Chorlton Voice Bulletin October 2020

Introduction

September has slipped by with warm weather and a further mini lockdown across Greater Manchester. And still infections from Coronavirus are rising – see later in this bulletin for some messages from Manchester City Council about the test and trace system. As I write, we face further restrictions. And yet, we muddle through, marvelling at the autumn colours and planning for Spring in the gardens. This has been a bumper year for seeing wildlife, largely due to the fewer cars on the roads. I have been told of more hedgehogs, and even badgers coming into the gardens bordering the tram track. Less welcome has been an increase in mice and rats around houses, as their usual food sources have dwindled. We have solar panels on our house and feral pigeons decided to take up residence beneath them. They nested, and firstly their nest was raided by magpies and the egg stolen; then their squab (immature pigeon) fell out of the nest and died; then finally they successfully raised and fledged a pigeon. Pigeons aren't good to have nesting on the rook as they leave mites which can get into the house – so we called in the bird pest experts. They cleared away the (now inactive) nest and put a cage round the solar panels. This confused the five pigeons who still liked to spend a good part of the day and night crouching (can pigeons crouch?) under the panels for about five days, but now they have gone to find refuge elsewhere. I hope it is not under your solar panels!
In this bulletin there is an update on our membership survey, information about the virtual Arts Festival, an update on planning and the Climate Action project and lots of Covid updates, and more.
We all, at Chorlton Voice, wish you a happy and safe autumn.

Carolyn, Chair Chorlton Voice chair@chorltonvoice.org

Some good news – a fantastic learning opportunity with Dr Sarah Telfer, says Cath, our events organiser.

It's been a very strange time for everyone since lockdown started in March and the complexity of coping with coming out if it. I have missed attending meetings at the library and our Spring and Summer social get together. Committee meetings using Zoom are not quite the same communicating via the laptop as it is face to face. When events comes up on the agenda there really hasn't been much for me to say as it hasn't been possible to book a trip or invite a speaker.

The major Chorlton Voice event has been the Virtual Arts Festival, whilst there (on-line) I attended a talk given by Dr. Sarah Telfer, Associate Teaching Professor at the University of Bolton. She supervises students on the postgraduate education programme. **Her students teach a variety of subjects including creative writing, languages (Spanish), drama, photography, IT, how to use on-line portals (ie. Mozilla Hubs) and embroidery.**

Her students are required to gain experience in teaching practice in a range of situations using various methods –**If any Chorlton Voice members are interested in any of the subjects above I am happy to liaise with Sarah to work out how we can deliver the teaching.**

It may be possible to arrange 1:1 face to face teaching, 1:1 on line or small group teaching with several sessions over a period of time. Given the Covid 19 situation all arrangements will have to comply with current government safety pandemic guidelines.

The purpose of this communication is to see if there is any interest within the Chorlton Voice membership to make it worthwhile discussing with Sarah the possibility of using her students and linking them with members.

If you are interested in learning any of the topics listed, please let me know the topic and whether your preference is face to face meeting or on-line or both. I appreciate this may raise questions particularly as nothing is straightforward in these challenging of times, but we can discuss how to make things happen if there is interest.

The postgraduate teaching students will want to start planning their teaching in the next few weeks.

Please respond by Wednesday 21st October by email to:
catherine.brownhill@ntlworld.com

Cath Brownhill
Chorlton Voice Committee (events)

New Covid Rules – We are in a High Covid Alert Area with effect from 14th October.

As a High Covid alert level area, the following restrictions are in effect in Manchester:

- Gathering indoors with someone you don't live with is not allowed except in special circumstances (eg. a support bubble)

- No gathering of more than six people is allowed outdoors (except for organised sporting activities)

- Pubs and restaurants are required to ensure customers only consume food and drink while seated, and must close at 10pm

- Businesses/venues selling food for takeaway can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through

- Gyms, sports centres, hairdressers and cinemas can continue to operate in a COVID-secure manner.

Alongside these measures, rules around the wearing of face coverings are still in effect. You should continue to follow social distancing rules and regularly wash your hands.

You can view full details about the changes for high risk areas at GOV.UK

The Government will review the situation every 14 days, it's possible for areas in England to move to the Medium or Very High categories after each review.

For more information about the help and support available for Manchester communities with COVID-19, visit www.manchester.gov.uk/coronavirus



Do you really understand the test and Trace System? Covid updates from the City Council.

If you are confused about how the **test and trace system** works, then please see these messages from the city Council.

1. **If you think you might have Coronavirus you can now have a test.**

Signs of Coronavirus are:
A high temperature
Or a new and continuous cough
Or loss of smell and taste
If you or anyone you live with has any of these signs, you must stay at home.
You can get a test and find out how long to stay home by **ringing 119** or logging on to nhs.uk/coronavirus

2. **If you have been close to someone who has tested positive for Coronavirus you will be contacted about it by phone, text or email.**

If you are contacted you must self-isolate for 14 days. more information is on nhs.uk/coronavirus

3. **To stay healthy and well and to stop the spread of coronavirus, please:**

Keep social distancing rules;
Keep washing your hands well;
Sneeze or cough into your arm or a tissue
Wipe surfaces and handles
And Look after yourself.
www.manchester.gov.uk/coronavirus

4. Do you or someone you live with have any of the following symptoms?
- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste?

Isolate with the people people you live with and get a free COVID-19 test as soon as possible call 119 or www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

There are videos that explain things too:

1. What to do if you have symptoms: https://youtu.be/lLG5QFuF26M
2. What to do if you are a contact: https://youtu.be/3eZrwbEMJu4
3. Incubation period: https://youtu.be/uCtWTp8Z0Pw

Payments for people self isolating

Eligible residents self-isolating following a COVID-19 test, or who are told to self-isolate by the NHS test and trace scheme , can apply for a £500 support payment. Find out more: http://orlo.uk/8wUuM

Chorlton Voice Membership Survey

In August and September we conducted an online membership survey to see what members thought about future activities, post-COVID. Unfortunately we did not get enough replies to get a clear view about how to resume activities. Many thanks to those who did reply. The most highly valued activities were the newsletter/bulletins, talks (in normal times) and the Arts Festival. There was less interest in visits although those who liked them thought they were great. There was no agreement about how to resume activities.

Thank you for those who gave their stars and wishes – These have been forwarded these on the Buzz Team who were delighted to receive them.

Chorlton Arts Festival



This year the Arts festival took an experimental virtual form. A limited number of artists took part and worked with our own Peter Topping and Jess Symons and her team from Visioning Lab to create a virtual wonderland. Jess created an open space, a Festival field, just like a music festival, called Solstice, in which films of performances played on a large screen. We were treated to poetry, classical music recitals, bands, a singer songwriter and an orchestra. Peter created the virtual streets of Chorlton, complete with hidden tunnels, through which visitors could roam, race and relax.



Visitors were invited to take on an avatar (a graphical representation of themselves – I was a panda, but there were ghosts, crows and others – you can see Peter's avatar on the left of the picture) and talk to each other. Both Peter and Jess worked with artists to create their own rooms (or hubs) and there was a complete art gallery to browse.



The delivery of the Festival was tremendous achievement and a lot was learnt that will help develop future virtual aspects to the Arts Festival. **The Festival is still open for viewing** – click on www.chorltonarts.org and follow the instructions. If you need any help contact events@chorltonarts.org . We will be producing a review reports, but first, Cath, from our committee wrote about her experiences of the Festival.

If you can't get in to the virtual Festival, you can watch performers by clicking on these links or pasting them into your browser if they don't click through:

Anna Percy	https://vimeo.com/458962643
Amy Tefler	https://vimeo.com/454417063
The Dead Xtra's	https://vimeo.com/456242467
Red Rae	https://vimeo.com/454189864/3a034e5f27
Peggy Chorlton	https://vimeo.com/458961435
Chu Yun	https://vimeo.com/462346439

Ivan Hovorun	https://vimeo.com/458962292
Michael Cretu	https://vimeo.com/458962289
Chorlton Good Neighbour's Drama Workshop group	https://vimeo.com/458969193

Re-imagine Chorlton

In the last bulletin we gave notice of the re-Imagine Chorlton Zoom event to be put on by Chorlton Alliance (the alliance of different groups in Chorlton). Over 40 people took part and held lively discussions. In a very short period of time the organisers made a film about experiences of lockdown, and you can find this at or at https://chorltonalliance.co.uk/chorlton-remembers-2020/ - it's well worth a look.
You can also register at https://chorlton.coop/ for a follow up meeting on Sunday 1st November 4-5pm for anyone interested in taking forward some of the ideas that came up – you don't have to have been at the first meeting.

On the Alliance site, https://chorltonalliance.co.uk there is also a message of hope from Cllr eve Holt – have a llok and take heart from it, knowing that in community and neighbourhood we are strong.

Chorlton Climate Action Project

Preparations are well in hand for the start of the Chorlton Climate Action Project. Two workers are about to be appointed (or more if they job share) to help with the three projects focused on a) a school; b) a residential street and c) a retail street. One of the innovative things about the project is the involvement of a Community Board – representatives from across groups and services in Chorlton to be the channel both in to and out of the project. Expect regular updates as Chorlton Alliance (including us) have a place on this Community Board.
One of the first things to take off will be a workshop to be run by Open data Manchester, one of the project partners, to consider what kinds of data would and could be collected to inform the impact of the project, particularly on traffic and carbon emissions. Watch out for notices of this workshop. There will be opportunities to take part in collecting some of the data.

Chorlton Community Land Trust

The CLT is to have its first AGM on 22nd October, 7.30 by Zoom for members – see ttps://chorltonclt.org

Negotiations are still on-going with the Co-op regarding the Funeral Home. The CLT has put in to MMU, a formal request to be involved in the Ryebanks Field development, now MMU have put the site up for sale. There are likely to be further delays as it wont surprise members to know that the site investigation plans have thrown up all sorts of toxicity, which will mean a substantial decontamination exercise will be needed for any development . To read any of the site examination reports please go to https://www.mmu.ac.uk/ryebank-fields/ and scroll right down to the bottom of the page to *'What did recent survey reports say?'.*

Friends of Ryebank fields

Friends of Ryebank Fields have compiled a response to the MMU reposrts about the site. They urge the contamination reports be material considerations at planning permissions stages.
https://www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsofRyebank/ They plan to leaflet homes in the surrounding area of Ryebank Fields os that everyone knows about developments.

Chorlton Players' latest comedy sketches

Chorlton Players have made two comedy sketch shows recently under lockdown, and are currently viewable via YouTube:
youtube.com/user/ChorltonP… "Chorlton Players Live-Ish!"

Planning Issues – some of the applications considered recently

- The developers of Chorlton Villas, at the southern end of Hardy Lane, have had two previous applications to built on adjoining vacant land refused because of encroachment on the Green Belt. They have now submitted a third application for a single house which they hope is entirely on unprotected land. We made no response to the application.
- West Didsbury and Chorlton Football Club have submitted a new noise report and revised lighting report to support their long-undetermined

application to extend the hours they are allowed to use floodlights. It was not enough to overcome our original objections on grounds of increased nuisance to neighbours and impact on wildlife.

- The application to convert the terrace of shops at 515 - 521 Barlow Moor Rd (occupied by Celebration etc) into flats has yet to be decided. there is a beautiful and much loved garden behind the shops with many mature trees. The garden currently sustains a lot of wildlife and under these proposals this would be lost to a car park. Councillors have secured an extension to the planning application process and are working with tenants who have lodged objections.
- The phone shop on Wilbraham Rd close to the four banks has applied for a new shop front, to allow part of the premises to be used as a cafe. We made no comment.
- Richardson's Bakery at 93 Beech Road have applied to put a canopy over their forecourt.
- There is an application to revamp the frontage of 60 Beech Road (last occupied by Parlour). This is submitted by prospective tenants Suburban Green, who currently have a restaurant in Wilmslow.
- The vacant RBS bank premises at 464 Wilbraham Road now has planning permission for use as a restaurant as well as a shop.
- Post Box cafe site – Councillors are chasing information about progress. It looks as if it has nearly returned to its original state (minus the lovely cherry trees of course).
- Damas – has not received permission to make alterations to Sandy Lane side of the restaurant. Councillors are checking if work is going on without planning permission.

If there is anything you would like to include in the next Bulletin, please send to Carolyn chair@chorltonvoice.org