

WGRA BULLETIN

WESTGATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

October 2020

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COMMITTEE NEWS

Update from the Acting Chair – Sarah Quail

First of all, I need to tell you that, at their meeting on 7 September, the WGRA committee appointed me as Acting Chair to take Richard Brownfield's place until the AGM on 14 November 2020. Richard devoted an enormous amount of time and energy to WGRA work and we are indebted to him for his labour on our behalf. I shall thank him formally at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), of which there is more below.

Governance changes

The committee also agreed to set up four sub-groups to manage current business. Under the committee's aegis, and as reported in the last Bulletin, those sub-groups will be Planning and Traffic, Community, Beaux-Belles (Social) and Communications. The following have agreed to lead or to continue to lead these groups:

Planning and Traffic: *Gabrielle Abbott*
Community: *Kathryn Kellagher*
Social (Beaux Belles): *Brian Raincock*
Communications: *Louise Higham*

You can contact them through WGRA Secretary Bebette Jones sec.wgra@gmail.com

There were two main reasons why we have introduced sub-groups. Firstly, we want to better develop the way we manage our business and, more importantly, we want to encourage more of you to participate in the life of WGRA, particularly those of you who do not have the time or inclination to stand for the committee.

Westgate Residents Association

Chichester

working for:
Westgate,
Henty Gardens,
Mount Lane,
St Bartholomew's Close,
Tannery Close

It is vital that we secure more active members as the pressures on our community are increasing: White House Farm Phases 1 and 2 including not only where the Southern Access Road is likely to be aligned but also - now - the proposed relocation of Bishop Luffa School to a site on the other side of Centurion Way and what this might mean for our street; other traffic issues including the hardy perennial of speeding vehicles; Westgate/Orchard St roundabout planning; ChEm Route and its implications for both cyclists and pedestrians and, of course, resurgent Covid-19 issues.

The Beaux-Belles 'Model', or rather the way in which they operate, is what has inspired thinking. Membership of the Beaux-Belles is informal and easy-going. Likely new recruits are encouraged to come along to meetings – usually at the Crate and Apple! Good friendships have been forged, and we have all been the beneficiaries of the group's efforts at Christmas gatherings, street parties and other social events. This was clearly a model capable of development: a good way to broaden the active membership and to share out the workload more equitably. These ideas coalesced into the recommendations which were approved by the committee at their recent meeting. Do get involved if you are interested in one or more of the above groups.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

by Zoom 10.00 am Saturday 14 November 2020

Format

You will not be surprised to learn that due to Government restrictions on numbers of people who can meet together, we cannot hold our AGM this year at St Wilfrid's Church Hall. The committee discussed at length the options available and has decided to hold a hybrid meeting. This will be a 'behind closed doors' meeting of the current WGRA committee to conduct the business of the AGM. The legal profession is advising large numbers of different organisations to use this format in the current emergency. However, we propose to open up this meeting to the WGRA membership via Zoom as we feel that this provides some semblance of a democratic process.

You are most welcome to observe the proceedings remotely but voting will be done by proxy in advance of the meeting. This involves members completing a proxy form appointing the Chair of the meeting to vote on their behalf on each resolution to be proposed at the meeting.

We thank you for your understanding and hope that members will participate as much as possible in the new format.

What do I have to do now?

Nominations - Officers and committee members are elected at the AGM for one year, at the end of which they all retire, but are eligible for re-election for a further year. Those standing for election so far are Sarah Quail (Chair) and for re-election Bebette Jones (Secretary), Vince Waldron (Treasurer), Gabrielle Abbot, Julia Smith, Brian Raincock and Anthony Quail. We welcome anyone interested in joining the committee and there is a nomination form at the end of this Bulletin.

If you cannot print the form then email sec.wgra@gmail.com for a paper copy. Please return this form by 22 October 2020 either by:

- email a completed scanned copy of the form to sec.wgra@gmail.com
- drop a printed copy of the form into the household nearest to you:

Sarah Quail, 44 Westgate

Bebette Jones, 6 Tannery Close

Vince Waldron, 72 Westgate

- post a printed copy to: Bebette Jones, Secretary WGRA, 6 Tannery Close

What happens next?

At the beginning of November, you will receive, by email, your invitation to join the Zoom meeting along with all your AGM papers (Agenda, Annual Report, Financial Report etc.) You will also receive a proxy form for voting on proposals and nominations for officers and committee. This form will also include an opportunity to submit a written question to the meeting which will be dealt with under 'Any Other Business (AOB)'. Please return this proxy form to the Secretary by the date given on the form.

For practical reasons, voting can take place only on the proxy forms in advance and not on Zoom. Only 2019-20 paid-up members are entitled to vote and there is only one vote per household. A full report on the AGM will appear in the next *Bulletin*.

COVID HELP AND SUPPORT

The consequences of Covid 19 and the lockdown are having serious effects on many people. Please have a look at the Mayor's Open Letter (attached to the covering email) which lists various avenues of support. There is also a wealth of information, advice and guidance on the 3 council (WSCC, CDC and CCC) websites.

The Social Programme and Community

News from the Beaux Belles

Never has it been more difficult to arrange a social programme than when there is a pandemic with 'social distancing'. However, the BB's met in mid-summer with a view to discussing Christmas arrangements, maybe a spring 2021 soiree, and then the Street Party and where we might hold it. We were optimistic that Covid 19 was on the wane and we could be reasonably confident in moving ahead.

How wrong can you be! Regrettably, as you are all more than aware, things have taken a turn for the worse and we are all sitting on our hands wondering. So, another month, at least, before we can move ahead with confidence and plan any events.

For the present, therefore, we have the Street Party booked in for the Queen's birthday on Saturday 12th June 2021 and unfortunately that is it! One good point here, is that Peter Young has kindly given us the three large Gazebos which have been used at the last two events, and we are very grateful to him, as we are to Heather Esrkine-Haskoll who kindly allows the BBs to store items of equipment in her garage.

More in due course!

WESTGATE HELPERS

Autumn is now upon us and, for those of us with young children or teenagers, it has been lovely to see them return to school or university. Life remains unsettled, though, and no one knows what is around the corner. Please be reassured that, if you do need help with shopping or prescriptions over the coming months, Westgate Helpers are still here, ready to step in when required.

Contact us by:

email westgatehelp2020@gmail.com
or by telephone **07731 198693**.



THEATRE CAFE REOPENS FROM 29 SEPTEMBER

From **Tuesday 29 September** caterers Caper & Berry will be reopening the Theatre Café with socially distanced seating. Open Tuesday - Friday from 10am - 3pm they'll be serving up hot drinks and delicious warm pastries, cakes and snacks.

WGRA Regular Events

Sadly, Government restrictions now mean that our Saturday coffee mornings, Knitting and Social Group meetings and 'Barvardage au Pub' are all on hold until further notice.



9 Plus One

Art Exhibition at The Oxmarket Gallery on East Street running from Tuesday 6 October to Sunday 11 October from 10am to 4pm. Ten artists will be exhibiting an eclectic mix of painting, drawing, organic metalware and photography including works by Westgate residents: Jane Davies (oils), Rosy and Guy Turner (watercolours and photography). Come along and give them your support!

Chichester Festival Theatre Autumn 2020 Season



For those of you who aren't Friends of the Theatre, here is the recent announcement about re-opening.

'We are delighted to share with you the line-up for our brand new season, **Autumn 2020**. Our team has worked hard to bring together a programme of work that stays within the guidelines but still packs a punch in the power of its performances.

In putting together this eclectic mix of drama, music, cabaret and comedy we hope there is something to entice people of all ages to experience once more the uniquely uplifting exhilaration of live performance.

Read the season announcement (<https://www.cft.org.uk/news/autumn-2020-a-brand-new-season-announced>) for full details or have a browse through our e-brochure (<https://www.cft.org.uk/autumn-2020>).

We've worked really hard to make sure we're ready to safely welcome you back. Please make sure you read our COVID Guidelines before you visit at <https://www.cft.org.uk/your-visit/covid-guidelines>



Pop up cycleway in Chichester

CPRE

The Countryside Charity

Under new proposals, government ministers want to take decision-making powers away from communities and local councils, handing it over to housing developers and central powers in Westminster. CPRE is running a petition to ask the government to drop their plans to deregulate planning and give communities the power to shape their future. If you would like to sign the petition, please click the link below:
<https://www.cpre.org.uk/>

<https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/66589/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=cpre-web-take-action>

PLANNING AND TRAFFIC

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Chichester

Have your say?

Complete a 5-10minute survey on the new Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Chichester. This plan is being developed to identify long term cycling and walking improvements in the city and adjoining parishes.

The council has carried out a comprehensive audit of current pedestrian and cycle routes in Chichester, as well as existing routes in and out of the city. They are seeking feedback on the plan and whether it would improve your journeys, or encourage you to walk or cycle on more short journeys.

Go to:

www.chichester.gov.uk/letstalkcyclingandwalking

and complete before midnight on **19 October 2020**.

You will find the LCWIP document and appendices for the various areas across the city. You may find it interesting to look at the whole LCWIP document (57 pages) or you can just look at our area - Westgate is area K - and do the survey to give your comments.

WGRA LOGO COMPETITION!

With the new-look Bulletin, we would like residents to come up with ideas for a 'WGRA' logo, incorporating, perhaps, some of the committees in the Association, or, perhaps, simply the overarching aim of the Association to inform, include and involve all members.

All entries please to **sec.wgra@gmail.com** or by hand to: 1 Mount Lane.