Chorlton Civic Society Newsletter

April & May 2026



WOW!! It's Festival time again!!!!

Friday 8th May – Thursday 21st May 2026

The festival will take place from 8th-21st May in venues across Chorlton. All the details are on the website www.chorltonartsfestival.org and printed programmes are available from the Library, the Bookshop and many other shops and venues from Saturday 25th April. See you there!

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CHORLTON AREA NEWS about some other groups and events

"Part of the CCS work is to keep scanning the horizon for what's going on locally and to build bridges where possible."

- Water fact

Our Chorlton Civic Society Aims

The aims of Chorlton Civic Society are to act as a forum and voice of the residents and stakeholders in Chorlton-Cum-Hardy and its immediate neighbourhood (open to all, regardless of gender, race, religion, colour, age, disability or sexual orientation); to promote or assist in promoting civic pride; and to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area.

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Our Next Chorlton Civic Society Main Meeting

The next main Chorlton Civic Society Meeting will be Tuesday May 12th 7.30 Library Community Room. Peter Topping and Andrew Simpson on the History of Chorlton Arts Festival. *(Future main CCS meetings will normally be held in the community room at Chorlton library on the second Tuesday of alternate months.)*

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Message from the Chorlton Civic Society Chair

Hello fellow Chorltonians and welcome to spring!

I saw a guy sitting at a bus stop. with his eyes closed, a smile on his face, soaking up the first warm rays of spring. He didn't seem to be bothered about the bus turning up. As Iris Murdock says, "One of the secrets of a happy life is continuous small treats, and if some of these can be inexpensive and quickly procured, so much the better"
So that guy knew this.

Have you noticed the splendid blossoms and Magnolia in our area? Tulips of every hue are there to be appreciated in our parks and front gardens. Take a minute.
Chorlton Park is looking especially colourful, thanks to the volunteers.

Did you get a chance to watch, or indeed take part, in the Manchester Marathon? Congratulations if you did. The runners commented, as they raced through Chorlton, that it was the encouragement of the spectators which spurred them on. They raised millions of pounds for their charities and many more millions for Manchester itself. The community garden is looking splendid with a sculpture now in place. Somewhere to sit and let the noisy world pass you by.

Don't forget the Chorlton arts Festival, always a winner! Something for everyone, whatever your age or interest, dance, music, drama, workshops. Schools are showcasing their work until May 21st. **The Arts Festival is from 8th May until 21st May. Check it out on the website, Chorlton Arts Festival.**

Work is starting on the eyesore, Mauldeth House, to house temporarily, homeless families. A good use, I'm sure that you will agree.

The Hustings were held at St. John's on April 20th. It was a ticket only event, where ninety folk attended to listen to what was being said by serving councillors and prospective candidates. There were many on the waiting list too! Whether people's views and opinions were influenced by what they heard remains to be seen on May 7th. It is really important to use your vote wisely.

I hope you have noticed that throughout Chorlton many more shops have had their shutters colourfully painted which adds to the ambiance of Chorlton.

So, enjoy the weather and remember Iris Murdock's words.

Take care
Laura Hopkins (Chair)
(mungo.hopkins@btinternet.com)

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How to Join the Chorlton Civic Society

You are welcome to join. You can join for free or you can choose to donate on a monthly or an annual basis.

Meetings now usually take place on the second Tuesday of alternative months - in January, March, May, July, September, November. Everyone is welcome to these meetings. See website for further information about Chorlton Civic Society. https://chorltoncivicsociety.org/

Membership of Chorlton Civic Society is free. We welcome regular standing orders. To take out a standing order please use the following bank details: Account: Chorlton Civic Society, Account No. 90252158, Bank: Barclays,
Sort Code: 20-26-20
Further details are on the Civic Society website.

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Joining the CCS Committee

The officers were elected at the AGM in March 2025. They are:
Chair (Laura Hopkins); Secretary (Carolyn Kagan) and Treasurer (Lindy Newns), and we can have up to 7 additional Committee members.
If you would like to join the Civic Society committee you would be welcome to apply and please contact Carolyn Kagan the secretary: secretary@chorltoncivicsociety.org

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Summary of Future CCS Meetings and Events –

1. The next main Chorlton Civic Society Meeting will be Tuesday May 12th 7.30 Library Community Room *(See page 1 for details of speakers.)*

2. Chorlton Arts Festival Loads of events – music, drama, visual arts. The festival will take place 8th-21st May. *(See page 8)*

3. Chorlton Community Garden Loads of fun and interesting events listed for months of May, June and July – from crafting to pruning. (*See pages 9 - 10)*

4. Chorlton Lifesavers - Free community CPR and defibrillator training.
Wednesday 20th May - 7 – 8.30 pm. at the Bowling Green Pub. *(See page 11 for contact details)*

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CHORLTON CIVIC SOCIETY
(FORMERLY CHORLTON VOICE)

Chorlton Civic Society Main Meeting and AGM 2026

Monday 10th March, 7.30 Community Room, Chorlton Library

RFEPORT AND MINUTES

Before the meeting started the Christmas window display awards were announced (both recipients were invited to receive the cups but were unavailable)Cups with appropriate engraving have been delivered to: **Chorlton Traders' Cup for the District Centre – Chorlton Bookshop; Mary Paul Cup for Beech Rd area – Hurricane.**

Secretary's Note: The agenda was changed with the agreement of the meeting to take the talk from Reach Out to the Community at the start, to be followed by formal AGM business.

Reach Out to the Community

In this their 10th anniversary year, Steph (CEO), Bernadette (Chair of Trustees) and Vicky (Outreach volunteer) gave a spirited account of the origins and reach of Reach Out to the Community, covering all the different aspects of their work. Helping people, who often have complex backgrounds, is at the core of their work and the project's hub is their charity shop on Wilbraham Rd in the centre of Chorlton. From there they deliver food parcels and outreach work as much needed clothing and supplies to those people in South Manchester who are homeless. Their work includes verifying that people are, indeed, sleeping rough (so they can access support), providing an address through which people can access benefits and health services, and much, much more. They work in close collaboration with other groups in the city supporting people who are homeless . Donations through the charity shop cover the shop costs and 15% if the charity itself and a lot of volunteer effort is spent fundraising. More volunteers, donations (of items a, food and money) are welcome, as all have decreased since COVID. It was clear why they received the Queen's Award for Voluntary service, due recognition for their much needed community oriented services. Anyone worried about someone on the streets can contact Reach Out on Tel: 0161 862 9415; reachoutcommunity@yahoo.com; or in the shop. After 4pm Manchester's Out of Hours team can be contacted on 0161 234 5001. All were thanked for their inspiring presentation. https://reachouttothecommunity.co.uk/

8.15 Formal AGM 16 members present: meeting was quorate

1 **Apologies for absence:** Mary McGvern, Linda Topping, Lindy Newns, Barry Whitmarsh

2 **Minutes of AGM 2025** (previously circulated to members) and matters arising
No matters arising

3 **Reports from Officers** (previously circulated to members)

3a. *Secretary's report.* Carolyn summarised the report which had previously been sent to members and was on the website.

Communications: Currently we have 243 members. Thanks as always to Mary McGovern who does a great job communicating with members and maintaining the membership database. At the moment we do not charge a membership fee, so a member is anyone who requests being added to the mailing list. We welcome standing orders to contribute to the cost of holding meetings. Members receive bi-monthly newsletters. We also write occasional articles for Manchester Post and give a shout out the CCS on AllFM as well as use social media.

Planning: The committee has met monthly (11 meetings) and has considered 62 local planning applications and many more planning decisions. We made 12 objections, several of which were upheld. We went as far as the Planning Ombudsman in the case of one application we thought had not been dealt with properly by the council – the Ombudsman did not find reasons to investigate.

A lot of time has been spent in the Society over the plans for Chorlton District Centre (the Precinct) and one full meeting was given over to a full discussion of the plans with the development team. At this meeting full support was given to the Save Chorlton Centre campaign group. We objected to the proposals and again to the way our response had been summarised for the Planning Committee. It was noted that the Save Chorlton Centre group had submitted a complaint to Manchester City Council. Thanks to Barry Whitmarsh who manages all the planning applications.

Monthly Meeting, Trips and Social events: Our monthly meetings returned to Chorlton Library once it was open after its refurbishment. Thanks to Chorlton Central church and Wilbraham St Ninians Church for hosting us during the refurbishment. We have had various speakers at our meetings. We had a summer and Christmas visit to Barlow Hall (the Golf Club) for afternoon tea and a Christmas meal. Thanks to Cath Brownhill who organises the events.

Networking and Projects: We collaborate with other groups and lead on a number of projects.

Chorlton Lifesavers: We support and promote the work of our members, Jenny Slee and Cath Brownhill who deliver Chorlton Lifesavers resuscitation training. They haven now trained over 1000 local people .

Chorlton Community Garden: The hard landscaping work for the refurbishment is nearly complete – have a look at the new gateway! A number of events have been held including a reopening of the garden with the Mayor reciting a poem and the MadDonnas singing the specially commissioned song (which is up in the garden for you to see and sing!). A programme of events is planned throughout the summer.

Street Art: The street art project is continuing with some graffiti'd shutters being muralled and others being painted out by volunteers. Huge thanks to Cath Fernley for coordinating this work which involves a lot of liaison with both the artists and the shop traders and owners.

Chorlton Arts Festival: The 2025 Arts Festival supported 162 events over 10 days in 52 local venues. This could not have happened without the work of the Committee and 25 Festival volunteers This year the Festival will run from 8th -21st May, with 18-21st mostly presenting schools' events . We are very grateful for the support of local businesses that sponsor and our local Patrons. www.chorltonartsfestival.org.

Christmas windows: In December we judged the Christmas window competition and awarded cups to Chorlton Bookshop and Hurricane on Beech Road.

Blue Plaque project: The Blue Plaque Project group is considering suggestions submitted as to where to place the next Blue Plaque. It is likely the next plaque will be on the Hardy Lane Coop which is the oldest Coop with an attached education room which is still in use.

Conclusion: As you can see, Chorlton Civic Society is engaged in several projects all designed to keep Chorlton a vibrant, friendly and attractive place to live and work, all of which depend on volunteers and we welcome anyone who would like to help with any of the projects. We have limited human and other resources so we have to be realistic with what we can achieve. So, if you would like to join the friendly and supportive committee, or have some ideas of new projects you would like to initiate, please do get in touch. secretary@chorltonvoice.org

3b. Treasurer's Report

It was reported that the Secretary had seen summaries of the accounts. All have been reconciled with the bank statements and are in balance (cross checked with those in charge of finance for different projects). All accounts were in profit. It was noted that some projects had multiple funding streams which made keeping a track of them particularly difficult. There were no questions.

4 **Election of Officers and Committee (Officers and Committee to stand down – all available for re-election).**

Nominations received in advance of the meeting:

Chair: Laura Hopkins
Secretary: Carolyn Kagan
Treasurer: Lindy Newns

No further nominations were received. The nominations of officers were put to the meeting. All were elected unopposed.

Committee members' nominations received in advance of the meeting:

Barry Whitmarsh; Peter Topping; Catherine Brownhill; Mary McGovan; Stephen Smith; Cherryl Clements; Michelle Haller,

No further nominations were received. The nominations far committee members were put to the meeting and all were elected unopposed.

6 Any Other Business for the Civic Society

a) A proposal for an election hustings in advance of the local elections in May was put to the meeting. The idea was for a non-partisan election hustings to which all candidates in Chorlton and Chorlton Park wards were to be invited, to give residents the chance to ask of them 'what will you do for Chorlton if elected?'. Claire Marie Boggiano had agreed to chair the event. The group of organisers requested that the hustings took place under the auspices of the Civic Society, as a trusted, non–partisan local community group; b) that the Civic Society underwrite the hire costs of a hall.

   After discussion that sought clarification, it was noted that Councillors had raised concerns about security. The matter was put to a vote. 14 in favour and 2 abstentions.

   It was agreed the hustings could go ahead under the name of the Civic society and that costs would be put to the committee when known.
   The group was advised to seek Community Police officer guidance on security and to link closely with the CCS Committee via Michelle Haller.

b) it was noted that there was a petition organised by Friends of Ryebank Fields saveryebankfields.co.uk and more signatures were needed to reach their 5000 target.

Date and Time of Meetings: May 12th – General CCS. March 2027 AGM date tbc.

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Chorlton Arts Festival

The festival will take place 8th-21st May in venues across Chorlton. All the details are on the website www.chorltonartsfestival.org and printed programmes are available from the Library, the Bookshop and many other shops and venues from Saturday 25th April, See you there!

The Civic Society has been organising the Arts Festival since 2019 and each year more and more local artists apply to take part. We have no paid staff and the Festival is run entirely by volunteers, artists contribute their time and talent and venues contribute their spaces for no cost. This year there will be more visual art displayed in cafes and bars than before, as well as an exhibition of 44 visual artists and crafters taking place during the weekend of 16-17th at Chorlton Golf Club. If you like live music there is everything from classical piano and a saxophone and harp duo to electronic, jazz, rock, singer-songwriters, world music, choirs and folk. The future of live music can be sampled in the CAF21 teen music events. You could try your hand (or feet) at Flamenco, Salsa, K-Pop or folk dancing. For those creative writers, there are workshops for beginning a novel, improving your written drafts or sessions where you can enjoy the creativity of others, from children's story books to poetry and performance. Most of the events are free to attend, but some will require a booking and occasionally a fee – so be sure to check the full details on the website www.chorltonartsfestival.org

To top it all, Peter Topping and Andrew Simpson will be giving a talk at the next Civic society meeting on the history of the Chorlton Arts festival – now in its 24th year.

The picture is a montage of images from recent Festivals.



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Chorlton Community Garden

We have had a lively period in the garden. The commissioned artwork from Jolene Sheehan was unveiled in March to much acclaim. It is called *Windows Through the Seasons*, and the art panel will be changed with the seasons. Look out for the next unveiling on June 27th, during the Open gardens event – 11:00. We have had a number of workshops, including pruning the fig tree; building a bug hotel with green roof; children creating green guardians for the garden. And we have a new bench. The garden is open during Library opening hours – if anyone lives nearby and would like to open and close the garden on a Wednesday or Sunday, please do get in touch.





The forthcoming garden events (always published through social media)and at https://www.greenchorltonhub.org.uk/communitygarden) are:

May 2026

Volunteer session, activities to be confirmed (likely edible forest garden care/planting and maybe pond building)

🗓️ Tuesday 5 May 10-12pm. Just turn up.

Volunteer session: Cuttings and propagation

🗓️ Saturday 23 May 2-4pm. Book with Carol carol@brown.pm

Chorlton Arts Festival is on 8 to 21 May. The garden is hosting the new exhibition from Chorlton Craftivists, Guardians of Green Space throughout the festival as well as the exhibition's launch on Saturday 9 May 3-5pm. There is a workshop with Jo from Common Cloth Dye plant foraging walk, garden tour & workshop (Thursday 14 May 6-8pm) and Chorlton Street Art Gallery with leaflets and information about their local street art (Sunday 17 May 11-3pm)

June 2026

Volunteer session, activities to be confirmed

🗓️ Tuesday 2 June 10-12pm. Just turn up.

Volunteer session, activities to be confirmed

🗓️ Saturday 20 June 2-4pm. Just turn up.

🗓️ Saturday 27 June 10-5pm open for Chorlton Open Gardens, together with Chorlton Plant Swap's summer swap.

Windows Through the Seasons – reveal of summer panel - date to be announced. By Jolene Sheehan with Stories of Our Lives

Chorlton Community Garden: forthcoming garden events *(continued)*

July 2026

Summer wreath-making workshop - to decorate the community garden

Saturday 4 July 2-4pm. Please book with Carol carol@brown.pm

Volunteer session: Pruning cherry and plum trees, and other activities

Tuesday 7 July 10-12pm. Just turn up.

Volunteer session: Getting ready for Britain in Bloom

Saturday 18 July 2-4pm. Just turn up.

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Chorlton Street Art

Painting of shutters proceeds with new shutter murals on Chorlton Meat Market, Yvonne Hodgson hairdressers, Oasis Ice Cream, The Garden. Watch out for more coming in the next few weeks. Huge thanks to Cath Fernley who is overseeing this and to the artists and shop owners as well as to those local residents who are painting out graffiti. We are continually raising the problem of graffiti on the precinct hoardings – it gets painted out and graffiti'd again. The website has a map of the street art in Chorlton – have a look. https://chorltonstreetart.co.uk.



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Chorlton Lifesavers

Free community CPR and defibrillator training.

"Our next free community CPR and defibrillator session is Wednesday 20th May 2026 7-8.30pm at the Bowling Green Pub, Brookburn Road

M21 9ES

To book your place contact:

Cath 07722 958541 cathbrownhill55@gmail.com

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All Chorlton Hustings

Chorlton Civic Society held a hustings for both Chorlton and Chorlton Park Wards, right on the border of the Wards at St John's Community Centre on April 20th. We invited all candidates standing for the 2026 local election. The event was oversubscribed with slightly more people from the Chorlton Ward than Chorlton Park. Only one candidate from the Chorlton Ward attended which was disappointing, although five came for Chorlton Park . Questions included why candidates were standing for public office; whether Ryebank Fields should be built on; opportunities for residents' involvement in the central Chorlton development; candidate priorities for their Ward – it is surprising how quickly 1.5 hours goes! Thanks to Cath Dyson and Dee Sheehan and all the volunteers who made the event run smoothly. We will be reviewing the event and welcome feedback from anyone who attended to allchorltonhustings@gmail.com .



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Planning News (from Barry Whitmarsh)

We have included a link via the reference number of the application. If a direct hyperlink fails, you can look up the application number on the search page:

https://pa.manchester.gov.uk/online-Applications/search.do?Action=simple&searchType=Application

Plans have been submitted for a 4-storey building to provide 8 flats on land at 404 Wilbraham Road (the former garden centre next to the Creameries). The Committee submitted support for the application. Details of the application can be found at 145297.

A new shopfront is proposed at 408 Barlow Moor Road (the long vacant Som Fashion premises next to Jordan Fishwick Estate Agents). The Committee submitted support for the application. Details of the application can be found at 145490.

Permission is sought for change of use from restaurant to drinking establishment and the erection of a covered decked seating area, access ramp and bin store at Shookahs, 320 Barlow Moor Road. Details of the application can be found at 145328.

Retrospective applications have been submitted for the new shopfront and signage at 420 Wilbraham Road (formerly a pharmacy, now a coffee shop). Details of the applications can be found at 145534 and 145535.

The application for the change of use from offices to a mixed-use restaurant and shisha lounge at 450 Barlow Moor Road (formerly Pennine Kennedy) was withdrawn. Details of the application can be found at 144693.

2 Finney Drive. As the Council have not determined the retrospective application to extend the garden across part of House Yard Road within the statutory period, the applicant has submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, who will now decide the application. The Committee's objections to the application will be forwarded to the Inspector. Details of the application can be found at 143764:

Permission was granted for the revised proposal for a new extractor and flue on the roof of 1 Chorlton Place (last occupied by Costa Coffee). Details of the application can be found at 145066.

Cafe Fina, 355 Barlow Moor Road have been given planning permission for an outbuilding to the rear. Details of the application can be found at 145132.

Permission was refused for a new house at the side of 465 Barlow Moor Road, at the junction with Beech Road. Details of the application can be found at 143975:

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Update on the centre of Chorlton development –

from the Save Chorlton Centre Group

AI Diagram of the Arrow-shaped Block A



Height comparison with local shops etc.



Barlow Moor Rd Nicolas Rd Manchester Rd

There is little to report this month. Since the development plan: six huge blocks of flats of 10, 8, 7, 6, 6, 4 storeys high was approved on 18th December 2025 the old Chorlton precinct has continued to look increasingly dilapidated, derelict and miserable. (It will be no better when it becomes a massive building site producing dust, dirt, pollution and noise for many years.) Meanwhile the fury and/or despair continues amongst a large proportion of Chorlton residents – many of whom want social housing in Chorlton but not via this overcrowded and over-dense development and not with loss of almost all of the public space and over two thirds of the precinct retail space in the heart of Chorlton – including some popular and much needed shops. **Find out more** from the Facebook page **Save Chorlton Centre FB** and the website www.SaveChorltonCentre.com

Layout of the development



Diagram showing the number of storeys for each block



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CHORLTON AREA NEWS about some other groups and events

"Part of the CCS work is to keep scanning the horizon for what's going on locally and to build bridges where possible".

ART / CRAFTS: New Arts and Crafts Session at Chorlton Library

Enjoy the weekly Arts and Craft Group for adults at Chorlton Library. Go along to meet new people, have a cuppa and get creative.
This will be a mainly self-led group, with resources and refreshments provided. For more information visit Chorlton Library's Facebook page: CHECK BEFORE YOU ATTEND FIRST TIME www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575975370890

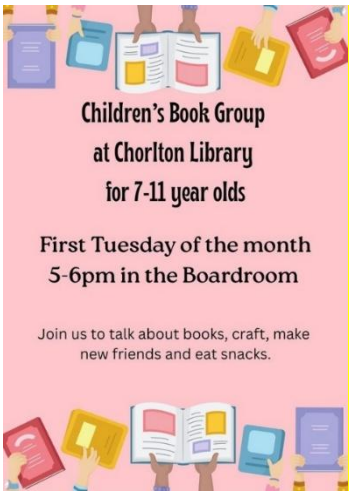
CELEBRATE FESTIVAL 2026

'Connect with your Community' Monday 4th May 12 noon – 6pm at JNR8, 82 Cromwell Ave, Whalley Range, M16 0BG. The 29th Celebrate Festival will be a compact festival based in and around JNR8 and held on May Day Bank Holiday Monday – the original date for the festival back in 1998. The principles remain the same - bringing together a wide range of community partners in Whalley Range to put on an exciting day of free activities and performances celebrating the very best of our fantastic community - our talent, diversity and resources - with a focus on fun, creativity and wellbeing.

CHILDREN: HAF (Holiday Activities)

Explore this for future holidays - there may be FREE places for activities during the future school holidays. You can also register for FREE benefits-related school meals.
Create a family account MCRactive Go account.
Find and book your sessions. Head to the website below for more information https://www.mcractive.com/activity/haf

CHILDREN: Chorlton Library Book Group



CHECK BEFORE YOU ATTEND FIRST TIME

CHILDREN: Chorlton Library Homework Club

Chorlton Library have a new Homework Club for primary and secondary school children. Every Thursday from 4 – 5pm. Take along your homework and get help from volunteers. Chorlton Library, Manchester Road, M21 9PN. CHECK BEFORE YOU ATTEND FIRST TIME

CHILDREN: Surestart

Sure Start Children's Centres are places where children under five years old and their families can access a wide range of support services and information including early education, childcare, health and family support.

For further information about Whalley Range Sure Start Children's Centre and how to become a member of Sure Start, please contact the centre on the number shown.

Telephone: 0161 245 7007 Address: Burford Road, Whalley Range, Manchester, M16 8HE

CHORLTON CONVERSATIONS: Chatty Cafes

There are now two Local Chatty and Natter Café Tables:

Tuesdays: "Head along to Bembe Café in Alexandra Park between 11am and 12:30pm to join for a chat".

Wednesdays: 11am to 1pm at The Tea Hive in Chorlton.

Both tables will be hosted by a friendly volunteer who will make you feel welcome. Stay for as long or as little as you like. A great way to get out of the house, meet new people and hear about what's going on in the neighbourhood. https://thechattycafescheme.co.uk/

BEST TO CHECK YOU ATTEND FIRST TIME

CHORLTON CONVERSATIONS: Talking tables

Talking tables is every Wednesday 1:30-2:30pm at the Garden bar on Manchester Rd, opposite the old baths. Everyone welcome. CHECK BEFORE YOU ATTEND FIRST TIME

CHORLTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS (CGN) " Supporting people over 65 years in the Chorlton and Whalley Range area".

For details contact: Helen Hibberd (MBE) Phone: 0161 881 2925

Email: coordinatorcgn@gmail.com Facebook: www.chorltongoodneighbours.org

Office: Wilbraham St Ninians Church, Egerton Rd South, Chorlton, M21 0XJ.

Office opening hours: Monday – Friday 9 – 12.30pm:

Webpage: www.chorltongoodneighbours.org

Chorlton Good Neighbours EVENTS: Most events are held at Wilbraham St Ninians Church – unless stated.

Mondays: Positive Living group: 1st Monday in the month 10-12 Exercise class 1.30-2.30pm

Tuesday: Social Group held at South West Manchester Cricket Club 2-3.30pm;
History Talk 2nd Tuesday in the month.

CHORLTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS (CGN) *(continued)*

Wednesday; Drama workshop 10-12 ; Exercise class 1.30-2.30pm
Thursday: Coffee morning with Digital drop in 9.45-11.15am
Melodics singing group 11.30-12.30;
Art & Craft Group 1-2.30pm,
Coffee shop meet up at North star deli 2-3pm
Friday: Gardening club 10-1pm ; Exercise class 10-11am : Coffee shop meet at north star deli 1-2.30pm
Other: one to one befriending with a volunteer, odd jobs, general advice and information
CHECK BEFORE YOU ATTEND FIRST TIME

Are you a car owner? Have you an hour or two to spare on Thursday or Friday mornings to help transport older adults to activities? Please get in touch

Chorlton and Chorlton Park Councillors

Chorlton Councillors
Mathew Benham cllr.mathew.benham@manchester.gov.uk **Mobile:** 07814 087891
John Hacking cllr.john.hacking@manchester.gov.uk **Mobile:** 07852 195 883
Tina Kirwin-Mcginley cllr.tina.kirwin-mcginley@manchester.gov.uk **Mobile:** 07940461340
Surgeries: Councillors John Hacking, Mathew Benham and Tina Kirwin McGinley will be holding their advice surgeries at: **Chorlton Library, Manchester Road, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 9PN** John, Mathew and Tina will be there every 1st and 3rd Saturday mornings from 10.30 am to 11:30am (excluding August), and they will attend on a rotational basis. If you are unable to attend an Advice Session then please contact your Councillor directly, or leave a message with their support office in the Town Hall on 0161 234 3235

Chorlton Park Councillors
Joanna Midgley Deputy Council Leader cllr.joanna.midgley@manchester.gov.uk **Mobile:** 07795 635 059
Dave Rawson cllr.dave.rawson@manchester.gov.uk **Mobile:** 07904 947 851
Mandie Shilton Godwin cllr.mandie.shiltongodwin@manchester.gov.uk **Mobile:** 07834 869 204
Surgeries: Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday evening from 5.30pm to 6.30pm (excluding August and Bank Holidays) at Barlow Moor Community Centre, 23 Merseybank Avenue M21 7NT If you are unable to attend an Advice Session then please contact your Councillor directly, or leave a message with their support office in the Town Hall on 0161 234 3235

Correspondence address for all councillors: Members' Services Office, Manchester City Council PO Box 532. Town Hall Extension. Manchester M60 2LA

CRICKET: Free tickets!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Dear all,
Please see offer below for free tickets to the Women's T20 World Cup for local groups. Please use the link to apply.

Women's T20 Cricket World Cup - Community Ticket offer
Manchester Individuals, families, friends, and groups can apply for complimentary tickets to the Women's T20 Cricket World Cup:

- Emirates Old Trafford, Talbot Road, Old Trafford, M16 0PX
- Friday, 26th June at 18:30 ·
- Sri Lanka vs. Scotland

Complete the form (via the link below) to request tickets. Tickets are limited and first come first serve basis and distributed by WT20CWC ticketing team; submitting the form does not guarantee tickets. Your contact details will only be shared with the WT20CWC ticketing team, who will send ticket details directly if you are successful.

CLICK HERE

CHORLTON: Fun Run

The Chorlton Fun Run is back on the 4th of May! Run the 6km route or take the 1.5km accessible path before enjoying a cup of tea and a slice of cake in the cafe. Advanced tickets are available now at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chorlton-fun-run-2026-tickets-1985129767573

CHORLTON: Chorlton Repair Café

What is a repair café?
A Repair Café is a friendly community space where people come together to fix broken items instead of throwing them away. Whether it's a small appliance, a piece of clothing, or a gadget, our volunteer repair experts can help you bring it back to life. Enjoy a cup of coffee, learn new skills, and help reduce waste—all for free!
Our repair cafe runs from 10-12 every second Saturday of the month.
St Margaret's Community Centre, Brantingham Road, Chorlton, M21 0TT
You can contact: chorltonrepaircafe@gmail.com www.facebook.com/ChorltonRepairCafe
CHECK BEFORE YOU ATTEND FIRST TIME

CHORLTON: Chorlton Wombles Litterpick – amazing group of LITTER PICKERS

Where and when their next litter pick is usually posted on the internet. Litterpicking equipment is provided. **www.facebook.com/events/2593765727654967/**

CHORLTON: Walking and cycling in Chorlton



Walk Ride Chorlton are local people working to encourage and improve the environment for **walking and cycling** in Chorlton and nearby. They are a local sub-group of Walk Ride Greater Manchester (https://www.walkridegm.org.uk/).

The link for people to sign up to their occasional email updates is: https://mailchi.mp/22ae986e27f6/06hd6cx1lo

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CYCLING: Free Women's Learn to Ride Sessions

Learn to ride, build confidence and socialise. Ride. Repair. Redefine. Join Bee Pedal Ready at St Margaret's Centre, Whalley Range for fun, supportive Learn to Ride sessions for women. The friendly instructors will help you build confidence and learn to **cycle safely. All bikes and helmets are provided, or feel free to bring your own.**

Meeting Point: St Margaret's Community Centre & Playing Fields, Brantingham Road, M21 0TT What3words: ///chats.races.boss Time: 11:30am-12:30pm
Mondays: June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th & July 6th, 13th

Suitable for: Complete beginners! Gear: Wear what's comfortable, and weather dependent. If needed you can wear padded trousers or shorts to help you feel more comfortable whilst learning. Parking: Free on-site (bikes and cars) If you have any questions please email flora.beepedalready@gmail.com Book your free place at: www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-learn-to-ride-at-st-margarets-centre-tickets-1982891561037

Do you have a spare room?

Message from Greater Together Manchester:

Greater Together Manchester wants to support people who have a spare room in Greater Manchester to accommodate refugees who have recently received their refugee status.
We are looking for people who can offer a spare room for a three to six month lodgings placement.
During the placement, GTM will provide support to both the Landlord and the Refugee Lodger.
The Lodgings Scheme aims to give new refugees a period of safety and stability to help them transition into private rented accommodation (or another form of long-term housing).
The tenant would be entitled to remain in the UK and would be able to work and pay a market rent.
https://www.greatertogethermanchester.org/become-a-resident-landlord
The Civic Society hopes to have somebody from the department come and talk to us about the scheme and how it works, but they are very keen to hear from people and happy to chat on the phone if you think you might be able to take this on.

DEMENTIA: Together Dementia Support

We provide a range of social and support services across Manchester, including weekly Friendship and Activity Groups, one-to-one home visits, Dementia Cafés, and specialist support for carers.
We're here to make sure everyone affected by dementia can live well within a caring community.
Contact us: Kath Locke Centre, 123 Moss Lane East, Manchester, M15 5DD, United Kingdom;
0161 226 7186; admin@togetherdementiasupport.org

"Dear friends,
I hope you're well.
I'm writing to invite you to support and attend our upcoming Dementia Action Week events taking place across Manchester this May. I've also attached flyers for each of the events for your information.
Dementia Action Week is a national campaign to raise awareness, challenge stigma, and improve understanding of what it means to live with dementia. At Together Dementia Support, we see every day what people living with dementia are capable of when they have the right support. This year, our focus is simple: celebrating what people living with dementia can do.
Throughout the week, we'll host a series of events that bring people together, showcase our members' skills and creativity, and highlight the importance of accessible, community-based support.

DEMENTIA: Together Dementia Support *(continued)*

We would love your support in helping us:

- Attend and champion these events
- Share our work with your teams or networks
- Support our fundraising campaign https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/dementiaactionweek2026

Alongside the week's events, we are also aiming to raise £2,000 to continue supporting people living with dementia across Manchester. We will be launching an online fundraising campaign in the lead-up to Dementia Action Week to help make this possible.

What's On

**The Fabulous Forgetful Café -- ** Monday 18 May & Thursday 21 May, Kath Locke Centre, Hulme
A pop-up café where people living with dementia welcome, serve and chat with guests. Members have been preparing food and practising their roles to create a warm, relaxed dining experience that challenges assumptions in a simple, human way.
Bookable here

Home, Heart & Connection: Exhibition Launch - Wednesday 20 May, 1–3 pm. Arcadia Library & Leisure Centre, Levenshulme
Celebrate the opening of a new art installation created by people living with dementia in collaboration with local artist Michelle Ayavoro.
RSVP to: mary@togetherdementiasupport.org

Cream Tea & Brass Band Celebration, Friday 22 May, 2–5 pm, Chorlton Central Church
An afternoon of live music from NOVA Brass, cream tea, and community connection.
Bookable here

Too many people living with dementia across Manchester do not have access to the kind of support that enables them to stay active, connected and involved in their communities. Dementia Action Week is an opportunity to change perceptions, celebrate ability, and highlight the difference that the right support can make.
We would be delighted if you were able to join us and stand alongside people living with dementia in celebrating this work.

Warm regards,
Sally

Edge theatre: Films at the Edge

– Popular mainstream films (shown around three months after their cinema release)

– Themed seasons and film classics, – World cinema and independent film festivals

– NT Live Encore screenings – Relaxed screenings and accessible showings

- Saturday morning family cinema

There's also an Edge Theatre drama group.

To contact:

The Edge Theatre & Arts Centre, Manchester Road, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 9JG

General Enquiries: 0161 282 9776; **Telephone Box Office:** 0333 666 3366

For show submissions and programming enquiries click here

For box office or classes & courses enquiries please email: bookings@edgetheatre.co.uk

CHECK BEFORE YOU ATTEND

FAMILY MATTERS: Mums Matter

Mums Matter is a friendly, welcoming 8-week group offering mums time to focus on their emotional wellbeing and mental health. It is designed for Manchester based mums with a child under two.

In a calm and welcoming space, mums will:

- Explore practical tools to support their mental and emotional wellbeing
- Learn simple techniques to manage daily pressures
- Connect with other mums and share experiences
- Build confidence and feel more like themselves again

Each 2-hour session is delivered in local family hubs, with an optional crèche available. Book onto the May course at Whalley Range Surestart, starting Tuesday 12th May in the afternoon.

For all information and to book a place please visit www.manchestermind.org/mumsmatter

FOOD/FOOD BANKS: Quids In Food Club

Join Quids In Food Club – Food Support for Your Weekly Shop!

Are you feeling the pinch from rising costs? Need fresh food you can rely on every week? Quids In Food Club is here for you.

What is it?

- A friendly, ongoing food club (not a one-off food bank) run by volunteers with the support of Southway Housing Trust.
- Every week you'll be able to choose from a variety of fresh, chilled, frozen and hard-to-find food items worth around £20.
- Designed for families and individuals in south Manchester who need a little extra help.

Where you can join locally:

- Chorlton Park (Thursdays 10:30am-1pm) – Brookfield House, Nell Lane, M21 7UD.
- Merseybank (Fridays midday-3pm) – 42 Merseybank Ave, M21 7NN.

How much it costs.

- Southway tenants: £5 yearly membership + £4 per week.
- Non-Southway tenants: £10 yearly membership + £6 per week.

How to join

Just email: quidsin@southwayhousing.co.uk with your name, address & phone number (mobile preferred). If you don't have email, call: 0161 448 4200. Spaces are limited, so get in touch soon! CHECK BEFORE YOU ATTEND FIRST TIME

FOOD/FOOD BANKS: Perry's Pantry Foodbank

Perry's Pantry are pleased to announce they now have additional places available for their Disabled Delivery Service. This service has been developed to support families who are affected by physical or mental disabilities and find it difficult or unable to carry out their weekly shopping. This service is available to families' receiving benefits, those on low incomes, or anyone struggling with the rising cost of living. Beginning Wednesday, 22nd April 2026, Perry's Pantry will be trialling extended opening hours, remaining open until 4pm every Wednesday for one month. Hopefully, this will help families with children in local Primary Schools and others in the community who find our previous closing time of 3:30pm challenging.

Perrys Pantry Foodbank – 54 Merseybank Avenue, Chorlton, M21 7NN

Open Tuesday 1pm to 3:30pm – Wednesday 11am to 4pm – Thursday 10:30am to 3:30pm perryspantryfoodbank@gmail.com - Phone: 07563 573358

They may still need volunteers

Can you spare a few hours a week to help your local community? Perry's Pantry may still be looking for new volunteers.

If you're interested, please email at perryspantryfoodbank@gmail.com or call on 07563573358.

Perry's Pantry, 54 Merseybank Avenue, M21 7NN.

FUNDING: B and Q Foundation Grant

B and Q Foundation are offering up to £10,000 for projects for charities to decorate, renovate, or create spaces where people feel at home.

Find out more and apply: https://bqfoundation.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/

FUNDING: Big Bike Revival and Active Travel Funding

Cycling UK's Big Bike Revival Fund has now opened for 2026!

Funding available for free entry-level cycling activity for adults, including learn to ride, led rides and introductory bike maintenance. The aim of the fund is to support people to cycle more for everyday journeys. The programme focuses on engaging adults with social, economic, and health needs, those from diverse backgrounds, and individuals facing complex challenges. Apply for up to £3,500. Deliver between 3rd April and 30th Oct 2026. Rolling deadline until end of May, but early applications encouraged. For further detail: https://www.cyclinguk.org/bigbikerevival/delivery-partners Contact Gosia if you have any further questions about the programme. gosia.polanska@cyclinguk.org

FUNDING: British Cycling Community Activator Award

As part of Manchester's City of Cycling work, MCR Active are offering funded British Cycling Community Activator course places. The course is being run at the National Cycling Centre (M11 4DQ) on Thursday 21st May, 9:30-4pm.

This is a new British Cycling Award, which is designed to enable Activators to engage individuals, groups, and communities in entry-level cycling activities in a contained traffic-free environment (park, playing field, sports court etc.). The course will take place at the National Cycling Centre and outdoors in Philips Park, providing the basics of delivering fun and engaging community cycling activity on non-technical terrain (flat / gentle gradient).

The training includes online safeguarding and risk assessment learning and British Cycling membership (once all training is completed).

Please note the places are only offered to those delivering cycling within the Manchester Council area, prioritised to those operating in the VCS sector.

Learners are encouraged to bring their own bike, however if you need to borrow one, let Laurel know and your height.

If you would like to attend the course but cannot make these dates, again please contact Laurel let me know and you will be added to the waiting list for future dates. The courses are funded by Manchester Active. Please only sign up if you can commit to attending

For more information or to book a place please contact Laurel Kinrade, Walking and Cycling Development Officer: l.kinrade@mcractive.com or 07736 918 673.

FUNDING: Cycle Hangars

Following a successful pilot scheme in some locations across the city, you can now apply to have a cycle hangar installed in your area. The hangars provide secure, covered storage for 6 bikes and are ideal for those who do not have space to store their bike at home.

To apply for a hangar in your area, visit https://orlo.uk/88Vov

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FUNDING: Free Trees & Hedges for Schools and Community Groups

Apply for tree saplings to create hedges, improve green spaces and boost local diversity. The trees can be used for community parks, village greens, urban spaces, schools and more. Applications open now for tree deliveries in November. (Their website indicates that you can still apply.)

Provided by **The Woodland Trust**. Get yours at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities

ED: To all schools in Manchester on Main roads – especially those near junctions: Get applying now!!! PLEASE do something to try to clean the air around your school.

FUNDING: MACC - (Manchester Community Central)

A great source of information about funding for Manchester voluntary groups (and they can give a lot of other support too)



General enquiries or support: info@mcrcommunitycentral.org
Volunteer Centre Manchester: info@volunteercentremanchester.co.uk



Information support line: 0333 321 3021, Volunteer Centre Manchester: 0161 830 4770



St Thomas Centre, Ardwick Green North, Manchester, M12 6FZ

FUNDING: GMP ARIS Funding

Greater Manchester Police invests money, seized from criminals, into communities. Money, seized from criminals and distributed to police forces via the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS), is being invested into communities across Greater Manchester. Non-profits which benefit a large number of people can apply for a maximum of £20,000 to fund 12 months' activities. The activities must support GMP's objectives to fight, prevent and reduce crime; keep people safe; and care for victims. For more details and to apply please visit: https://www.gmp.police.uk/police-forces/greater-manchester-police/areas/greater-manchester-force-content/au/about-us/giving-back-investing-in-our-community/

FUNDING: Home Instead Funding

Community groups and small charities working with older people can now apply for grants from Home Instead Charities. The charity, part of the Home Instead UK network, provides funding to projects that enhance wellbeing or reduce social isolation among people aged 55 and over. Grants are available to grassroots organisations, small local charities and registered charities, with Community Interest Companies also eligible. Projects typically supported include social clubs, day trips, yoga sessions, and guest speakers. Funding cannot be used for salaries, operating costs, capital projects, or repeat applications for the same project within the same year. To apply, applicants need to contact their local Home Instead office directly to discuss their project or organisation. The local office will advise applicants on the next steps within the grant application process. For more information please visit: www.homeinstead.co.uk/charities/what-we-do/ For most groups receiving this email the local office will be South Manchester: www.homeinstead.co.uk/south-manchester/

FUNDING: Morrisons Foundation

Our grant funding programme supports registered charities delivering projects which help to improve people's lives in communities across England, Scotland and Wales. We have set funding objectives, which are: 1. Tackling poverty and social deprivation; 2. Enhancing community spaces, facilities and services; 3. Improving health and wellbeing. Charities applying should ensure their project meets at meets at least one of the funding objectives. Applications are accepted on a continual basis, there is no deadline to submit a request. CICs and organisations that are not registered on the Charity Commission / OSCR are not eligible for support. For full eligibility criteria check out our Grant Funding Policy page. More Information can be found at https://www.morrisonsfoundation.com/grant-funding-request/

FUNDING: Neighbourhood Sports Fund

The Neighbourhood Sports team are excited to share news of their new Sports Fund, aimed at supporting clubs and community Training, Volunteering and Employment organisations across the City of Manchester with grants of £250 – £3,000. Open from April 2026 to March 2027, this rolling programme aims to support Manchester residents to move more and enjoy being active. The priority themes focus on:

- Low/no-cost activities
- Women & girls' participation
- Activities for 0–5s
- Walk, Run, Cycle initiatives
- Retaining & growing participation

Applicants are encouraged to read the full guidance document before making an application and make contact by email with any questions to grants@mcractive.com. For more information, and the application link, please visit: https://mcractive.com/sports-funding/

FUNDING: TFGM Wheels and Walking Funding

The scheme offering grants is currently closed for applications but if you are interested sign up for **sign up for our Active Travel newsletter** to be kept in the loop with future funding and support opportunities.

There are groups which are ongoing – check those out if you are interested.

FREE!! Chorlton Lifesavers Free community CPR and defibrillator training.

Our next free community CPR and defibrillator session is Wednesday 20th May 2026 7-8.30pm at the Bowling Green Pub, Brookburn Road, M21 9ES

To book your place contact:

Cath 07722 958541 cathbrownhill55@gmail.com

HISTORY TALKS: CHORLTON GOOD NEIGHBOURS

History talks are also usually held at Chorlton Good Neighbours on the 2nd Tuesday in the month St Ninians Church, Egerton Rd; Chorlton, M21 0XJ. **For details contact:** Helen Hibberd (MBE) **Phone:** 0161 881 2925
Email: **Email:** coordinatorcgn@gmail.com **Facebook:** www.chorltongoodneighbours.org
Office opening hours: Monday – Friday 9 – 12.30pm:
Webpage: **www.**chorltongoodneighbours.org
CHECK BEFORE YOU ATTEND

HISTORY TALKS: Chorlton Library

History talks are also held at Chorlton Library The history talks take place on a Saturday in some months. CHECK BEFORE YOU ATTEND

HISTORY TALKS: Manchester Town hall Heritage lectures

Did you know you can learn all about the restoration of Manchester's Town hall. A series of lectures continues – if interested please sign up Sign up now if interested please sign up like to receive these eBulletins. You will also be able to listen to previous lectures.

TALK ENGLISH VOLUNTEER

Want to join this opportunity ?

That's great but you need to Register Login

Talk English Courses, Clubs and Circles provide opportunities across Manchester for people to learn English, gain confidence, meets others and access services. We offer the following opportunities:

1. Talk English Club volunteer - alongside other volunteers, you will facilitate activities in one of our Talk English Clubs, helping learners to develop their speaking and listening skills in English. You will be supervised by the Talk English Club Teacher.
2. Talk English Circle volunteer - you will plan and facilitate informal sessions in one of Talk English Circles. You will collaborate with other volunteers and receive remote supervision from our Talk English Circle Programme Leader.

Whatever role you take on, and whatever your reasons for getting involved, your time, energy and skills are vital to what we do.

https://mcrvip.com/volunteers/opportunity/10229383

LOCAL NEWS SOURCE: Neighbourhood Update newsletters

You can get your own Neighbourhood newsletters direct from the council: Don't wait for the news in this newsletter.

Get up-to-date information direct from Laura Cassidy. Her newsletters are brilliant and will keep you in touch with a lot of what's happening locally.

Laura's newsletter is sent out to local residents who ask for them. If you want to receive a local newsletter contact: **Laura Cassidy Community Development Officer** – Chorlton, Chorlton Park and Whalley Range, South Neighbourhood Team

Level 3 Wythenshawe Area Office, Etrop Court, Rowlandsway, Manchester, M22 5RG

Mob: 07976 885 898 **Email:** Laura.Cassidy@manchester.gov.uk

Web: http://www.manchester.gov.uk

Lipreading and Managing you Hearing Loss classes.

These classes are designed for people with a hearing loss who may be finding it difficult to follow conversations.

What do we do in class?

- Lipreading practice in a friendly atmosphere
- Discuss strategies and tactics for difficult situations
- A chance to share problems and solutions with others who have similar difficulties.
- Information about assistive devices (such as flashing light doorbells)
- Information on hearing aids and how to look after them
- Information about useful organisations (such as Hearing Link or RNID)

Cost: Approx. £40 per term depending on the number of classes. Concessionary fees available.)
Classes are held in Manchester, Bury, Stretford, Altrincham, Glossop.
(The Manchester class is held in Withington Library (410 Wilmslow Rd, Manchester, M20 3BN is closed for renovations) CHECK BEFORE YOU ATTEND FIRST TIME
Postal address: Promoting Deaf Issues, PO Box 319, Manchester, M21 3DG
Email: enquiries@manchesterdeafstudies.org

MAY DAY EVENT St Margaret's May Day Event

MUD and St Margaret's Community Centre are running a May Day event on Sunday 3rd May from 12 noon to 7pm and are looking for stall holders, artists and musicians to take part. Email events@wearemud.org if you want to get involved.
St Margaret's Centre, Brantingham Road, M21 0TT

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES: Alexandra Park

www.facebook.com/AlexParkMCR friendsofalexandraparkmanchest@gmail.com

plus Friends of Alex Park Spring Bird Walk

Join Friends of Alexandra Park for their Spring Bird Walk on Monday 4th May. Meet at the lake side opposite Bembe Café, walk starts at 10:30am and lasts until 12 noon. Join or leave at any time. Dress for the weather, bring binoculars if you have them, some available to borrow if you don't have any.
www.facebook.com/AlexParkMCR

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES: Chorlton Meadows

See the Friends of Chorlton Meadows Facebook page
https://www.facebook.com/chorltonmeadows/.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES: Chorlton Park

See the Friends of Chorlton Park Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/groups/CholtonPark/?locale=en_GB

If you'd like to help out in the park, doing as little or as much as you can, there is a regular gardening session 8.30 -11.00 a.m. on Saturday mornings. All welcome.

And you can help with the sponge meadow too! Friends of Chorlton Park invite you to join a new volunteering group to help manage the Sponge Meadow.. All abilities welcome. Toilet facilities are available. Activities will vary from season to season.

www.facebook.com/groups/151217108266536 **CHECK BEFORE YOU GO FIRST TIME**

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES: Save Ryebank fields

For the latest information see (https://www.saveryebankfields.co.uk/) and the Friends of Ryebank Fields Facebook website. Please sign their petition.



PARKS AND OPEN SPACES: Bailey Bridge Update

The old bridge has been removed. Information about the installation of a new bridge will follow later in the year. A planning application for the new bridge has been approved. Search for **44154/VO/2025.** And there is great hope for an early completion.

VOTER ID

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations for local elections

Find out more at:

Voter ID | Electoral Commission

Volunteering - Manchester Volunteering Inspire Programme

MCR VIP (Manchester Volunteering Inspire Programme)

Manchester Volunteering Inspire Programme can help you find volunteering opportunities to suit your skills sets and the kind of things you like to do. Getting involved couldn't be simpler; all you need to do is register your interest on the website with a few of your personal details to create your very own volunteer profile. Once you've registered you can upload your photo to your profile page, add proof of ID, any DBS certificates you might have and other documents as required.

There are so many different opportunities, whether it's volunteering in your local community, volunteering online or over the telephone, there is an opportunity for you to give something back and gain valuable experience in the process.

If you are an organisation looking for volunteers, you can also create your own profile and advertise your opportunities to people actively looking to give back.

https://mcrvip.com/volunteers/about

WALKING: Walk From Home

Join a new, relaxed, social lunch time walk every Thursday at 12:30pm. Whether you are working from home and need an excuse to get out or just fancy a walk in nature and a chat, meet at Chorlton Ees car park (opposite The Bowling Green Pub), M21 9ES. They say "Please just turn up if you want to join". (We assume they are ongoing – but we don't know.) Check before you go

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WALKING: Chorlton Health Walk

Chorlton Health Walk takes place every Thursday, providing the weather is acceptable. We gather outside Chorlton Family Practice (1 Nicolas Road Chorlton), setting off at 1pm, walking through Longford Park to the cafe, where we rest, chat and have refreshments before returning to the starting point. This is a respectful and gentle walk. Everyone is welcome. Just turn up on the day and ask for Stephen.

WALKING: Walking Mums Club

Walking Mums Club have a new weekly walk at Alexandra Park every Tuesday from 11:30am. Fresh air, being in nature, walking, talking, learning and laughing are all great for you (and your baby). That's why Walking Mums Club was set up. They've built an inclusive community of mums who walk together across parks in Greater Manchester, building new friendships, supporting each other and sharing stories of their parental journeys. Join one of the walks in your local park to take those first steps pre- and post-partum and link into a network of mums all experiencing the same highs and lows. Meet at 11:30am outside the Pavilion Café within the park, then head out for a loop of the park before heading back to the café (around 12:30pm) for an optional brew. For more details or to book you free spot please visit: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/walking-mums-club-cic-31578399209 www.facebook.com/walkingmumsclub CHECK BEFORE YOU GO

WALKING: Wellness Walks at Hough End Leisure Centre (FREE)

Regular walks can help reduce stress, boost mood, improve heart health, and increase overall fitness — all while enjoying the company of others. Hough End Leisure Centre is now running Wellness Walks, designed for all abilities! Meet at 10am on Wednesdays at the centre and join them for an outdoor walk to enjoy fresh air and walking to local green spaces, perfect for relaxation and connection with nature.

Walking with others makes it easier to stay motivated and build healthy habits. No sign-up needed however you can book online or via the link below or on BetterUK app or just turn up and walk your way to better well-being for free. CHECK BEFORE YOU GO

Hough End Leisure Centre, 480 Princess Road, M20 1HD. www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/manchester/news/boost-your-health-with-wellness-walks

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Yoga: Standing and Chair Based Yoga

Barlow Moor Community Association have free standing yoga and chair-based yoga every Tuesday from 3:30 – 4:30pm. Please sign up at reception or call 0161 446 4805. BMCA, 23 Merseybank Avenue, M21 7NT CHECK BEFORE YOU GO

Water fact

How much water is in a cup of coffee? According to the Water Footprint Network, producing a single 125-millilitre cup of coffee requires around 130 to 140 litres of water, most of it embedded in farming and processing. That means your daily espresso might "drink" as much water as a person uses in an entire shower. (https://www.waterunite.org/blog/post/25645/how-much-water-is-in-your-cup-of-coffee-more-than-you-think/#)– That's a lot when you think that only 1% of the Earth's water is fresh and available for people to drink.