

WGRA Westgate Residents' Association

Bulletin – February 2021

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

CONTACT US:

Chair: chair.wgra@gmail.com
Secretary: sec.wgra@gmail.com
Planning: planning.wgra@gmail.com
Website: www.westgatera.org.uk

It is so difficult to stay positive at the moment, but we have to keep hope in our hearts – the vaccine rollout, whilst late to Chichester, is starting to happen – new vaccines are coming in – lockdown WILL end soon, even if some form of Tier system takes its place – and Spring IS coming!

The Westgate Helpers are still there for you if you need them. Other organisations, such as the NHS volunteer responders mentioned in this bulletin, are doing their bit, and initiatives such as the 'Great Art Exhibition' are still trying to spread happiness and creativity as the country deals with the long lockdown.

As someone pointed out recently:

Not everything is cancelled...Sun is not cancelled, Spring is not cancelled, Relationships are not cancelled, Love is not cancelled, Reading is not cancelled, Devotion is not cancelled, Music is not cancelled, Imagination is not cancelled, Kindness is not cancelled, Conversations are not cancelled, Hope is not cancelled.

BEWARE Scam NHS email

We are aware of a number of scam emails circulating offering you the chance to register for a Covid vaccine. They are very convincing in layout and language, and invite you to click through and register with personal details. Ultimately, they ask you to make a payment - remember never give out your bank details to an unsolicited email!

The genuine Covid vaccination contact is not generally by email - it is by letter or phone call from your GP Service - and the genuine central site asks you for your NHS number, not other personal details.

If you receive this scam email or any other please report the email by forwarding it to report@phishing.gov.uk who investigate and take down scammers.

For more information on this please go to:
<https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/>

How to spot a Scam email

If you receive an email that you aren't sure about, click on the little coloured circle that appears next to the email address of the person sending it to you.

This opens their details and you can see if it looks like a genuine address or just a jumble of numbers and letters or a personal email address. In which case – don't open it.





Latest vaccination information

Please find the latest daily vaccination update through the link below:

<https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/news/>

WGRA website
Discover local history and share your knowledge

<http://www.westgatera.org.uk>

Rotary Club of Chichester Harbour

For the last 20 years we have supported families in need and those fleeing domestic abuse.

All our families and individuals come to us via a professional - Social Service, Early Years, Health Visitors, Schools, Housing Associations, Homestart, Safe in Sussex etc.

If residents want to donate they can email me or text 077 3239 7201 and I will arrange pick up or agree drop off depending on Covid restrictions.

KNITTING:

A massive "Thank You" to all our knitters. We have enough knitted blankets at the moment (a lot of extra blanket knitting has gone on during lockdown!). However, we do need mittens, gloves and Easter chicks and rabbits, especially ones that hold a small egg. We also need Twiddle Muffs.

EASTER:

We will be collecting Easter eggs for families this year. Tesco Chichester will serve as a central collection point but we are happy to collect individual donations.

ITEMS MOST NEEDED

- Track suit bottoms and hoodies - male, female and children
- New duvets and pillows
- Laptops and tablets that can be cleared and set up for school work
- Any unwanted Christmas gifts suitable for children, males and females (these can be used for birthdays and treats)
- PJ's for children all ages - new or nearly new
- Towels - large and small, new and nearly new
- Men's jeans all sizes

The urgent need for items changes frequently but the above items are always needed.

Contact Community Chair at
 therese.brook@btinternet.com or
 07732 397201

Message from the Leader of Chichester District Council - 2 February 2021

Last Friday, we met with our colleagues from the Sussex Clinical Commissioning Groups for our regular update on the COVID-19 vaccination programme in the district.

The local NHS are currently on course to meet the targets set by Government. As of last Friday, 90.4% of the over 80s in the North of the district and 75% of the over 80s in the South of the district had received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccine deliveries occur each week at each GP-led vaccination site. This is co-ordinated nationally by NHS England. Once they know when they will get vaccine, the sites can then determine their opening hours and days. As a result, at the moment it is not unusual that sites are only open for certain days of the week or weekend.

Some people have asked why some large vaccination sites seem to have unlimited supplies, while others receive smaller amounts. The volume sent to each site is based on their capacity and needs and there are no issues about supplies for the district.

Conversations are ongoing about introducing a new site in the centre of Chichester. The NHS is exploring a number of sites, and the final decision will be agreed with NHS England. They are hopeful that a decision will be made on this over the next week. If given the go-ahead, they believe that a central site can be opened rapidly.

All of the NHS stakeholder updates and our own updates from the meetings we are having are being placed here:

www.chichester.gov.uk/covidresidentsupport.

We are also sharing regular updates on our social media sites and within our email newsletter, which you can sign up to at

www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts

The NHS has to ensure there are the staff requirements for the site and this is one of most important elements being agreed. When identifying suitable sites, the NHS has to meet certain criteria. This includes: digital access, flooring, floor space, the potential flow of people in and out of the site, availability of parking, location in terms of traffic building up and space for staff. They also need to consider the volume of vaccinations that can take place at a centre.

If you are aged over 70, you may receive a letter from the national booking system inviting you to attend one of the large vaccination sites within 60 miles of your home, or one of the approved pharmacies (in our case, this is in Midhurst). There has been some confusion around this. It's really important to note that you do not have to accept this invitation, and you can wait for your GP-led vaccination centre to contact you. This is an extra opportunity to access the vaccine, providing you with the option of accessing your vaccination quicker if you want to. If you decide to ignore the letter, there is no need to worry as you will still be contacted by your local GP-led vaccination service.

What you can be assured of is that our NHS colleagues are working really hard to deliver the vaccine programme as quickly as they can and I would like to thank them for everything that they are doing. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers supporting this effort. In fact, we discovered this week that one of our home grown international superstars, Hugh Bonneville, has even become a volunteer at the Midhurst site, which was lovely to see.

I want you to know that we are raising the issues that you raise with me with our NHS colleagues each week and are trying to provide you with as much information as we possibly can. I would encourage you, if you haven't already, to sign up to our email newsletter at www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts so that you are totally up to date with information from both our area, as well as the national guidance.

Cllr Eileen Lintill - Leader of Chichester District Council

Ch Em route

Consultation on the Highways England plans for the upgrade of Ch Em route is now underway with some preliminary zoom meetings scheduled for this month. Two of our residents on the traffic group will attend on behalf of WGRA and we expect to hear more shortly. We have vigorously opposed any notion of shared cycling and walking paths in the urban areas including Westgate.

We do not expect this project to progress fast but it is good that some preliminary work is starting.

Westgate Highway works - Roundabout plans

Traffic modelling on the dutch-style roundabout at the Westgate/Orchard Street junction has now largely been completed. We have been provided with a timetable showing that this work is programmed to start in September this year and will take 5 months to complete. The planned works to the Westgate/Sherbourne Road mini-roundabout are scheduled to start in July.

This timetable was prepared before the latest lockdown so it is possible that these timescales may be delayed.

It has been agreed between West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) and the Developer that the other highways works to Westgate will be commuted into a lump sum payment of around £90,000. This will be paid to WSSCC by the Developer in lieu of the works being carried out. The works related largely to improvement of the existing cycleway. The rationale for the commutation is that if the works were carried out now they would have to be redone as part of the proposed Chichester to Emsworth walking and cycling route (ChEm route) improvements, which intends to go along the A259 and Westgate into the city centre. The money is now to be spent on Westgate as part of the ChEm route works.

The Westgate improvement works also include making good the existing paving at the eastern end of Westgate. We are waiting to hear whether this work will be carried out by the Developer or by WSSCC.



NHS Volunteer Responders

Volunteer Responders has been set up to support the NHS and the social care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. To do this they need an 'army' of volunteers who can support vulnerable people in England who are at most risk from the virus to stay well. Doctors, nurses, those working in local authorities and other professionals, will be able to refer people in to NHS Volunteer Responders and be confident that they have been matched with a reliable, named volunteer.

You can help by signing up for one or more of the roles. Once you have registered and checks are complete you will be provided a log-in to the GoodSAM Responder app. Switch the app to 'on duty', and you'll see live and local volunteer tasks to pick from nearby. For more details please go to:

<https://www.goodsamapp.org/NHS>

Great Big Art Exhibition invites locked-down Brits to put creativity on show (article partly reproduced from 'The Guardian')



The Great Big Art Exhibition was launched on 28th January by Gormley, who is the first artist to choose a theme for people at home to be inspired by as they create work to contribute to what organisers are calling the nation's largest ever exhibition. Some of British art's biggest names, including Antony Gormley, Sonia Boyce and Anish Kapoor, are encouraging Britons to turn their front windows into a gallery as part of a nationwide initiative to create a "magical patchwork of creativity".

Historical works from UK galleries are being made available for download so they can be used as a template or inspiration, and participants are encouraged to collaborate virtually with others, from sports teams or schools to religious groups. Every two weeks, until April, a new theme will be suggested through Firstsite, the arts organisation that focuses on education, to keep the exhibition rotating.

If you'd like to be a part of the Great Big Art Exhibition, showcase your art at home or in your garden. Then, post a photo of your art on the social media platform of your choosing using **#thegreatbigartexhibition2021** hashtag and by tagging Firstsite. If you opt for an online viewing, Firstsite has asked artists to include their first name, the city or town that you live in, and a short description of your work.

Gormley chose the theme of animals for participants to be inspired by, and people are encouraged to make their artworks out of what they have at hand. The results – be they paintings, sculptures or something less traditional – are to be placed on a front porch, balcony or window.

Getting involved with the Great Big Art Exhibition is quite simple and the invitation is extended to everyone. A downloadable packet gets you started and includes a wealth of inspiration. <https://firstsite.uk/#form-section>

AND FINALLY - Sussex Trivia Quiz

How well can you do?

<https://www.funtrivia.com/playquiz/quiz22404419a71a8.html>



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