Next on 4th November

Each Monday morning at 10 am KNIT AND NATTER at the Crate and Apple Contact Sally

sallylowe10@gmail.com

Last Monday evening of the month BAVARDAGE AU PUB French conversation with Jane Davies

janedavies31@gmail.com

Second Wednesday in the month LOCALS SUPPER (2 course plus drink fixed price menu) from 6 pm at the Crate and Apple. Please book on 539336.

CHRISTMAS PARTY Wednesday 13th December

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This has been a quiet 6 months on the political front as no further progress will be made on White House Farm until the section 106 agreement is signed between the developers (Miller and Linden Homes) and the WSCC. This is now expected by the end of the year. However, the first meeting of the “Reserved Matters Community Liaison Group” has been held, which is a step forward in communication with the developers.

We welcome the West Walls Residents Association, which has been formed to represent the area around West Street, the south end of Orchard Street and Tollhouse Close. We already have members in these areas, but there is no reason why residents cannot be members of both, but we expect to remain the primary representative body for Westgate. The WWRA is particularly concerned about plans to replace the Westgate/West Street/ A286 roundabout with traffic lights. We are aware of this proposal and will watch any changes carefully, but our main concern is the effect on the proposed Southern Access Road to White House Farm on the traffic in Westgate.

The Chichester Road Space Audit (RSA) seems to be gaining momentum and if it is implemented it is going to impact on our lives in Westgate. I strongly urge you to visit the website (Google: Chichester Road Space Audit) to see what it is all about: The executive summary (sections 1.1.1 to 1.1.28) is informative and I hope will encourage you to dip further into the document. Pages 77 and 78 (6.2.28 – 6.2.42) refer to the Westgate area, but many of the other changes will alter our environment. Please let your opinions be known at: https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/highways-and-transport/chichester-rsa/consult_view/

To report highways related problems:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/>

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-about-a-road-or-pavement/>

Thank you to Penny Tomlinson, who has done a magnificent job in galvanising support to replant and maintain the planters along the length of Westgate. With Brian Raincock, she was also responsible for obtaining a grant from the City Council, which has enabled her to obtain professional advice and buy plants. She is now planning the planting of bulbs for the spring.

Richard Brownfield

There is a little news about the **Tannery** site. West Sussex County Council which owns the site has received what is described as a positive report from consultants and a new planning application is being considered. Given the former use of the site there is contamination that will have to be remedied as part of any development. Permission has been granted to carry out remedial work on some of the trees.

Brian Bird

The Tannery in 1914



Worried about traffic speeds on Westgate - get involved! Speedwatch volunteers welcome...

WGRA have written before about the challenges of planning the transport options for Westgate given the WHF development, but of course that is some years ahead. In the meantime, we know that traffic volumes and the speed of traffic continue to be issues for Westgate residents. Westgate is a designated 20mph area, with HGV traffic excluded except if delivering, but we know that traffic, particularly through-traffic, tends to ignore this. A 20mph speed limit is not legally enforceable. However, we can as a community take steps to organise our own Speedwatch. Using technology to monitor traffic speeds on the road, we could have a presence on the road that will hopefully deter motorists from speeding, and potentially get the police involved where there are persistent speeding offenders.

Chichester Neighbourhood Policing Team currently loans out its speed calming equipment known as SID's (Speed Indicator Devices) to volunteers to educate drivers of vehicle speeds in the communities. Committee member Julia Smith has volunteered to look into this on behalf of WGRA and to coordinate a group of volunteers trained to borrow the SID equipment for some sessions on Westgate.

Other things residents can do:

- *observe the 20mph limit, and drive slowly even if there is a tail of traffic behind you*
- *always stop for pedestrians, children and make space on the road for cyclists*

If you are interested in local community issues around cycling, there are some local initiatives like 20s Plenty, Chi Cycle and other groups that try to work with the County and District Councils. For more information see <https://www.communityspeedwatch.co.uk/> and information on the 20s Plenty speed campaign in Chichester at <http://20splentyforchichester.moonfruit.com/>

Please contact Julia directly on stephenandjulia@hotmail.com or 01243 776546 if you would like to find out more and get involved.

Julia Smith

THE STREET PARTY

Fortunately it was a wonderful day and the Westgate Belles and Noel exceeded even their wildest expectations and better still made a profit, some of which will be retained for future events, but £50 of which has been sent to Dreambuild for the new Hospice in Bosham.

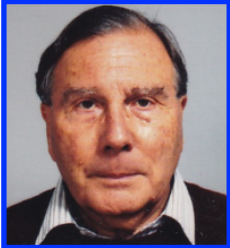
THE CHRISTMAS PARTY – Wednesday 13th December

Plans are moving forward for this which, ideally, would include some carol singing in St Bartholomew's Church before moving across the road to the Crate & Apple for a glass of bubbly and a special Christmas meal. Andy at the C & A is firming up the options. The hold up at the moment is access to St Bartholomew's which is being negotiated with the Bishop's team in the Palace. For the carol singing we would hope to be able to use the organ in the church and Alan Thurlow, the previous organist in the Cathedral, has kindly offered to play – BUT first it needs testing and tuning which again Alan has offered to do.

We make progress and hope for an enjoyable evening on the 13th – we do have contingency plans for Carols if we cannot use the Church.

Brian Raincock

THE COMMITTEE



RICHARD BROWNFIELD, Chairman

After medical training I settled in Portsmouth as a general practitioner. A midlife change of job took me back to the hospital as Consultant in Occupational Medicine in Portsmouth and at St Richard's. In 1988, we moved to East Ashling where I was a founder member of the East Ashling Traffic Action Group concerned with the problems of traffic on the B2178. We down-sized to Westgate 5 years ago. Suzie and I have 5 children and 13 grandchildren.



VINCE WALDRON

Vince is a qualified accountant, who now works part-time. He and his wife Francesca (a yoga teacher- catch her at New Park on Monday mornings!) have lived at 72 Westgate since January 2009, having moved down here from Surbiton. They share a common interest in travelling and art history, and keeping up with their children plus spouses, and three grandchildren.



PAULA STREET, Minutes Secretary

I'm the lady you probably see running along Westgate in all weathers! And if I'm not running, I'm cycling, painting my house, working or sitting in a local pub or restaurant with friends! I've lived in Westgate since 1995 with my husband Andrew and two teenage children Annabel and James. Having a background in highways & transport (legal aspects), strategic planning, democratic processes, together with my current role in aviation policy and stakeholder engagement, I hope I can assist WGRA in its deliberations on the challenging issues currently facing our neighbourhood.



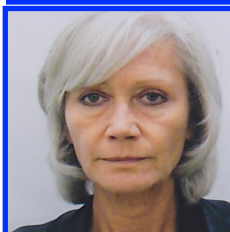
BRIAN RAINCOCK

Brian and his wife Margaret moved to Mount Lane in 2015 having lived previously in Middleton on Sea with their three children. He volunteered to join the WGRA committee shortly after arriving in Chichester and was elected at the AGM in 2015. He has taken a special interest in the Planters, largely conducted by Penny Tomlinson, and also the Street Party where he has worked with the Westgate Belles, Nikki Clarke, Kathryn Kellagher, Annette Hutcheson, Helen Solly, all ably assisted by Noel Damon. Brian feels that there is still much to do to enhance our special neighbourhood and to monitor the problems emerging from the White House Farm development.



ANTHONY QUAIL

Sarah and I came to live at Westgate in 2007, and April was our 10th anniversary here, so we aren't born-and-bred Cicestrians. We think Chichester, and Westgate in particular, is a wonderful place to call home after 30 years living and working in Portsmouth! If not on the Downs or at our allotment I'm probably responding to Chichester Society business. And this, like participation in Westgate Residents Association, has been an eye-opener witnessing local politics and official plans to develop the rural acres west of this City



CECILIA COLE

Completely new to the city and to the area when I moved here in 2014, I feel very lucky that I landed in Westgate as all my neighbours have been hugely welcoming. I have two grown up sons who live and work in London and an interest in garden design. With this issue, I have taken on producing the Newsletter so please forgive any anomalies



JULIA SMITH

I have lived in Westgate with my family for over three years, after almost 15 years living abroad in Switzerland, Hungary and Ireland. I qualified as a solicitor many moons ago and have had lots of commercial experience over the years. I really care about the changes that lie ahead for Chichester and am particularly interested in keeping the area attractive for residents and safe for pedestrians and cyclists!

With very many thanks to:

BRIAN BIRD is to retire from the Committee at the AGM due to increased commitments with Chichester Rotary. It is he we have to thank for creating this Newsletter and for many years of wise counsel and legal expertise on the Committee.

COLIN HICKS has been Secretary of the WGRA since its resurrection and has created and will continue to maintain its excellent website. Chairman of Chichester BID (Business Improvement District) which involves working closely with the City and District Councils, his knowledge and insight have been invaluable. Due to an increasing amount of work he will resign at the AGM