

WGRA Westgate Residents' Association

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



Bulletin April 2022

CONTACT US:

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

Traffic Mitigation on Westgate

As you will recall, we passed a resolution at our AGM last November (2021) charging the WGRA Committee to secure the implementation of an automatic numberplate recognition scheme (ANPR) for Westgate. In early March 2022, a small party made up of WGRA Executive Committee members, other interested individuals, and a representative of WSCC with our Chi West County Councillor, Julian Joy, went to London to see for themselves the ANPR scheme which has been adopted in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (H&F).

Our team was welcomed warmly and given a detailed tour of the roads, cameras, and signage. The scheme works. There have been significant improvements since it was implemented: the volume of traffic passing through the borough's streets and feeder roads has been reduced significantly, there has been a commensurate reduction in both noise, pollution and accidents, and an uplift for pedestrian life and local businesses. Surprisingly, they have found that even the main roads in Fulham now flow better.

Our team discovered however, that H&F were only able to roll out their scheme because they are a London borough and subject to London Borough regulations.

There are plans to introduce similar regulations for the rest of the country in due course, perhaps as early as May but we are not holding our breath given the current parliamentary timetable. In the meantime though there is work which can be done. WGRA members are liaising with adjoining residents' associations to establish their views on an ANPR scheme for Westgate and opportunities are being sought to publicise our proposals city-wide. As the local team which went to London learned, it is vital to make plenty of noise to get noticed – and to keep that noise going!

Sarah Quail

Chichester Parking Zone Scheme / 2019 Road Space Audit

Some residents will remember the plans for an extended Chichester Parking Zone scheme informed by a Road Space Audit carried out in 2019. This was set up to look holistically at parking across the city, where to introduce new paid parking zones for residents and to manage the influx of commuter traffic looking for city centre parking outside the carparks.

Bold plans were put forward which included some changes to the wider western end of Westgate where less on-street parking is needed by residents, and there was even a plan to remove the northside parking places in this section up to the Sherborne Road roundabout to improve the streetscape and in time, potentially to provide space for a proper cycle lane. Public consultation took place across the city, but the scheme then stalled (we suspect) with Covid, budgets and some resistance from other parts of the City too.

WSCC have now confirmed that it does not have any plans to introduce any additional zones into Chichester at this present time. However, the Parking team are apparently willing to consider requests to improve residents' parking and to improve safety and access for residents to their properties. Of course, with no guarantees! WGRA are aware that some residents in the wider western end get fed up with commuters parking across their drives, where the white H lines are not enforceable and therefore this encourages people

to park badly, blocking driveways and making access and visibility difficult which, in turn, compromises pedestrian and cyclist safety. There may be other street parking or road marking issues too.

If you have any comments on the parking on Westgate, in particular: -

1. if you can see where an additional residents' parking space might be helpful and safe
2. if you would like additional yellow lines anywhere (e.g. changing the white lines near your driveway) to improve access and/or safety

please would you let WGRA know and we will happily coordinate a combined response. Please email any suggests to sec.wgra@gmail.com

Julia Smith

Speedwatch



We are scheduling sessions with our radar gun once or twice a week now on different days and at different times so perhaps you've seen us out at No. 19 Westgate. We're managing to record numerous speeding motorists, especially in the morning rush hour, and these will all receive warning letters from the police. Second, third and fourth offences result in more warnings, a visit from the police and possible eventual prosecution. Volunteers are always needed, so if you're



interested in joining our team, please get in touch with me, Bebette Jones, on 07791 237502 or email sec.wgra@gmail.com for more information and help with the easy registration and training.

The Tannery

Anti-social Behaviour

The Tannery site has been abandoned for many years now while awaiting redevelopment. As those of you who live in Tannery Close and in adjoining properties will know only too well, there has been more grief from continued anti-social behaviour on the derelict site ranging from alcohol and drug abuse to vandalism and forced entry to the buildings. Residents have also been intimidated by youths hurling missiles at windows. The Police have been called on several occasions but of course by the time they arrive, the malefactors have disappeared.

As WGRA Chair (and in my capacity as one of your city councillors), I met - with District Councillor John-Henry Bowden and County Councillor Julian Joy – with WSCC's Malcolm Mayo, as this is a WSCC site. He promised to fence the backs of the dilapidated properties adjoining Westgate which are now boarded up, and to bar entry through the archway which is on Westgate. The passageway from the archway into the now disused carpark is full of rubbish, a fence and part of a wall were blown down in the last storm, and the area sometimes is used as a lavatory by passing individuals at night.

Nothing has been done though and it is three weeks since we complained. I chased and was advised by Mr Mayo that their tenant has access on the side of her property, and he can therefore do nothing about closing the archway entrance. We hope that a compromise solution can be found.

Contamination

We also learned at this meeting with Mr Mayo that there are very serious issues with contamination on this site. It was a tannery of course and the earliest reference to tanning in the parish of St Bartholomew is 1549. There are consistent references to tanning in Westgate from the 16th century to the 20th century and according to Roy Morgan in his *Chichester: A Documentary History*, Phillimore, 1992, the ground is honeycombed with 120 pits each roughly 2 metre cubes. What this probably means is that WSCC will have to excavate the entire site behind the boarded-up buildings on Westgate to a significant depth and backfill it before any (as planned) housing development can take place.

Further, Mr Mayo advised us that the contamination has leached into the boarded-up buildings to a significant height, and he questions whether they can be saved. WSCC is currently undertaking a series of bore holes across the site and in particular in the vicinity of these buildings. We shall keep you posted of further developments.

Sarah Quail

Fouling on Westgate Pavements

Sadly, the problem continues regularly in all sections of Westgate. We are dealing with the police and Chichester District Council regarding the matter but frustratingly neither seems to agree on whose responsibility this is and very little, if any, progress has been made in identifying a suspect. The District Council cleaning teams are doing a very good job of cleaning up and now make 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> Please also continue to report to the police by telephoning 101 or online at 101@sussex.police.uk



Country Park – official opening event – Friday 22 April 2-4pm

The developers of Minerva Heights (Whitehouse Farm) will be holding the official opening of the new country park that we featured in the February Bulletin. It's scheduled from 2-4pm on the boardwalks over the lakes adjoining Newlands Lane – there's easy access from Centurion Way.



Chichester Ship Canal 200th Anniversary – Saturday 9th April

The Chichester Ship Canal is 200 years old in 2022! The formal opening of the canal was held on 9th April 1822 so to mark the 200th anniversary, the Canal Trust is hosting a day of live music, stall, food, entertainment, children's activities, and water and land based displays. The day will culminate in a flotilla along the canal arriving at the basin at 3pm so don't miss it!

<https://chichestercanal.org.uk/about-chichester-canal/200th-anniversary-on-chichester-canal/>

“Falklands Air War 40” Exhibition Opens

On Saturday 2 April 2022 the Museum's Falklands Air War 40 Exhibition was officially opened, 40 years to the day when Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands. The exhibition runs until 31 August during which, on Sunday 1 May, the Museum will hold a 'Falklands Day' to provide an opportunity for aircrew who flew in the South Atlantic or supported 'Operation Corporate' to meet up and also meet the public. The Museum owns two Harriers, one of which, Sea Harrier XZ459, flew 53 operations in the war.

For more information: <https://www.tangmere-museum.org.uk/news/falklands-air-war-40-exhibition-opens>



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 and booking form coming at the end of April.



Chichester Peregrines

The peregrines are back and this year we have 3 eggs so far with the first one being laid on Mother's Day!

David Shaw Wildlife has a wonderful website with all the history and all the latest information on the birds including a live webcam stream so have a look at: <https://www.chichesterperegrines.co.uk/>



Festival of Flowers 2022

Chichester Cathedral's Festival of Flowers returns with a four day spectacular, taking place from 8-11 June 2022. This year's theme is "Life In All Its Fullness" exploring the benefits of art, nature and music in healing.

Tickets are on sale now: <https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/events/festival-flowers-2022>



Graylingwell Chapel

Graylingwell Chapel has been restored by Chichester Community Development Trust (CCDT) and it now provides a new community venue which opened in February 2022. The displays inside tell the story of the former Graylingwell

Hospital and brings together archival images, photographs, hospital records and objects. The extended building now also incorporates a café, meeting rooms and a What's On listing for events, activities, and performances. Opening hours are Monday to Saturday 8am-5pm. For further information: <https://graylingwellchapel.com/> - it's well worth a visit!

For a host of Easter activities in and around Chichester, simply google "Chichester Whats On" for an endless variety of places to go and things to see and do. The Weald and Downland Living Museum and the Aldingbourne Trust are just two of many sites offering lots of family fun.



WGRA Regular Social Events



Coffee Morning – held on the first Saturday of each month at the Crate & Apple at 10am. Sorry if you missed the April morning but the next one will be on **Saturday 7 May**

Coffee & a Chat! – meeting every Monday at the Crate & Apple from 10am-12 noon.

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