Christmas Windows 2021

Three members of the Chorlton Voice Committee had a fabulous few hours walking round the streets of Chorlton viewing and discussing the Christmas windows on Friday 17th December with a view to awarding both the Mary Paul Cup (for windows on Beech Road) and the Chorlton Traders' Cup for windows in the district centre. It was a very sunny day which means sometimes the photos don't capture the glory of the window decoration. As is the custom, we did not set judging criteria in advance: instead we took in the characters of all the windows and then agreed a range of dimensions on which to assess them. This year, we agreed the criteria to be: originality, eye catching nature, Christmas theme, home made and effort, humour and whimsy, and fit with the business of the shop.

We then created two long lists, reduced them to short lists and rated each on the different criteria. Our viewing was during the day and it was notable how many displays used lights: we will consider a 'night-time' category for next year. It was great to see some shops which do not usually have displays dressing their windows this year. The other thing that struck us was the increasing involvement of local artists in decorating the windows, contributing to varied and lively displays brightening up the streets. The range of these painted designs was wide and we hope everyone appreciated them in the run up to Christmas.

This year, more than in previous years, it was really difficult coming up with the two short lists and many worthy displays did not make it. The short lists we arrived at were varied and appealed differently on the different criteria. So windows that displayed originality were included along with those with a strong Christmas theme and a touch of humour.

Mary Paul Cup (for Beech Road):

The shortlisted windows were: Chorlton Green, Curious Fox, Hurricane, Love Lucy and Object. Thank you to all the other traders who decorated their windows and offered us colourful and colour-coordinated designs, snowy street scenes and brilliantly lit windows. In the end, the winners showed a strong Christmas theme, a touch of humour and a good fit with the shop's business. The runner-up showed great originality, a degree of whimsy and was strong on the effort that had gone in to hand making the scene and its object.



Winner: Love Lucy – see the plethora of baubles and the dress shop's query 'Do my baubles look big in this?'



Runner Up: Curious Fox – check out the detailed fairy scene with carefully dressed figures having a great time in a winter wonderland.



Runners Up: Chorlton Green, Object and Hurricane







Chorlton Traders' Cup (for the District Centre):

The shortlisted windows were: Chorlton Bathrooms and Kitchens, Chorlton Bookshop, Croma, Direct Vision Opticians, Frosts Butcher, Out of the Blue, Tea Hive, Tiny's Tipple, Wilbrahams Jewellers and Yvonne Hodson Hair.



District centre winner: Tiny's Tipple. – check out the carol singing bottle choir (price tags are complete with sheet music) and woollen hats.



District centre Runners Up: Croma and Direct Vision – check out the reindeer finishing its meal, served by Santa and the Merry Christmas eye test next to winter scenes in a pair of glasses.





District Centre Highly Commended: Out of the Blue, Tea Hive, Frosts the Butcher, Wilbrahams Jewellers, Yvonne Hodson Hair, Chorlton Bathrooms and Kitchens, and Chorlton Bookshop. All the windows were eye-catching, original, humorous and also had excellent fit with their trade.












A huge thank you to all the traders who decorated their windows and offered us wrapped presents, elves and Santas, lots of colour and Christmas baubles, reindeers, glitter and snowy scenes. In the end, the winner showed strong originality with a clear Christmas theme, a lot of humour and an excellent fit with its trade.