

WGRA Westgate Residents' Association

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



Bulletin June 2024

CONTACT US:

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Our New Mayor We are delighted that on May 15th, in a grand event filled with tradition, Chichester proudly welcomed its new Mayor, Councillor Sarah Quail, during the Annual Meeting of the Council of the City of Chichester. The historic "Mayor Making" ceremony was held in the Assembly Room at The Council House, a venue rich with history. The first recorded Mayor of Chichester was Emery de Rouen in 1239 though historical records suggest the office dates back to at least 1226.



The outgoing Mayor, Craig Gershater, performed the traditional duty of investing the new Mayor with the Chain and Badge of Office, symbolizing the transfer of authority and responsibility. This age-old ritual emphasizes the continuity and stability of the Mayoralty to the City.

We wish Sarah, our WGRA Chair, all the very best in her year as Mayor.



A reminder of our two summer events.....

Westgate Summer Garden Party at the Chichester City Arts Centre Saturday 13 July 3pm – 6pm

A lovely way to spend a hopefully warm summer's afternoon! Please note that as further investigations regarding a possible defibrillator for Westgate are still ongoing, the Social Committee will not be raising funds for this project at the Garden Party. You will have received an invitation through your letterbox and an extra copy of the invitation is attached to the covering email for this Bulletin.

Picnic in the Park in Brewery Field on Sunday 21 July 12 noon until 3pm

WESTGATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY 2024

AT CHICHESTER CITY ARTS CENTRE, MOUNT LANE
SATURDAY, JULY 13 3PM - 6PM

Come along and join neighbours and friends at this summer event! There will be a complimentary glass of Pimms and unlimited tea and soft drinks.

Please bring along plates of sandwiches, cakes or scones to share as well as other refreshments of your choice.

There will be a raffle with lovely prizes and a 'Guess the weight of the Cake' competition, so don't forget to bring along some cash.

Tickets are **£5 per person**.

There are two ways to pay:
Transfer £5 per person online to:
A/C name: Westgate Residents Association
Sort Code: 309028
A/C No: 69382160
Ref: Your name and Street Number please

Or put £5 cash per person in an envelope through the door of Nikki Clarke,
42 Westgate, noting your name, address and number of guests.

Any profit from the event will go to St. Wilfrid's Hospice

FREE SUNDAY 21st JULY

PICNIC in the PARK

OPEN TO ALL EVERYONE WELCOME!

UKRAINIAN FOLK DANCE & MUSIC

PLANT SALE

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER

12.00 until 3.00pm

TRADITIONAL GAMES

BRING A PICNIC

behind the car park at the back of
West Sussex County Council Record Office on
Orchard Street
PO19 1DD

A TRANSITION TOWN CHICHESTER project in partnership with
PARKLANDS, WESTGATE AND
WEST WALLS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

For more information go to www.pra-chi.org.uk / phone Greg 07968 025886
www.transitionchichester.org

Traffic Updates

Orchard Road / Westgate ‘Dutch Roundabout’ As you all will have noticed, work has finally started on this new project. A briefing letter was leafleted to most residents on Westgate but we understand many of you on the adjoining roads did not receive it so a copy is attached to the covering email for this Bulletin. This gives some more details of the various phases of the works.

West of Chichester Strategic Development – Phase 2 At a recent meeting of the Community Liaison Group (CLG) on 1 May 2024, Miller Homes / Vistry Group gave a slide presentation on Phase 2 of the Minerva Heights Development. A copy of this presentation which you may find interesting is also attached to the covering email for this Bulletin.

Near Misses You may recall that in our March Bulletin we listed the safety issues that our members had reported regarding the re-newed roundabout at the Westgate junction with Sherborne Road and the new cycle defenders on Westgate. We sent a list of these issues to West Sussex County Council and Jubb, the road traffic engineers who act on behalf of the developers, Miller Vistry. For your information we copy below the answers (underlined) that we received from Jubb. Suffice to say that the WGRA Committee are not satisfied with the answers and we now still await a ‘final Stage 3 Road Safety Audit’ on the works done. **We again ask that our members to report any ‘near misses’ they may witness at the roundabout and on Westgate, especially at the new ‘zebra’ pedestrian crossings to sec.wgra@gmail.com**

Westgate - Cycle defenders & cycle lane

- a. *Defenders still not visible enough*
 - a. Jubb response: Awaiting a final Stage 3 RSA visit and report which will include a visit during the hours of darkness. Jubb attended site March 2024 and considered they were more visible than the previous buoy's that were low level.
- b. *Cars waiting for oncoming traffic block the cycle lane*
 - a. Jubb response: There is no cycle lane on Westgate, cyclists share the carriageway with motorised vehicles, this is no different to the previous arrangement. The layout was developed to provide a suitable cycle bypass as the previous arrangement provided inadequate widths which resulted in cyclists avoiding the bypass structures. This scope of works was agreed with the Infrastructure Steering Group (ISG). During site visits there is generally good use of the cycle bypass by users, it is acknowledged that at peak times there is likely to be delay to cyclists which is unavoidable.
- c. *No clear right of way for cycles and motorists not giving way*
 - a. Jubb response: The layout prior to these works worked on the same principles, there has been no change in this respect.
- d. *Exaggerated chicanes mean cars have to ‘weave’ down Westgate driving into the cycle lane and sometimes speeding to ‘get through’ when oncoming traffic is waiting*
 - a. Jubb response: The lane widths at the chicanes have decreased by approx. 250mm or 10” from the previous layout. There is no cycle lane on Westgate, cyclists share the carriageway with vehicles.
- e. *Cars speeding down the centre of the road in times of little traffic*
 - a. Jubb response: The layout prior to these works worked on the same principles, there has been no change in this respect. The designers cannot change driver behaviour.
- f. *Where the bike route going west to east rejoins the carriageway on Westgate after the roundabout, that point is just by the island and with a pinch point ahead - dangerous as bikes just come onto the road.*
 - a. Jubb response: Awaiting a final Stage 3 RSA visit and report which will include a review of this area.
- g. *Cyclists on pavement in front of driveway No. 78 Westgate*
 - a. Jubb response: Cyclists do remain on the shared footway to the front of No 78 Westgate prior to rejoining the carriageway. During the design development this was considered the most appropriate way to enable cyclists to rejoin the carriageway. The available

width is reduced by the overgrown hedgerow of No 76A which has resulted in signage being positioned within the pedestrian area.

Sherborne Road Mini Roundabout

- a. *Absence of visible 20mph signs from College Roundabout*
 - a. Jubb response: There is a 20mph roundel on the carriageway and 20mph signs on posts on the link between College roundabout and the mini roundabout.
- b. *Cars speeding from College Roundabout*
 - a. Jubb response: This section of road is approximately 40m in length with a raised crossing at the mid-point to discourage speed. A small minority of drivers may choose to speed however the Designer considers that it is difficult to change these individuals' behaviour. When we have been to site the speeds have been adhered to and the system appears to work safely with drivers giving way to crossing pedestrians at the uncontrolled crossing point due to the low speeds being travelled by motorised vehicles.
- c. *Absence of any signs indicating a school or cycle priority area*
 - a. Jubb response: The school at Bishop Luffa is accessed from the mini roundabout but is not located within the area therefore no signage is provided. The Designer is unaware of a cycle priority area signage within the Traffic Signs Manual.

Pedestrian crossings

- a. *Confusion over who has right of way at crossing immediately coming off College roundabout*
 - a. Jubb response: The crossing is an uncontrolled crossing point, so drivers have the right of way. Generally due to the low speeds of users on the link the Designer has witnessed a number of occasions where road users stop to let pedestrians cross. If the crossing was controlled then the crossing would have red coloured tactiles, traffic signals or a belisha beacons with the associated road markings and signage.
- b. *No warning signs of new zebra pedestrian crossings on Westgate and Sherborne Road.*
 - a. Jubb response: Warning signs are not required as the visibility to both beacons is not impaired on the approach.
- c. *Poor placement of zebra pedestrian crossings causing cars to stop on the actual crossings or in the roundabout*
 - a. Jubb response: The crossings are positioned at a location to suit the cycle and pedestrian desire lines. They are close to the roundabout but with the regulated distance from the give way line. There is a balance between providing a layout which considers both motor vehicles and pedestrians/ cyclists. Through the ISG the layout for the mini-roundabout was agreed and subsequently implemented.
- d. *Very messy signage on the road to indicate pedestrian and cycle crossing*
 - a. Jubb response: The works are being reviewed to ensure the constructed sections are in line with the design. Awaiting a final Stage 3 RSA visit and report which will include a review of this area.

Coming Events:

The CFT Festival 2024 Summer Season is in full swing with Coram Boy (running until 15 June) which has had strong reviews and is a large scale, beautifully-costumed production - "Angels and abandoned children, glorious music and murder most foul whirl through this enthralling, moving and richly colourful tale of 18th century England" It's a short run and well worth seeing. Harold Pinter's The Caretaker opens next week in the Minerva, and Oliver! Directed by Matthew Bourne and co-produced by Cameron Mackintosh ahead of a planned long run in London follows in July. <https://www.cft.org.uk/>




The **Chichester Cheese and Chilli Festival** is at Oaklands Park on 22 June (10am-6pm) and on Sunday 23 June (10am – 5pm) For more information visit: www.Cheeseandchillifestival.com



Anthony Horowitz talks about his latest Alex Rider book, *Nightshade Revenge*, and his forthcoming book for adults, *Close to Death*. The books will be on sale at the venue and Anthony will be available for signing after the event. All proceeds go to support the work of CBF.

Date: Thursday 27th June 2024
Location: Chichester Cathedral
Age: Family event for ages 10+
Time: Doors open at 7pm
Price: £10 for children, £14 for adults
Tickets: Via the Festival Box Office at The Novium

 **CHILDREN'S BOOKFEST**

Chichester Art Society **Exhibition 2024**

Original artwork at the **OXMARKET CONTEMPORARY**

St Andrews Court
(off East Street)
Chichester PO19 1YH

11 - 23 June 2024

Daily 10.00 - 16.30
Sunday 12.00 - 16.00
Closed Monday 17th

Visit www.chi-art-soc.org for more information on Chichester Art Society

Childrens Bookfest - Bringing authors and children together in fantastic interactive events to inspire a love of reading. “Nearly 1 in 10 children from disadvantaged backgrounds said they did not own a book of their own” — The National Literacy Trust

See <https://www.childrensbookfest.com> for further information on booking tickets

CHICHESTER Gala

SANDI THOM
THE BLUETONES (ACOUSTIC)
SARAH COLLINS & FRIENDS

Family FUN Day

SATURDAY 29 JUNE 2024

PRIORY PARK 11 AM TO 9 PM
STALLS - FUNFAIR - FOOD - BAR



The **CHICHESTER GALA** at Priory Park is coming on 29 June 2024. A super fun day for all the family runs from 11am to 5pm with a funfair, family fun, circus performers, music, choirs and dancers etc. and the live music concert then starts at 5pm to 9pm.

And don't forget our.....

WGRA Monthly Coffee Morning - Saturday 6th July 10-11am at the Crate & Apple

If you do not wish to receive further communications from the WGRA, please contact the Secretary, Belette Jones at 6 Tannery Close or email sec.wgra@gmail.com