

WGRA Westgate Residents' Association

Westgate, Henty Gardens, Mount Lane, St. Bartholomew's Close, Tannery Close



Bulletin March 2022

CONTACT US:

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Monthly Coffee Morning - Reminder

Our March coffee morning at the Crate & Apple will be held on **Saturday 5 March 2022** at 10am.

Come along for Coffee & a Chat!

Start the week by popping in for a friendly coffee and chat on Monday mornings at the Crate & Apple. Every **Monday from 10-12 noon**. Everyone is very welcome.



More Road Matters!

Twenty is Plenty City-wide!

You may have picked up on the *Chichester Observer* website (hopefully to be reported in the next edition of the newspaper itself) that Chichester City Council at their meeting last week on 23 February 2022 voted unanimously to ask WSCC Highways to implement a city-wide 20-mph speed limit.

Interestingly, apparently, a city-wide scheme is much easier for Police to enforce than a scheme where roads have different speed limits in the same urban area. WSCC agreed at their most recent meeting to look at the whole issue of speed limits in urban areas across the county.

We are not alone. Different parish councils across the county are urging their District Councils and WSCC to introduce a 20-mph speed limit in their communities and next week the District Council will be debating a similar motion. You will also know that the devolved Welsh Government recently agreed that a 20-mph speed limit should be introduced across Wales in built-up areas.

Sadly, if you are hit by a vehicle travelling at 40 mph you will probably die. Hit by a vehicle at 30 mph, you have a 90% chance of dying and a child is three times more likely to die. If you are hit at 20 mph only 10% will die. It really is a no brainer!

WGRA on the air waves!

Shared footpaths! Thanks to the persistence of Julia Smith, a WGRA Committee member, WGRA got good coverage in a full story in the *Chichester Observer* two weeks ago on the vexed question of proposed shared footpaths at the Sherborne Road and Westgate roundabout, including a picture on the front page!

Actually, the picture was taken on New Year's Day 2022 when several local residents (lurking at the back of the image) joined forces with a cohort of cyclists from ChiCycle and the Chichester District Cycle Forum to protest about the whole notion of shared pavements on a very constricted site. The full story was reported inside the paper where we reiterated our complaint that cyclists on pavements pose a real danger to pedestrians and whilst we welcomed new crossings at this junction, the numbers of bikes, elderly residents and Bishop Luffa pupils who converge on this roundabout is a potential recipe for disaster.

Government guidance on shared pavements has changed a lot in the last 6-12 months and they are not advised in urban areas, so WGRA had suggested that the shared path element of the design be held back and

commuted into the later phase, given that the Southern Access Road design feels imminent now and will change things again. WGRA will be pushing hard that shared pavements are not an acceptable solution for the next phase of changes, and that any new junction design must provide safe, segregated cycling on-road with proper traffic calming and traffic reduction on Westgate.

This newspaper article fed coincidentally into a feature by BBC Radio Sussex all about shared pavements across the county, and Julia developed these points and WGRA's concerns in a live interview on Friday 18 February. Another interview was conducted with Mark Record of ChiCycle who, as previously reported, had even instructed solicitors on his own account to seek judicial review of the shared pavement proposals but had had to drop his case because of rising legal costs.

Sarah Quail, Chair

Fouling on Westgate Pavements

The problem continues but the District Council cleaning teams are now making daily inspections of the pavements on both sides of the road. However, if you do spot any mess that hasn't been cleared away, please use this link: <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/30351/Report-street-cleaning-problem-form>

Speedwatch



With data collected by our speedwatch volunteers in February, Sussex police were able to send over 30 warning letters to the offending motorists! David Thornley is stepping back from an active coordinating role at the moment due to other commitments so if you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, please get in touch with me, Belette Jones on 07791 237502 or email sec.wgra@gmail.com for more information and help with registration and training. The photo shows one of our teams out on a freezing cold morning!



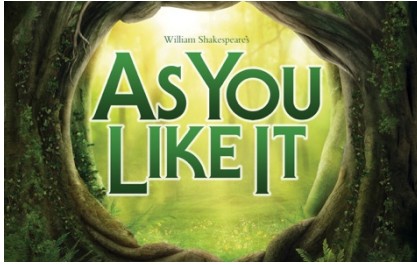
Resident and visitor parking permits

The permit application process is now online to apply, renew or pay for your resident and visitor parking permits. The service can be accessed at <http://www.chichester.gov.uk/permits> Although permits can no longer be purchased in person from council offices, if you, or someone you know, can't access the website or need support using the online system, please call the Parking Services team on 01243 534500.



The Cross Market and More event, which took place in November last year and welcomed thousands of visitors, will be back on three occasions in 2022. The markets will take place in North Street and East Street, Chichester, between 10am to 4pm on: Sunday 13 March, Sunday 17 July, and Sunday 16 October 2022

Chichester Festival Theatre's 60th Anniversary season (Festival 2022) will open with a new play by Chichester's internationally best-selling author Kate Mosse. *The Taxidermist's Daughter* premieres in the Festival Theatre in April 2022, directed by Róisín McBrinn. Alecky Blythe's *Our Generation*, a co-production with the National Theatre, will open the Minerva Theatre season, directed by Daniel Evans. For more information on these and other productions as well as bookings click on: <https://www.cft.org.uk/whats-on>



As You Like It – Chichester Cathedral, Sunday 24 June 2022, 7pm
(Gates open 6pm)

“The Lord Chamberlain’s Men – with a history stretching back to William Shakespeare himself – invite you to join them this summer for the sparkling comedy, *As You Like It*. One of the UK’s finest touring theatre companies present this great play as Shakespeare first saw it performed in the open air, by an all male cast and with Elizabethan costumes, music and dance.”

For tickets click on: <http://www.tlcm.co.uk/next-production/>

Culture Spark 2022

Are you ready to enjoy an exciting season of vibrant cultural events here in the Chichester District? Culture Spark 2022 promises to deliver an outstanding calendar of large scale and community activities for residents and visitors to enjoy. Celebrations will be taking place to recognise 60 years of **Chichester Festival Theatre**; 40 years of **Pallant House Gallery**; 30 years of **Chichester Cinema at New Park’s International Film Festival**; 10 years of **The Novium Museum** and the **Festival of Chichester**; and even more impressively, 200 years of the **Canal Trust**! Events will take place up and down the district, from March to October, and the season officially launches on 29 March with a series of First Sparks. Taking place at three spectacular heritage sites, the events will feature live music, dance and poetry performances, each culminating with a jaw-dropping digital lightshow.



Get the dates in your diary for these free, family friendly evenings:

- 29 March from 6.30pm – 7.30pm at The Cathedral Green in Chichester
- 30 March from 6.30pm – 7.30pm at Medmerry Mill in Selsey
- 31 March from 6.30pm – 7.30pm at Cowdray Ruins in Midhurst

Visit <https://www.thegreatsussexway.org/culture-spark-2022/> for more details.

The Queen’s Platinum Anniversary Celebrations Westgate Street Party, Sunday 5th June 2022, 12pm-6.30pm

If you haven’t already made a note, don’t forget to put the date into your diaries for this very special event. More details coming soon.



Havenstoke Park

WGRA Regular Social Events Bavardage au Pub

Our French speakers continue to meet on the last Monday of the month at the Crate & Apple at 6.00pm



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