Chorlton Voice: January 2021 Bulletin

We wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year – it is bound to be better than the last! What an end to a year like no other, but with hope and possibilities on the horizon. Christmas has come and gone and we report below on the awards for the Christmas Windows with lots of pictures in case you didn't get out to see them. Instead of an award celebration at our usual January meeting, Cath and Barry awarded the winners personally, just as lockdown was starting – again.

I am writing this with snow on the ground and snowdrops and daffodils peeping through – signs of optimism and of Spring, with longer days, just round the corner. It has certainly been a hard time for many of us, but we have been helped and supported by our neighbours, community groups, family members and the many ways that our local traders have found to keep us going with the things we need.

It is very difficult to make plans at the moment, and as there was little interest in on line events from members who responded to our survey in the Autumn, we are not scheduling events. If you would like us to put on some online discussions then please let us know. The committee has been meeting a little more regularly than usual to consider planning applications, some clear and well presented and others more difficult to assess. The most recent ones are summarised below.

We do not intend to hold our AGM in March as we normally do. There is nothing normal about our times, still, and our members have shown little appetite for on-line meetings. So, the current Committee has agreed to stay on for another year, with a view to holding votes for nominated Committee Members in March 2022. Reports for this year will be included in the next Bulletin. We hope you agree this is a sensible way forward. If you know anyone who would like to join the Committee, we can co-opt people at any time – just let us know. Contact Carolyn at: chair@chorltonvoice.org .

Judging Christmas Window Displays, December 19th 2020



Judging was a cut back affair with only Linda Topping and myself taking photos, with a view to sharing them over Zoom with the judges (Peter Topping, Carolyn Kagan, Cath Brownhill and Mary Crumpton). Surprisingly there was a good number of shops with window displays. Yet again, a great many of them had been hand painted and as last year extra marks were awarded to them. Because of Covid we decided not to stop for our traditional cup of tea but to press on till the end!

Once again our judging task was split into two, by virtue of the fact that there were, as last year, two cups in the offing – one for Beech Road and one for Chorlton Centre. Because of the unusual circumstances and the amount of effort put in by all the shops, we decided to award a runners up certificates in Beech Road and in Chorlton and 4 highly commended certificates in Beech Road together with 6 highly commended certificates in Chorlton.

And the winners are…

Beech Road.: The Mary Paul Cup

Winner: The Curious Fox
Runners Up; Love Lucy
Highly Commended; Creative Recycling, Framed, De Novo, Floral Affair



The Curious Fox. Everyone of the judges agreed that yet again they had pulled out all the stops and created a wonderful work of art. And here we see Catherine with the two lads receiving the winner's trophy.



Love Lucy.A close runner up, here we have a very frightening hand painted design depicting The Nightmare before Christmas, with very spooky hand lettering.



Creative Recycling. This was a very cleverly created Christmas Tree made from welded silver tubes and stainless steel ornaments, all of course from re-cycled materials, a very worthy highly commended award.



Framed. The next highly commended award on Beech Road was Framed who devised a very novel way to make a Christmas Tree out of coat hangers, which caught the eye of the judges.



De Novo. Such a simple idea but very effective indeed. Here we have tree branches delicately decorated with tasteful fairy lights. Our penultimate highly commended window.



Floral Affair. To add a bit of a religious note to the Christmas decorations our last but not least highly commended award created the nativity scene in their shop window.

Central Chorlton: Chorlton Traders' Cup

Winner; Tiny's Tipple

Runner Up; Unicorn
Highly Commended: Chorlton Bookshop, Ruyi, Into the Woods, Croma, Celebration, Vision Care.



Tiny's Tipple. What do you do if you have a load of packing boxes left over from the bottles? Well if you are Tiny's Tipple you create street scenes of Chorlton. Not that there are any streets in Chorlton but you get the picture. The judges decided that this was a very worthy winner.



Unicorn. Here we have a perfect example of hand painted windows. Santa's elves, Rudolf and his pals. A worthy runner up.



Chorlton Bookshop. Victoria has yet again added her magic touch to the bookshop window display. A young girl in period costume with ice skates, gathering holly, set against a monochrome winter scene backdrop.

Highly commended by us all.



Ruyi. We chose this for our highly commended award not so much for the window but what was hiding inside! What a well-executed snowman, packed with detail.



Into The Woods. A very cleverly conceived graphic representation of mountains complete with snow, skis, reindeer and mountain lodges. This impressive piece of art deserves the highly commended award.



Croma. Here we have a surrealistic scene of Santa serving a pizza to a reindeer with a tomato for a nose. Fantastic!!! Another worthy highly commended award.



Celebration. A tasty use of product to decorate windows with a Christmas theme. We are always pleasantly surprised by the Celebration contribution. Highly commended.



Visioncare. We didn't care that it was the same handmade bespectacled Santa complete with sack, snowman, presents, cotton wool snow and all the usual Christmas trimmings that they had last year, yet again we raise our glasses to the creator of this insightful display. Our last but not least highly commended award.

So there you have it, despite Covid we all managed to pull it off. As last year I would like to finish by saying thank you to all the Chorlton Traders who in the face of adversity, put in a fantastic effort to produce these incredible Christmas Window Displays

Expect to see more from the climate action project which has begun its delivery stage. Do sign up to go on the mailing (see below). A Message to all from the project:

We're really pleased that we can start the new year by sharing our excitement about being part of the delivery phase of 'Our Streets Chorlton' with you all.

It's a brilliant project to be part of and we're looking forward to delivering some great outcomes with the spirited people of Chorlton. We can't wait.

Over the past month it's been a pleasure finding out about the innovative Chorlton Climate Action Partnership work to date, the successful community-led bid and the strong support from many pockets of the community that helped to shape the ideas within it so far.

We look forw, ard to developing those ideas further with you, working on the projects together and sharing more ways everyone can be involved.

So that we have a slick way to get in touch with you in the near future, can we ask you to take a minute to sign up to the new mailing list so we can keep you in the loop.

Sign up here - *and please feel free to share this link with anyone else who might be interested*.

And if there's anything else you'd like to reach out to us about, we can be contacted on hello@ourstreetschorlton.co.uk

Manchester city Council has a number of important consultations.

Chorlton Cycleway - area 3 (central Chorlton) consultation closing date 29 January
Do remember to submit your views for greener, safer streets in Chorlton. Here is the link see proposals and to complete the consultation response.

Proposed changes to the original plan taking account of the feedback include:

- Placing filters to allow walking and cycling but not traffic:
  - at the junction of Longford Road with Manchester Road.
  - on a section of Sandy Lane and Corkland Road to reduce vehicle volumes for non-residents.
  - on sections of Hartington Road, Torbay Road, Dartmouth Road and Dawlish Road to reduce vehicle volumes for non-residents.
  - on Keppel Road, Brundretts Road, Egerton Road South, Zetland Road and Corkland Road.
- Additional junction speed tables either end of Fairhaven Avenue.
- New traffic calming to Albany Road / Brantingham Road and Brundetts Road.
- Proposed cyclops style junction at St. Werburghs Road / Wilbraham Road. (subject to modelling)
- Additional junction protection markings to remove parking at the following junctions:
  - Sandy Lane / Fairhaven Avenue junction
  - St. Anne's Road / Fairhaven Avenue junction
  - Sandy Lane / Limley Grove junction
  - Sandy Lane / Nell Lane / St. Werburgh's Road junction

Given the diversity of views amongst members,, Chorlton Voice will not be making a response – although we encourage individual members to respond.

Have your say on savings options for Manchester City Council's 2021/22 budget.
The impact of COVID-19 plus a growing population and inflation leaves a £50m hole in the council's budget for 2021/22. They're facing tough options for cuts and savings including:

- £11.3m from Children's Services
- £2.3m from Homelessness

- £7.4m from Neighbourhoods
- £2.3m from Growth and Development
- £6.3m from Corporate Core; and
- £20m savings needed for health and social care which would reduce to £14.9m if they take up Government permission to increase council tax by an extra 3% for adult social care.

The Savings options the council are considering protect residents' front-line services where possible and take into account what will be needed to recover from the pandemic. So, most savings are on behind-the-scenes roles that support their services.

Have your say on the options before the Council decides in March. The consultation runs until 21 February: www.manchester.gov.uk/budget

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Storm Cristoph wreaks havoc

And then the floods came! After prolonged heavy rain, on Wednesday 20th January we had severe flood alerts in Didsbury, Northenden and Chorlton. The areas of Chorlton affected were M21 7, 8 and 9 close to the river Mersey. Twelve roads in Chorlton were closed that day and in addition we had snowfall in the evening and the area was featured on the national news networks. Some homes had the police knocking on their doors in Chorlton in the early hours of Thursday morning advising residents that evacuation was imminent, and we understand that there were some evacuations made as a precautionary measure.

Manchester City Council had plans to set up a COVID-safe rest centre in Wythenshawe and members of Manchester Community Response were available to support the most vulnerable such as anyone shielding because of the Pandemic.



In the event, the flood defences worked and when the sluice gates opened the water meadows filled with water, although we were within a few centimetres of severe flooding. We were fortunate that the Environment Agency were active immediately after the flood alerts and would like to thank them, the Council workers, the Police and our local Councillors. Didsbury even had a visit from the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson on Thursday complete with his high vis jacket!. We hope everyone has fared well during the floods and have not been too badly affected by the amounts of standing water that remains.

Linda Topping

Planning

Planning permission has been refused for the proposed cafe in a converted portacabin paced on the forecourt of the car wash at 302 Barlow Moor Road. Chorlton Voice objected to this application and the grounds for refusal reflect our concerns.

New planning applications recently submitted include:

- A new shopfront and signage for the cafe/takeaway at 3 Cavendish Terrace, Wilbraham Road (previously Francisco's).
- A pair of semi detached houses on the site of a bungalow at 25 Chandos Road South.
- Alterations, including a raised roof and dormers, to the house in the Conservation Area at 2 Stockton Road.
- Conversion of the houses in multiple occupation on the upper floors of 430A and 432A Wilbraham Road into 8 flats.
- Change of use of betting shop to cafe at 355 Barlow Moor Road (on the corner with Hardy Lane).

FUNERALCARE (PICTURE HOUSE) PROJECT

Good to hear from Chorlton Community Land Trust that Manchester City Council has said that it recognises the Picturehouse as a "non-designated heritage asset". The Co-op has named the community-led bid as its preference, but there's no agreement yet, and it's difficult to compete financially with property developers that want to knock the building down and build expensive flats.

Co-op members in Chorlton have made it very clear that they favour the community-led bid.

To see the Bee Gees talking about the Picture House, go to the link from Let's Reimagine Our Chorlton | Chorlton and District Co-ops

Hazel Gibb

Chorlton Park

Lots of new trees have been planted in Chorlton Park. Thanks to the Julia and the Friends of Chorlton park; Richard Salisbury, Neighbourhood Engagement Manager; Noel Nugent, Arboriculture team; and the local Councillors, Jo, Mandie and Dave for making this happen!

Scams One Manchester – Potential Scam Warning

Be aware of a potential scam we've been told about, that could be affecting One Manchester customers. It's been reported that a company are calling tenants on One Manchester's behalf to conduct a disrepair survey. Please be aware that no such survey is currently taking place.

More on COVID

Working with the Army, five lateral flow test sites are now up and running across the city. This targeted programme is testing people without COVID symptoms. Focusing first on those who are at higher risk of getting coronavirus, and places where the risks of getting the virus may be greatest.

Vaccinations are proceeding apace. The vaccination centre at Chancellors in Fallowfield which some residents may have been directed to, reckons to have given vaccinations to 4,680 people in high risk groups by Sunday 24th. Fantastic! A huge thankyou to the staff and volunteers making this happen.

Meanwhile Public Health England says Better Health: Every Mind Matters **Stressed out?** Take a break, a deep breath and visit Every Mind Matters... for expert advice on managing your stress levels and your mental health www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/stress/