

# WGRA Westgate Residents' Association

Westgate, Henty Gardens, Mount Lane, St. Bartholomew's Close, Tannery Close



## Bulletin February 2024

### CONTACT US:

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### Whitehouse Farm (WHF) Phase 2: Southern Access Road (SAR) Planning Application

As mentioned in our email of 26 December 2023, Chichester District Council's (CDC) Planning Committee met on 10 January 2024. The decision was made to accept the Planning Proposals. This decision, while very disappointing, was not unexpected. However, we can assure you that the WGRA Committee will continue to try and ensure that we see less traffic on Westgate for the benefit of residents, pedestrians and cyclists.

#### Other traffic matters

(i) Work still remains to be completed on repairing the pink paving in the Narrows as part of the WHF Phase 1 mitigation and also on the proposed Dutch roundabout at the east end of the Narrows. This is unlikely to begin before April.

(ii) Further, at our last WGRA Committee meeting, we discussed the issues relating to the current lay-out at the Sherborne Road and Westgate roundabout and we thought it would be useful to have a record of road traffic incidents you may hear about or see at this junction and on the adjoining pavements. If you are able to do so, please send a brief note to our Secretary ([sec.wgra@gmail.com](mailto:sec.wgra@gmail.com)) and between us, your officers and committee will decide whether we need to report the incidents on to either Highways or the Police.

**Centurion Way Gateway Arch Update.** After two years of campaigning, a nice local story is that West Sussex County Council (WSCC) have at last agreed to work with local group, the Friends of Centurion Way, to support the restoration and reinstatement of the original archway sculpture that stood by the railway bridge at Bishop Luffa to mark the start of the trail - which now extends up to Binderton with further plans to take it up to Cocking. It really is a gateway path from the City to the Downs!

Having successfully protected and opposed the diversion of the path by the Whitehouse Farm developers, the group wants to see the arch reinstated as part of the sequence of artworks along the path (originally created by local sculptor Richard Farrington and installed by WSCC and Sustrans in 1995). There is no WSCC funding available but the City Council and the developers have supported the campaign and the group are currently applying for a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and other arts trusts, ahead of possible crowdfunding effort later in the year.

There was a New Years' Day event held on the path which a number of residents attended, and it is fantastic that community support (and pressure) has persuaded WSCC to change its mind and support the reinstatement with help on the planning and practicalities! For more details and photos, go to [www.centurionway.org.uk](http://www.centurionway.org.uk).



## **Westgate Historical Archives** – an update from Richard Brownfield

“Dear Resident,

I am continuing to make good progress with ‘The Westgate Story’. I now have details about a number of the houses in the road and if you would like to find out about yours and share it with me, the window is getting shorter. I expect to do to a private print in March or April. So please let me have anything this month if you can.

It is worth going to the West Sussex Record Office in Orchard Road, just around the corner from Westgate. You will have to sign on and get an ‘Archives Card’, this takes about 3 minutes (you need identification) and is free. This allows access to the Search Room, which is also free (a good chance to get value from your rates!). There are always 2-3 people on duty and if you ask for help with researching your house they are very helpful and have some remarkable information.

I hope you find some interesting facts. Their website is at: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/history-and-heritage/west-sussex-record-office/>

*Richard Brownfield”*



**Westgate Community Speedwatch Group** After an extended Christmas break, our schedule was disrupted by the gas disconnection work on Westgate. At least we had two lovely weeks of very little traffic! But many cars are now speeding through so we will be out on the road with our radar gun very soon. New volunteers are always needed so if you would like to join the team, please contact Bebette at [sec.wgra@gmail.com](mailto:sec.wgra@gmail.com)

**WGRA Monthly Coffee Morning** the next one will be on Saturday 2 March 10-11am at the Crate!

**Chichester City Council Five Year Plan** The draft City Plan for 2024-2029 was mentioned in the January 2024 Bulletin. The deadline for public consultation has now been extended to **14<sup>th</sup> February**. The Plan sets out the draft aims and objectives for the City Council for the next five years and it is important that you, the residents of and visitors to the city, help the Council to guide these future plans so we can all work together to make Chichester a place where everyone can thrive. To view the draft plan and comment on it, please go to: [https://chichestercity.gov.uk/city\\_plan/](https://chichestercity.gov.uk/city_plan/)



**Festival of Flowers 2024** 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June at Chichester Cathedral

Make a date in your diaries now for this four day spectacle. Tickets are already on sale at: <https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/events/festival-flowers-2024>



**WSCC Recycling Centre at Westhampnett**



Another reminder that from Monday 12 February you will need to pre-book a timed slot to visit the tip at Westhampnett. Bookings can be made on the day of the visit if there is still space. For full details please see the West County Council (WSCC) website at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/BookToRecycle)

**Laser Show Extravaganza** Chichester District Council are again putting on a Laser show at the Chichester Canal Basin on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February with two performances scheduled to take place each night at 6pm and 7.30pm. The spectacular laser performances are projected directly over the Canal Basin and each show lasts for around 15 minutes and will be choreographed to music. A mix of food and drinks stalls will be lining the Canal Basin.



[photo: Chichester Canal Trust]

## Dark Skies Festival 2024 10-18 February 2024

Discover dazzling West Sussex dark skies as the South Downs National Park Dark Skies Festival returns. The South Downs National Park became the world's 13<sup>th</sup> International Dark Sky Reserve in 2016 and this year's festival will feature a host of events. For the full programme click on: [www.southdowns.gov.uk/dark-night-skies/dark-skies-festival/](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/dark-night-skies/dark-skies-festival/)

## Farmers' Market Dates 2024



Don't forget the market in the city centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month:

16 February	2 & 16 August
1 & 15 March	6 & 20 September
5 & 19 April	4 & 18 October
3 & 17 May	1 & 15 November
7 & 21 June	6 & 20 December
5 & 19 July	

[photo: CDC]



**Book-a-Bus** West Sussex County Council has launched "Book-a-Bus", a new flexible and on-demand bus service which now serves the rural areas between Chichester to Petworth. The service operates within set zones and offers to pick-up passengers in convenient locations. For more information please click on: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/news/introducing-book-a-bus-the-new-flexible-transport-option-for-rural-areas-in-west-sussex/>



**Snowdrops and Spring Flowers.** Each year the National Garden Scheme opens the visiting season in late January, February and into March with its inspirational snowdrop and spring flower gardens. For more information and to find a garden open near you, click on: <https://ngs.org.uk/banish-the-dark-days-of-winter-with-a-wonderful-visit-to-our-snowdrop-and-spring-flower-gardens-in-2024/>



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If you do not wish to receive further communications from the WGRA, please contact the Secretary, Bebette Jones at 6 Tannery Close or email [sec.wgra@gmail.com](mailto:sec.wgra@gmail.com)