

WGRA Westgate Residents Association, Chichester
Westgate, Henty Gardens, Mount Lane, St Bartholomew's Close, Tannery Close

Bulletin No 46 June 2020

Dear Residents,

I hope you are all remaining well and now that the lock-down is beginning to be lifted, despite "social distancing", we shall be able to get back to a more normal existence.

We must thank Kathryn Kellagher, Louise Higham and the team who have put together the Westgate Helpers to assist those in need in our community. The weekly Newsletter they have been sending out on the WGRA e-mail system has been very well received. It is full of information and offers of support. Please make sure that your neighbours, who are not on the WGRA list, also get the opportunity to see it. We hope that they will also wish to receive the normal WGRA Bulletins in the future. Please pass on details of anyone who wishes to remain in touch with the WGRA to our secretary Bebette Jones sec.wgra@gmail.com. The Helpers have now decided that they are only going to publish once a fortnight, which gives the main WGRA an opportunity to send out bulletins in the quiet weeks without overloading our residents with more than one message per week!

We need to think occasionally about our lives after the pandemic, when we shall again start worrying about the speed and volume of traffic, the lights instead of the roundabout at the eastern end of Westgate, and the impact of 1600 new households in the West of Chichester. Do you remember filling in the questionnaire? I am very conscious that the results were sent out to our Councillors, local Resident Associations, the developers of White House Farm and the appropriate Council Officers two months ago, but has never been shared with our residents because the emergency took over. We shall be doing a special 'one subject' edition of the bulletin in a fortnight to rectify this.

For this edition, our secretary has collected information about a number of issues affecting our residents to bring everybody up to date. I am pleased to say that the incidence of cases of Covid -19 affecting the community in Chichester appears to be lower than in many other areas. To help gather information I urge you to download and report in the Covid Symptom Study app. This also gives you access to more information including about the prevalence of symptomatic cases in our area, which is the result of daily reports from nearly 4 million people, which is far greater than the Government sampling system. There is more information and details of how to join later in the bulletin.

STAY ALERT and STAY SAFE

Richard Brownfield

10 June 2020

Chichester City Centre reopens – Monday 15 June

Chichester BID (Business Improvement District) has produced a directory of shops and businesses which are opening their doors again on Monday 15 June and councils are encouraging people to visit and shop locally in what is probably one of the safest cities in the U.K. For more information visit:

<https://chichesterbid.co.uk/chichester-business-directory-2/>

COVID Symptom Study App

This is an app that tracks the symptoms and spread of Covid-19 in the UK which has been developed by researchers at Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals and King's College at London University, in conjunction with the nutrition advice start-up Zoe. Information collected is passed on to the NHS, but this is NOT the NHS tracking app that has been trialed on the Isle of Wight. By people downloading the app and reporting daily (which takes a few seconds), information gathered helps to see where and how fast the virus is spreading, and to better understand the symptoms of Covid-19. Please have a look at the information on the web and download the app if you are able to.

<https://covid.joinzoe.com/>

Mayor's Hardship Fund

This continues to provide valuable support for those people who find themselves without the money or resources to cope as a consequence of the virus. If you, or you know of someone who needs help, please call **07740 621812** and if you are able to donate to the fund, there is an opportunity at GoFundMe:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/mayors-hardship-fund?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-street

Cycling

It has been wonderful to see so many cyclists venturing onto the quiet roads, particularly along Westgate. As the lockdown is relaxed, it is even more important that all cyclists, young and old, and drivers take extra care on as the traffic increases. As Westgate is a 20mph road, we can all help slow the traffic down by driving under this speed.

It has also just been announced that to mark National Bike Week, Highways England has announced approved funding for a new 7 mile cycle route linking Chichester to Emsworth, called ChEmroute, travelling along the A259 corridor, construction of which will begin next year. The total plan includes a section along Westgate although it appears that the A259 part is the only section currently funded.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/highways-englands-pumps-85-million-into-getting-people-back-on-bikes>

St. Bartholomew's Church – Up for Sale

The WGRA are concerned about the Church building set in the middle of the Westgate area. You will be interested to know that the Chichester Fund and Board of Finance of the Chichester Diocese have put the freehold building up for sale at the not insignificant sum of £500,000.

The Agents, Spratt & Son of Worthing, have sent full details through and these are available from Brian Raincock.

There is a local interest, and also from people such as the Mayor and Councillors, in acquiring and retaining this asset for community use locally and more generally in Chichester. To do this requires considerable financial dexterity as well as the easing of one or two of the Covenants which potentially restrict its usage for certain purposes. It is considered vital that any outline proposals should be financially sound so that it does not become a burden in the future. There is also the effect on those living locally and the need to control issues such as noise, parking and access.

At present the opportunity is being pursued actively through a small group which is being formed for this purpose.

More news in due course, but if anyone would like to become more involved in the project, please contact Brian Raincock (01243 539138 or braincock@cfl.co.uk)

No.65 Westgate / Tannery site / Anti-social behaviour

Residents may be unaware that this house was occupied by 3 squatters/homeless people in March. The various councils and local police are aware of the situation, but the decision has been made to let them continue to occupy the premises during the current lockdown. There have been numerous complaints by neighbours and residents regarding the squatters and the problems caused by them. There is also concern about the derelict Tannery site in general, which is frequented by various groups of young people drinking and/or drug taking. We hope this problem can be resolved quickly and priority given to the redevelopment of this site as has been promised for a long time.

In the meantime if you do witness any anti-social behaviour in this area, or indeed in any other, we are encouraged by the police to make a report so that they can 'build a picture' of any recurring problems. This can be done by calling 101, or 999 in an emergency or by making a report online at: -

<https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-b/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

Dog Fouling and Littering

Sadly, there has been an increase in both dog fouling and litter on our pavements and in our local parks. Please make sure you pick up after your dog and encourage everyone else to do the same and to put litter in the bins. More information can be seen at: -

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/29131/Fixed-Penalty-Notices-for-littering-and-dog-fouling>

Face Coverings

A new initiative is being set up to make face coverings (masks) available to visitors coming into Chichester. The proposal is to make these available at the Cross from Monday 15 June using a design successfully produced by Lynne Brechin which has raised some £500 for the Mayor's Hardship Fund. These face coverings will be displayed on a 'wishing tree' and visitors are encouraged to take one to use while shopping in Chichester in return for a small donation to charity.

If this proves successful, plans are in place to set up a system of home workers to produce many more face coverings.

If you are available to help in any way (cutting out, sewing, washing and final packing), please contact Lynne Brechin **01243 786514** or email lsbrechin@gmail.com

West Wittering Beach

The beach is now open again, but for those visitors without an annual pass, parking is only permitted by booking online in advance. For more information see www.westwitteringestate.co.uk and www.justpark.com

West Dean Gardens / Weald and Downland Living Museum

The Gardens will reopen for Friends from Monday 22 June and for the general public from Friday 26 June, while the Museum will reopen to Members from 22 June and to the wider public from 6 July. Please note that entry to both is now only through timed, pre-booked tickets. For more information visit:

www.westdean.org.uk/gardens <https://www.wealddown.co.uk/>

Drive in Cinema

Chichester Festival Theatre and Chichester Cinema at New Park are working together to produce a drive-in cinema in Northgate car park over the August Bank Holiday weekend (28-31 August) alongside other outdoor events in Oaklands Park. The Movies and Music Weekend will screen a programme of popular and classic movies which can be watched from your car with sound coming through car radios. When details are finalized, tickets will go on sale from 30 July at www.cft.org.uk and www.chichestercinema.org

Regular events

Our regular events are on hold for the time being due to the lockdown situation, but we will let you know as soon as any of these can be resumed.

If you do not wish to receive further communication from the WGRA, please contact the Secretary, Bebette Jones at 6 Tannery Close (sec.wgra@gmail.com)