

HRA Update April 2024, our 71st edition

Dates for the diary:

REMINDERS: On Saturday 13th April (this Saturday) you are invited to bring shade- and drought-loving plants and seeds to the Tree Garden on the corner of All Saints' Rd. and Barrington Close for HRA's 'Bring and Plant Free-for-All' 10.00-12.00 noon.

On Thursday 25th April HRA's AGM will be held from 7.30-9.00 p.m. in All Saints' Church. After the business part of the AGM, our guest speaker, Mattia Troiano, Project Leader, Oxford University School of Geography and Environment, will give a presentation on: 'The Future of Green Spaces in Oxford and Headington'. After questions, refreshments will be served.

And a different kind of reminder: Remember to take your photo ID when going to vote on May 2nd.

SAVE THE DATE: On Friday 10th May we have our next HRA Film Night in All Saints' Church House, Upper Room, New High Street at 7.30 p.m. (Doors at 7.00). We shall be showing *The Holdovers* (Cert. 15), an excellent new (2023) film which has had great reviews and numerous awards - feelgood in the best sense.

In this excellent warm-hearted comedy set in the 1970s an unpopular teacher, a rebellious student and a recently bereaved school cook form an unexpected bond while thrown together over the Christmas break. Great reviews: "A superb yet surprisingly moving comedy", *The Guardian*; "A film of well-turned wit and terrific performances", *The Independent*. Nominated for several Oscars (2024).
Bar and refreshments. Entry £5 includes first drink.

On Saturday 11th May from 10.00-12.00 noon come to the Tree Garden near the community notice board on All Saints' Rd. Committee members would like to hear your ideas about how you would like HRA to develop, and how you might like to get involved. NB if wet, windy or cold, our venue will change to All Saints' Church House Committee Room (New High Street).

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods - Government Research Report: for all you ever wanted to know about LTNs, go to:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f400adfa18510011011787/low-traffic-neighbourhoods-research-report.pdf>

Recycling centres to end Thursday late night opening: those of us who enjoyed the calmer atmosphere at our recycling centres on Thursday evenings in the summer months will lament their no longer staying open until 8.00 p.m. The county's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) will remain open from 8.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. seven days a week.

Passport Fees rose by 7% this week. The same fees apply whether you are requesting a new passport, a renewal or the replacement of a lost, stolen or damaged passport. The revised fees are as follows: online, £88.50 for adults and £57.50 for children; paper form, adult £100, child £69; Premium (same-day service) £207.50.

The additional fee for the Check and Send Service from a Post Office or other authorised provider remains at £16 whether digital or paper. If using the digital service, the Post Office/ other authorised provider, takes the photos and they are included in the fee, making a digital application cheaper overall.

Don't get caught out by the change in passport rules. The Passport 10-year rule means a hundred or so passengers heading to the EU are turned back at emigration each day. Explanation: passports issued after 2018 are valid for exactly 10 years. However, a UK passport issued before September 2018 could be valid for up to 10 years and nine months because before 2018 the passport office used to add up to nine (unexpired) months from an old passport on to a new one. This means that some people have UK passports that have not officially expired, and are valid for travel in the rest of the world, but not in parts of Europe because they were issued more than ten years ago. This didn't matter while the UK was in the EU because passports were valid up to and including the expiry date. But you will now be denied entry if your passport issue date was more than 10 years ago. A further reminder: your passport must be valid for 3 months after your return from the EU.

LTN cameras are now being installed: Work to install enforcement cameras at six Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) closure points in Oxford will start soon. The cameras are due to go live at the end of April.

Recycling blister packs: We can now recycle empty pill and vitamin blister packs at Boots, London Rd., Headington, and they will be made into benches etc. If Boots Advantage Card holders scan in their blister packs, and take their Advantage card when they put the packs in the dedicated box near Boots' dispensing counter they will receive points on their Advantage card.

DVLA: 2 million drivers are warned about fines. Martin Lewis has warned drivers to make a "quick check" now to avoid a £1,000 fine. According to the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) several million licences may be out of date, putting drivers at risk of a fine. Photocard driving licences must be renewed every ten years to ensure the image is a true likeness of the driver.

NB 1: Expiry dates are displayed in section 4b on the front of your photocard driving licence.

NB 2: Failure to return an expired licence to DVLA is an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 and can be punished with a fine of up to £1,000.

Keep this information to hand...just in case

A suspicious email? Forward it to: report@phishing.gov.uk

A suspicious text? Forward it to: 7726, or SPAM

A call supposedly from your bank? Phone 159 <https://stopscamsuk.org.uk/159>

If you think someone is trying to trick you into handing over money or personal details: stop, hang up and call 159 to speak directly to your bank.

Headington News website: <https://www.headington.org.uk/news/today.htm>

HRA Addresses:

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HRA Webmaster: hra.website@gmail.com

HRA Website: <https://highfieldresidents.weebly.com>

Disclaimer: The information we give in each edition is, as far as we can tell, correct at the time of circulation but please be aware that it can change. HRA's Update is now being circulated on an occasional basis, according to the information thought to be of relevance to members.