Chorlton Civic Society Newsletter

August - September2026

https://chorltoncivicsociety.org/

INDEX **D3**

- Our next CCS main meeting
- Our CCS Aims
- How to join the Chorlton Civic Society
- Message from the Chorlton Civic Society Chair
- Joining the Chorlton Civic Society Committee
- Future CCS Meetings and Events
- Chorlton Civic Society Main Meeting Minutes Tuesday 14th July 2026
- CCS Chorlton Community Garden
- CCS Chorlton Street Art
- CCS Chorlton Community Champions
- CCS Blue plaque presentation
- CCS Chorlton Arts Festival
- CCS Chorlton Lifesavers - FREE Community CPR/defib training
- CCS Update on Planning - by Barry Whitmarsh

Information about events run by other organisations will be provided in a separate supplement

Our Next Chorlton Civic Society Main Meeting

The next main Chorlton Civic Society Meeting will be:

7.30 Tuesday ***8th September*** in the Chorlton Library. The speaker is ***David Gosling from the Peak & Northern Footpath Society***

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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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How to Join the Chorlton Civic Society

You are welcome to join. Membership of Chorlton Civic Society is free but you can choose to donate on a monthly or an annual basis to help it to continue to thrive.

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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Message from the Chorlton Civic Society Chair

Greetings fellow Chorltonians,

What is there to say, other than it is blooming hot?! I hope that you are all managing to stay coolish! As I travelled to London, on the train, I felt that I was on the Prairies. Not a field of grass to be seen!

No longer a ' green and pleasant land'. The newsletter will be issued now quarterly from now on, instead of every two months. We hope that you will find it easier to navigate. A list of events and what is happening in Chorlton will be separate from the reports by various members.

I will sign off now as I need a hydration break!
Stay safe and look out for each other
Laura Hopkins

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Joining the CCS Committee

The officers were elected at the AGM in March 2026. 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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Future Chorlton Civic Society Meetings and Events –*Summary*

1. The next main Chorlton Civic Society Meeting will be 7.30 Tuesday ***8th September. Speaker: David Gosling from the Peak & Northern Footpath Society.***
Chorlton Library Community Room *(See page 1)*

2.Trip: *Cath has booked 10 seats for Victoria Wood's 'dinner ladies' at the* ***Manchester Opera House. Thursday 4th February 2027 14.30hrs. Ticket price stalls £21.40.***
If you *are interested. Contact* Text Cath 07722 958541 or email cathbrownhill55@gmail.com

3. Chorlton Community Garden The forthcoming garden events are always published through social media and at https://www.greenchorltonhub.org.uk/communitygarden

4. Chorlton Lifesavers - Free community CPR and defibrillator training.
The next session is on: Wednesday 9th September 7pm -8.30pm at the Bowling Green Pub on Brookburn Road. ***If you would like to join the session please c****ontact:* Text Cath 07722 958541 or email cathbrownhill55@gmail.com

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Chorlton Civic Society Main Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 14th July 2026

Community Room, Chorlton Library

Present: 10 members

Apologies: Barry Whitmarsh, Jenny Slee, Mary McGovern, Stephen Smith, Michelle Haller,

1. Matters arising from previous minutes

I. Former Police Station. No progress has been made on removing rubbish and graffiti from the wall and it is unclear if MCC has finalised the purchase. We have asked again for the site to be cleared and graffiti painted out (not much point putting a mural on if the building is to be demolished, but we are unsure if it is).

2. Treasurer's report

All project accounts in credit; general CCS account has little in it. More people to be encouraged to take out a standing order.

3. Planning The committee has reviewed several planning applications including:

- PLA-2026-000406: Two applications for 539A Wilbraham Rd (ex-Close Grooming) (i) for illuminated signs. It was agreed to **OBJECT** on the grounds of the adverse impact of an illuminated sign from 11am to 2am (at night) on residents and neighbours. This has been approved but with a limit on time. (ii) retrospective application for changes to external changes PLA-2026-000068 It was noted the shutter had been painted. It was agreed to **object** to: the length of opening hours (8am-2am); the presence of a step where the plans indicate a ramp would be included (and the height of the step at the front of the 'patio; inadequate plans for waste (proposing a fortnightly domestic scale collection from behind the property)

- 144626: Revised plans for new houses adjacent To No. 4 Sandy Lane – previously not approved by the Council. Appeal made to Planning Inspectorate and new application has been made in response to the issues raised by the Planning Inspectorate. This is now approved. We consider the development is still over-development for the site but this was not raised by the Inspectorate, so we were not able to comment.

- 000504: Revised plans for community centre on Field of Os. – 28 conditions had been imposed on the original application. Proposal included change in cladding some external changes, changes to roof (NB solar panels). Although this wall alters the appearance of the building it was agreed to make no comment.

- **Additional new application (not received intime for Committee consideration): 145599/FO/2026** – proposal to have fried chicken takeaway in the former Lewis' Bookmaker on Wilbraham Rd. Members urged to write in if they object.

Some decisions have been made on previous applications.

- 145490: Planning permission granted for new shopfront at 408 Barlow Moor Road. Design was amended in line with our comments.
- 145491: Introduction of rear parking to approved scheme at 515 - 521 Barlow Moor Road was refused.
- appeal against the enforcement notice for 133 Beech Road was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. (Casa de Moor) We presume this means they will have to remove their external structure.

Path round the Old Graveyard – the consultation notice period has ended – we expect to hear from Highways soon about placing the path on the definitive map.

Precinct – demolition has been deferred to end of August – we have made further representations re graffiti on the hoardings.

Ryebank Fields – Friends of Ryebank Fields have submitted further objections to the development and additional papers that had been submitted.

4. Proposed changes to Civic Society bank and meetings by the Committee

(i) It is proposed to move banks from Barclays to the Coop to better align with our values. Lindy (Treasurer) is managing the process.

(ii) It is proposed to move open Civic Society meetings from bi-monthly frequency to quarterly and to have these meetings business meetings, supplemented by open meetings with a speaker in between them. This is to do justice to speakers who are often pushed for time but also avoid repetition in meetings that sometimes occurs because of their frequency.

Secretary's note *– meetings will remain bi-monthly until the AGM and any changes in meeting dates will be included in future newsletters. Next meetings: September; November; January and March (i.e. 2nd Tuesday of the month 7.30, Community Room of the library).*

(iii) It is also proposed to issue a quarterly rather than bi-monthly newsletter and to perhaps separate Civic Society news from wider community news. Again this should help reduce repetition within newsletters and make them more concise.

No comments were received

1. Update on Projects

i. Chorlton Blue Plaques: the latest plaque to be erected is on the Hardy Lane Coop in recognition of the continuing use of their educational room upstairs – believed to be one of the last remaining educational rooms. The event was attended by about 50 people, some with recollections of important political figures who had visited during election times. Co-op groups continue to use the room.

ii. **Chorlton Community Champions:** Helen Hibberd and Cath Fernley have been awarded their certificates. Latest recipients are **Danielle Lowy** (for inspiring leadership on green issues and the renovation of the Community Garden); and **Together dementia Support** with Sally Ferris,(CEO and founder) who have contributed to the life of Chorlton through delivering information and support to people with dementia and their carers with inspiring and innovative projects.

iii. **Chorlton Community Garden:** Open Gardens welcomed over 230 people to the garden, where there was a plant swap outside, fig leaf cordial to sample, a quiz and the unveiling of the summer piece of artwork by Jolene Sheehan.

iv. **Chorlton Street Art**– Shutters will be completed at Halo Angels and Booze Corner by the end of July. A proposal for funding is in for 6 shutters in the Chorlton Park area of the district centre. A Street Art Trail leaflet can be picked up from the Community Garden railings.

v. **Chorlton Arts Festival** – This was a hugely successful festival with lots of positive feedback. Dates for next year are to be confirmed. More people are needed for the Committee as some will be standing down after the 2027 Festival. Contact chair@chorltonartsfestival.org to discuss.

2. **Some Chorlton Events**

12th Sept Chorlton Pride

21stSept Unicorn 30th anniversary week

18 - 26 Sept Book Festival

3. **AOB –** none
4. **Date and time of next meeting:** 11th August 7.30 Community Room at the Library, Summer social – bring and share refreshments and listen to or join in songs about local people and happenings

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Talk: Andrew Simpson and Peter Topping: The History of Greater Manchester by Tram

Andrew, assisted by Peter talked about the origins of the History of Greater Manchester by Tram booklets, four of which have been written with another in the pipeline. Each takes a section of the tram network and looks at points of historical interest at or around the stops. He singled out several particular points of interest on the East Didsbury-Exchange Square section. These included Pamona Gardens, complete with an erupting replica of Vesuvius in 1850; St Peter's Square, site of many historical events from Peterloo to the Manchester Peace Garden; Exchange Square and its transformation along with the Corn Exchange. He also took us on a journey to Cheetham Hill and the various Synagogues over time; New Islington and the hopes for Holt Town; Piccadilly railway station and the fondly remembered Piccadilly gardens alongside that part of Manchester between the gardens and St Peter's square that were flattened by bombs in WW2. Key to a lot of the history around the tram lines were the arrival of the canals, which stimulated much of the city centre developments. All the books are available to buy for £5.00 each in Chorlton Bookshop.
The meeting thanked Andrew and Peter for their fascinating talk. (Minutes From Carolyn Kagan – CCS Secretary)

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CCS Chorlton Community Garden

Open Gardens welcomed over 230 people to the community garden, where there was a plant swap outside, fig leaf cordial to sample, a quiz and the unveiling of the summer piece of artwork by Jolene Sheehan – have a look if you haven't seen this cheerful display. In this very hot weather volunteers have managed to keep the garden watered - we haven't planted thirsty bedding plants, except in the planters outside the garden. We had a Britain in Bloom inspection in July and await the verdict - I expect the judge is looking at a lot of desiccated gardens - he enjoyed some fig leaf cordial made from the leaves of the fig tree in the garden. We had a workshop learning how to summer prune the apple trees, which are now looking very trim.

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

(Garden information from Carolyn Kagan – CCS Secretary)

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Chorlton Street Art

The final few shutters in the Chorlton Ward have been painted - see the vibrant displays at Halo Angels and Booze Corner. Volunteers have continued to paint out graffiti on shutters and have been pressing CBRE to ensure graffiti is removed around the precinct site – with very little success! We have offered to help clothe the panel, to paint out the graffiti – but CBRE seem to prefer keeping the centre of Chorlton a mess. Shameful. We were very pleased that Benito Lounge removed the graffiti from their side wall. We are now embarking on a Chorlton Ward project, painting out graffiti in the centre of Chorlton which is in that Ward, thanks to the award of a grant from Your Neighbourhood Fund (formerly Neighbourhood Investment Fund). If you would like to get involved, contact Carolyn , secretary@Chorltoncivicsociety.org

(Street Art information from Carolyn Kagan – CCS Secretary)

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Chorlton Community Champions

We are pleased to report that Danielle Lowy and Together Dementia Support have accepted their nomination for a Civic Society Community Champion Certificate.

Danielle Lowy has, for many years promoted green spaces in Chorlton and the sharing of knowledge about sustainable and edible gardening. Amongst other things, Danielle has worked with others to produce Chorlton's Green map, widely and freely available to all; she is a pioneer of the Chorlton Plant Swap and Gardening advice, running regular plant swaps and maintaining a Facebook page where plants can be swapped year round; Danielle is a leading member of the group restoring Chorlton Community Garden and has inspired many with the edible bed she has developed along forest gardening principles. The principles of reciprocity, sharing and access for all underpin the significant, long term and inspirational leadership Danielle has shown.
https://www.greenchorltonhub.org.ukhttps://www.facebook.com/groups/Chorltonplantswap

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Together Dementia Support (TDS) is a Manchester based charity, with its roots firmly in Chorlton, supporting people with dementia and their carers to live well together in their local communities. More than that, led by Sally Ferris, founder and CEO, TDS provides a range of services supporting people and their carers, including friendship and activity groups; tailored support for carers; home visits for people with dementia; and social groups for carers and friends. From dementia cafés to a resource library; from music sessions with Manchester Camerata musicians to cheap transport enabling people to attend activities; from Zoom meetings for carers to a monthly newsletter, TDS staff and volunteers offer the kinds of support that help people stay positive, learning new things and meeting new people, all in a context of limited public services. Over a long period of time, Sally and TDS have made a significant, long-term contribution to the Chorlton community and been an inspiration to many. https://www.togetherdementiasupport.org/news

(Information on the Chorlton Community Champions from Carolyn Kagan – CCS Secretary)

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CHORLTON CIVIC SOCIETY
(FORMERLY CHORLTON VOICE)

Chorlton Civic Society
Blue Plaque presentation



Chorlton Blue Plaques: the latest blue plaque has been erected on the Hardy Lane Co-op in recognition of the continuing use of their educational room upstairs – believed to be one of the last remaining rooms. The event was attended by about 50 people.

Andy Simpson told us about the history of the Co-op Hall and Kathy Lee carried out the unveiling. (There is a video of the Hardy Lane Co-op blue plaque unveiling ceremony on YouTube.)

Lord Keith Bradley (MP for Withington 1987 until 2005) and Jeff Smith MP gave recollections of important political figures who had visited during election times. And the Co-op provided the refreshments.

"Co-op groups continue to use the room, which is a fantastic asset for Chorlton and we are very proud of its continued existence."

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Chorlton Arts Festival

We have held a review of the 2026 arts Festival and the report, which highlights the contribution CAF makes to community wellbeing, is available to view at Microsoft Word - review 2026 final.docx

Dates of next year's 25th anniversary Festival are provisionally set for Friday 7th – Saturday 22nd May 2027 – adding two weekend days to the Festival. If you value the Arts Festival and would like to help organise it, please contact Carolyn Secretary@chorltoncivicsociety.org

(Chorlton Art Festival information from Carolyn Kagan – CCS Secretary)

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Chorlton Lifesavers –FREE Community CPR/defib training

The next free community CPR and defibrillator session is:
Wednesday 9th September 7pm -8.30pm
Green Room, Bowling Green pub, Brookburn Road M21 9ES

To book your place:
Text Cath 07722 958541 or email cathbrownhill55@gmail.com

Or Jenny 07570 879091

(Information from Cath Brownhill)

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CCS Update on Planning
By 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://arcusbe.manchester.gov.uk/pr/s/register-view?c__r=Arcus_BE_Public_Register

- A planning application has been submitted for a new shopfront at the former Lewis Bookmakers, 581 - 585 Wilbraham Road. This is going to be a branch of Pepe's Peri Peri Chicken. Confusingly, planning permission is not required for the change of use because they are not proposing a "hot food takeaway", but premises where "consumption of food and drink is mostly undertaken on the premises", which is a different category in planning law. Details of the application can be found at 145599.

- Another application has been submitted for the former Pennine Kennedy premises at 450 Barlow Moor Road, following the withdrawal of a previous application. The proposal is for use of ground floor as restaurant with ancillary offices and storage at first floor, a single-storey rear extension and installation of retractable canopy for associated ancillary use of the front forecourt for shisha purpose. Details of the application can be found at 000821.

- Retrospective planning permission has been granted for the change of use of part of House Yard Lane into private garden for 2 Finney Drive. The Society had objected to the loss of width from this historic route and is disappointed at the outcome. Details of the application can be found at 143764.

- The appeal against the enforcement notice for Casa de Moor, 133 Beech Road was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. The enforcement notice requires the removal of the enclose canopies on the forecourt of the restaurant which were erected, without planning permission, after covid lockdown.

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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".

Information about events run by other organisations is being provided in a separate supplement

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