

WESTGATE HELPERS NEWS

A weekly newsletter brought to you during the Covid-19 crisis

ISSUE 7

8TH MAY 2020

Top stories in this newsletter



Churches coming together to sing



The night sky in May



VE Day



Collecting your stories



Peregrines about to hatch

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We write this newsletter in a spirit of optimism – that restrictions may relax a little from Sunday and that Friday's events will draw us all together once again.

Silver linings can be found in many corners and, for those with access to the internet, it can be heartwarming to see the efforts that others make to entertain us. The UK Blessing, highlighted below, is one such offering. Another has been the YouTube hit, 'The Great Realisation', filmed like a bedtime story in answer to a child's question "Tell me the story about the virus". It certainly provides food for thought. You can find this at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bea4jCAkXsl>

Don't forget to pick up your sunflowers for the sunflower competition at tonight's 'Clap for Carers', from 25, 62 and 101 Westgate and 6 Tannery Close or email/phone us, if you don't manage to collect your kit then.

Please do email us your photos of how you celebrate on Friday for next week's newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you all when we sing 'We'll Meet Again' (words at end of newsletter).



The UK Blessing

At this unique and challenging time in the United Kingdom over 65 churches and movements, representing hundreds of others, have come together online to sing a blessing over our land.

Standing together as one, their desire is that this song will fill you with hope and encourage you. Many of the churches included in this song have assisted with supplying over 400,000 meals to the most vulnerable and isolated in our nation since COVID-19 lockdown began. This alongside phone calls to the isolated, pharmacy delivery drops and hot meals to the NHS frontline hospital staff. Buildings may be closed but the church is very much alive!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtlI3mNj5U

Richard Brownfield, Chair of the WGRA, was due to deliver his Ode to our street party on 8th May. He has added to the original, in light of the current situation. We hope you enjoy it.

Welcome to this Happy Day,
When Westgate comes out to play
To the bunting and the flags
We bring our chairs and goody bags
All full of food and festive fare
With our neighbours we will share.

We are here to celebrate
A very thankful, special date.
May the 8th, Forty-five
When New Britain came alive
End of fighting, end of war
A land of plenty, then we saw
No longer speeding spitfires flew
Piloted by just a few, by men so brave
We'd say a prayer, then give a wave
To wish them well upon their flight
On their way, for us to fight
To help the soldiers on the ground
Deafened by the dreadful sound
Of bomb and shell, a living hell.

But now in Europe there was peace
As soft as new-born lambs white fleece
The guns are quiet the birds can sing
The children dancing in a ring.
VE Day, they marked the date
Signed and sealed to save our fate,
A land of milk and honey called
But new reality appalled.
Still no butter, still no meat
No chocolate for a special treat
The trains were late or did not run
How can we get to seaside fun?
The beaches still have mines and wire
The towns are bombed, the fields a mire
In the workshops, on the soil,
Was it worth the dreary toil?
Oh Yes!
We don't miss the frequent fright
Of the sirens in the night.
The lights are on, the City stirs
Cars come out, the factory whirrs,
There is only one refrain
"Life has started once again."

Then just sitting in the park
We'd josh and joke and have a lark
We sang a song, a bold refrain
A long hot summer with no rain
We were happy, young and free
A life of plenty we could see
The rainbow's end was in our sight
but road is bumpy, hold on tight.

Now to doze, perchance to dream
That life is like a winding stream
With triumphs, sadness, joy and tears
Through the intervening years
More than man's three score and ten
Have passed us by, although it's when
We've look behind that we have seen
All the things that might have been.

But then the Virus came at night
To stop our fun and dim the light.
For the doctors and the nurses
Let us all unzip our purses,
Dressed in scrubs in ITU
Caring for the many who
Are stricken down, its more than flu.
This time we fight a foe not seen,
some know not that he has been.
For others this is not a laugh
The coughing cuts your chest in half.
We fear each breath will be their last,
Their days of fun and parties passed.
The old stay home as we are told,
The young are just a bit more bold,
They shop and comfort, what a soul!
Helping all to reach the goal.
The end of lock-down is in sight
Soon we'll come into the light,
What a party then to hold,
Something awesome to behold.

Again we say, we have survived
Just like nineteen forty five.
This time the spirit in the road,
Has helped us all to lift the load
The Westgate Helpers to the fore
We give our thanks and much, much more,
When we had a load to bear,
When we faltered, you were there.



The Royal British Legion VE day

As members of the public are no longer able to attend the VE Day 75 commemorations or events due to the Covid-19 pandemic, The Royal British Legion is playing a central role in the delivery of a range of remote activity for people to participate in from home. This includes a VE Day 75 livestream, national moments of remembrance and thanksgiving and a learning pack for young people. www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/ve-day-75

Further details of how the day will be covered can also be found on BBC News www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance



Timetable for VE day



11am: A two-minute silence will be held to honour the service and sacrifice of the wartime generation and reflect on the devastating impact of coronavirus across the world.

11.15am - britishlegion.org.uk: The nation is invited to join in with the Royal British Legion's VE Day 75 Livestream. Hosted by TV presenter Sonali Shah, the 45-minute programme will feature stories from those who served and sacrificed, as well as recognising the difficulties people are experiencing today.

3pm: National toast to the heroes of World War Two. Britons are invited to raise a glass, cheering and clapping on your doorsteps and saying: "To those who gave so much, we thank you."

3.45pm - BBC Two: Scotland's VE Day: Countdown to Victory will air as a tribute to the Scottish men and women who lost their lives in the war, including bombers, POWs and those back home.

7pm - BBC One: A one hour special of the **One Show** dedicated to VE Day. With the help of celebrity guests and exclusive performances, they'll be looking at how the nation is coming together in spite of coronavirus to mark the day.

8pm - BBC One: In partnership with the **British Legion**, Sophie Raworth will present a musical celebration to replace the live events and street parties that were meant to be.

8.30pm - ITV1: ITV will air a new documentary **Captain Tom's War** about the newly famous veteran and his contribution in World War II. Newly appointed Colonel Tom will share his recollections of the notoriously brutal Burma campaign, in which he fought.

9pm - BBC One: A pre-recorded address by **the Queen** will be broadcast at the same time her father, King George VI, gave a similar radio address on May 8, 1945.

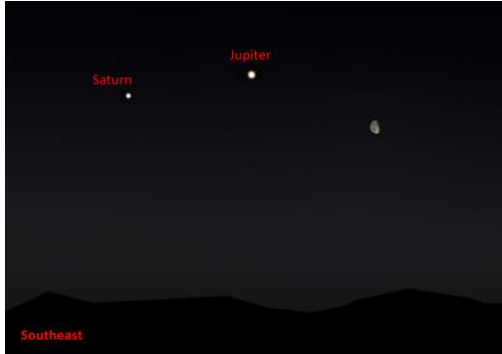
9.10pm - BBC One: Following the Queen's address, the nation is invited to come together for a rendition of Vera Lynn's **We'll Meet Again**.



The night sky in May

For information go to: www.ib.man.ac.uk/astronomy/nightsky/#highlights

May 12th - Moon joins Jupiter and Saturn.



Before dawn on the 12th of May, the Moon, before third quarter lies below Jupiter and Saturn.

May 21st - Mercury lies just below Venus.



If clear after sunset on the 21st of the month, and given a very low horizon towards the Northwest, you may be able to spot Mercury lying just below Venus at their closest approach. Binoculars may well be needed, but please do not use them until after sunset.

May 23rd - 25th: Comet PanSTARRS



If clear in the evening on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of the month, and looking high in the Northwest using binoculars or a small telescope, you may be able to spot comet PanSTARRS (C/2017 T2) as it passes the galaxies M81 and M82 in Ursa Major. The plot shows its position on the three evenings.

May 24th: Moon near Venus and Mercury.



If clear after sunset on the 24th of the month, and looking low in the Northwest you may be able to see a very thin crescent Moon over to the left of Mercury and Venus. Binoculars may well be needed, but please do not use them until after the Sun has set.



May 13th and 29th, evening: The Hyginus Rille

These evenings, should it be clear, are a superb time to view the Hyginus Rille as it will lie close to the terminator. For some time a debate raged as to whether the craters on the Moon were caused by impacts or volcanic activity. We now know that virtually all were caused by impact, but it is thought that the Hyginus crater that lies at the centre of the Hyginus Rille may well be volcanic in origin. It is an 11 km wide rimless pit - in contrast to impact craters which have raised rims - and its close association with the rille of the same name associates it with internal lunar events. It can quite easily be seen to be surrounded by dark material. It is thought that an explosive release of dust and gas created a vacant space below so that the overlying surface collapsed into it so forming the crater.

The County Council has confirmed it has developed a plan, subject to further government guidance, to safely reopen Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRSs) next week (week commencing 11 May).

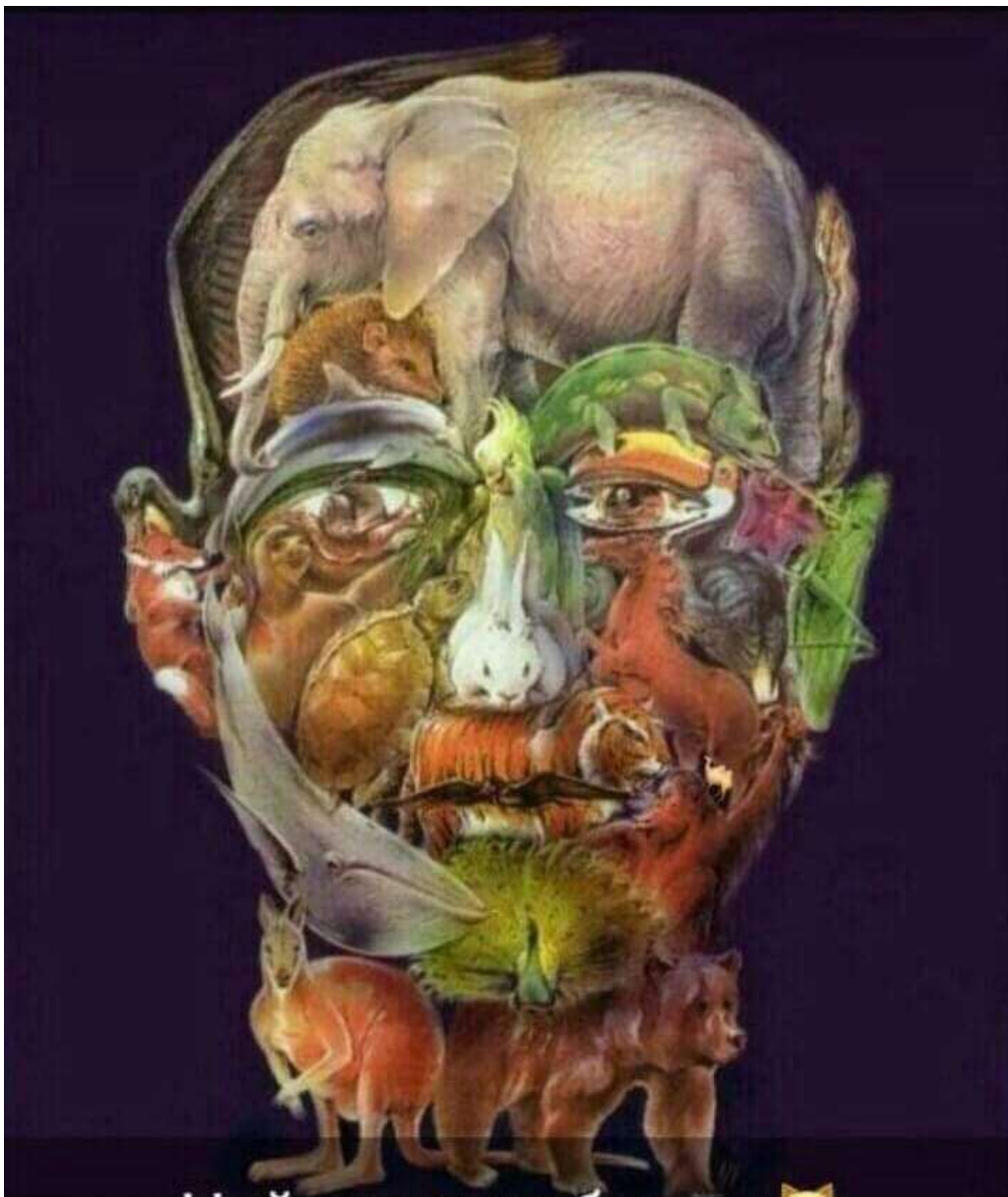
Social distancing measures will be in place when the sites reopen, the number of people visiting at any one time will be restricted and there may be limits on the waste which can be accepted.

A visit should only be undertaken if the journey can be considered essential.

This week's puzzle:

Can you find the camel hidden in this picture?

Answer next week!



Contemporary Collecting

The Novium Museum wants your help to collect and preserve stories and memories showing how residents of Chichester District have responded to the pandemic.

A selection of these stories and memories will be added to the museum's Social History Collection and will be preserved for future generations. These items will demonstrate how Covid-19 has affected, influenced and changed the world we live in and will commemorate all those that have sadly lost their lives to the disease.

A selection of the entries will also be chosen to display in a headline exhibition 'Chichester District Remembers' that the museum is preparing for Spring/Summer 2021. The exhibition will explore how we create memories, how we choose to remember and, in some cases, how we choose to forget.

What story, item, video or photograph best represents your experience or characterises your community's response to Covid-19? Have you kept a video blog? Have you taken photographs of usually bustling streets that have been abandoned during the lockdown? Have you created posters or poems? Do you have a particular item that has kept you going throughout the lockdown?

To share your stories please complete the Entry Form and follow instructions that you can find here: www.thenovium.org/article/33903/Contemporary-Collecting and email to thenovium@chichester.gov.uk



Chichester Peregrines

A pair have nested successfully at the Cathedral again. Maverick has returned and he and his partner are looking after 4 eggs, which are due to hatch any day now. For the live webcam go to: <http://carnyxlive.co.uk/jwplayer/streams/chichester720ssl.html>

For the blog and photos go to: www.chichesterperegrines.co.uk/



Fish and Chips

'The Lighthouse' fish and chip shop, at The Ridgeway in Parklands, has re-opened, with a card machine for contactless payment and food available for either collection or delivery. There's a new 'phone number to place your order: 01243 536081



WE'LL MEET AGAIN LYRICS

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day

Keep smiling through
Just like you always do
'Till the blue skies chase
The dark clouds far away

So will you please say hello
To the folks that I know
Tell them I won't be long.
They'll be happy to know
That, as you saw me go
I was singing this song.

We'll meet again
Don't know where
Don't know when
But I know we'll meet again
Some sunny day

