



# HRA NEWSLETTER

Highfield Residents' Association

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Autumn 2019

## HRA Community Events

*Frank McKenna and Patrick Coulter write:*

Since the last newsletter, we've held two very successful street events. In June once again we joined with All Saints' Church for a day of fun to celebrate our community and to raise funds for the Jo Cox Foundation. A highlight was a visit by the Oxford Fire Service, made even more exciting by their emergency departure after hastily clearing their cab full of small children. In September we gathered in the open air for a very successful street meal and cinema evening.

The Autumn/Winter programme is set out below. Let us know if you have any suggestions or would like to join us in planning and organising events.



## Autumn / Winter Programme

Friday 18th October (7.30 pm) **Cinema Evening** showing **Hidden Figures**, an amazing story of the women mathematicians behind the Apollo mission. All Saints' Church House (upstairs hall). £5 charge to cover expenses. Bar/ Refreshments.

Late November **Cinema Evening** in All Saints' Church House – details later.

Saturday 14th December (6.00 pm) **Annual Street Carol Singing** featuring a visit from Santa who will leave the reindeer feeding at Shotover and join us to sing around our streets for an hour followed by refreshments (indoors!).

Late January **Cinema Evening** in All Saints' Church House – details later.

February/March **Music Evening** in All Saints' Church House – details later.

Saturday 29th February **Annual Litter Pick** – details later.

Local events of interest put on by HRA members, rather than the HRA itself:

Saturday 23rd November (11.00 am) **Children's Society Christmas Bazaar**, All Saints' Church House, New High Street: homemade cakes, jams, preserves, café, second-hand stuff, live singing, all in aid of the charity the Children's Society.

Sunday 1st December (6.30 pm) **Shadowplay**, All Saints' Church House, New High Street: a shadow puppet show for children lasting about 45 minutes, for ages 4-100. Cost £4 for children, £5 adults.

See [www.thedancingfirefly.com](http://www.thedancingfirefly.com)

## Our Community Hall

*James Larminie writes about All Saints' Church House:*

**Although just outside the boundaries of the HRA, All Saints' Church House in New High Street is very much "our" community centre, although shared with the 'New Headington' area.** It is a very flexible building, with three different sized rooms, and a good kitchen. A wide range of activities takes place that HRA members might be interested in and not know about. **If you want to know more about any activity, either internet-search the name, contact James Larminie (see p4) or email [allsaintschurchhouse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:allsaintschurchhouse@hotmail.co.uk)**

**For those with very small children, there is the long-standing community-run playgroup, Little Sharks, on Monday mornings.** There are also keep-fit sessions for new mums on Tuesday mornings (Jeneration Fitness) and on Thursday mornings Baby College has sessions. On Friday mornings there is a French language playgroup, the Goûter Club.

**For older children, the Oxford Schools of Judo have sessions on Tuesday evenings,** a Guides group meets on Thursday evenings, and a new venture, Aerial Gymnastics, has started on Mondays and Fridays after school.

**For adults, Pop-up-Pilates run classes on Mondays at 6.30 and 7.30pm, and there is Yoga at 6.30 on a Tuesday.** Some Judo and Aerial Gymnastics sessions are also open to adults,



Two churches also meet every week – on Saturdays there is a 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist congregation, and on Sunday a lively church, mainly of people originally from the Philippines, meets for worship and fellowship. **In addition to all these regular events, other groups use the hall from time to time.** Extinction Rebellion held a meeting there recently, as do other political groups. There are occasional adult education classes, U3A music listening groups, Headington Singers, HRA events, and many others. Several charities use the hall, for example Aspire, which does wonderful work with homeless people, is a frequent user.

**The hall is well maintained, with a recent major upgrade to the toilets, and to the kitchen last year.** There is a 10kW solar panel installation on the roof, which generates more electricity than is used and so powers the local community a little. There are still vacant times, and on Sunday afternoons the hall is available for family and children's parties. We don't hire the hall after 10 pm, out of consideration for our neighbours, so that limits our availability for adult parties.

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## Connectivity or Building our Community

**Headington Action is sponsoring a project to improve social connectedness in Headington.**

Recognising that social connectedness has a major impact on peoples' wellbeing we're working with local GP practices, churches, local councils and other key community organisations to increase the sense of belonging in our community.

This includes (a) building support networks for the routine matters of life such as shopping, cooking, gardening, providing lifts and (b) linking people to

community activities such as choirs, walking groups, talking cafés and other interest groups where people can make friendships and share life's events.

The aim is to reduce isolation and loneliness and bring a sense of belonging into what is sometimes a disconnected society.

**HRA warmly supports this project which accords with our aim to strengthen the sense of belonging in Highfield/Headington.** If you have ideas about how we can do so please get in touch. We'll keep you informed as the project progresses. PC

## Environmental Matters

*Hilary Rollin turns our attention to triage of recycling v green bin waste with some questions for you:*

**Which bin do batteries go in?** Ahem...That was a trick question. The answer is NONE. Batteries will be collected if placed in a clear plastic bag on top of a bin. The same applies to small electrical items. [https://oxford.gov.uk/info/20074/recycling/17/battery\\_recycling](https://oxford.gov.uk/info/20074/recycling/17/battery_recycling)

**Next question:** Items for recycling must go loose in the blue bin. True or False? **Answer:** That used to be the case. Now, they can still go loose, or in a clear plastic bag, but not in a black plastic bag.

**What should we do with the following?** Empty aerosols? Clean cling film? Crisp packets? Plastic bottle tops? Polystyrene foam? Sweet and chocolate wrappers? Directories (including yellow pages)? Light bulbs? Food trays (including black trays)? Tissue paper? Coffee machine pods? Shredded paper? Wrapping paper (non-glittery and non-metallic)?

**The answer:** In our area, all the above go in the recycling bin **except for** crisp packets, sweet and chocolate wrappers, coffee machine pods, tissue paper, polystyrene foam, and light bulbs. Spent fuses will also be collected along with the batteries, but not 3-pin plugs.

**What are the resin identifying codes, where do we find them, and what do they mean?** **Answer:** Most products now have OPRLs (On Product Recycling Labels) indicating how different types of packaging can be recycled. The resin identifying codes consist of the 'chasing arrow' symbol, with inside it a number from 1-7. Numbers 1,2,4,5 are generally recyclable in our area.

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## Replacement trees in Highfield

*Gill Beeston reports on the latest situation:*

**This summer two more trees were felled in our streets: one in Latimer Rd and the other in Stapleton Rd, making four trees that have been felled and need replacing.** The OCC tree officer informed us that Highfield wasn't due for replacement work until autumn 2021 and that because of the Council's very limited budget, not all trees would be replaced. HRA needs therefore to seek other sources of finance and the Committee is considering how we might fund some replacement trees. Cllr Altaf Khan told us that there is a government scheme afoot for

HOWEVER, the codes can be hard to spot; OCC helpfully advises us: '**Our best advice is to ignore the codes and symbols on products, as they can often be misleading, and instead follow our lists and tests**'. For the latest information on recycling in our area, see the flier on the HRA board, or go to: [https://oxford.gov.uk/info/20074/recycling\\_advice/25/what\\_goes\\_in\\_the\\_blue\\_recycling\\_bin](https://oxford.gov.uk/info/20074/recycling_advice/25/what_goes_in_the_blue_recycling_bin)

For even further details, see:

<https://recyclenow.com/recycling-knowledge/packaging-symbols-explained>

**Incident Book:** Our thanks to all those who have reported incidents both to the police and for the Incident Book. The most widely reported incident was the car racing in July. Thanks to our ever-helpful PCSO Ahmed Mohamed, the drivers were traced and the car racing stopped. Please remember PCSO Ahmed's express wish 'Please report incidents to me; it helps me do my job' (tel. 101).  
Bike theft: we are urged by the police to report all bike thefts to 101 or via their website (see p. 4). HR

**Wildlife:** We welcome wildlife into Highfield, according to the season through insect-friendly flowers, bug hotels, nesting boxes, hedgehog holes in fences, garden ponds, piles of leaves etc. When feeding garden birds please avoid attracting rats, and remember that not everyone favours having foxes in their garden. Deer have been sighted in a number of gardens, to the delight of some residents and the wrath of others. Olivia Goodrich is co-ordinating sightings of hedgehogs; please report sightings of hedgehogs, also badgers to [olivia.goodrich@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:olivia.goodrich@yahoo.co.uk). And check your November 5<sup>th</sup> bonfires for hedgehogs before lighting them! HR

greening up our cities and for which HRA could apply, but no details have yet been released. We are monitoring the situation closely, and plan to plant a sorbus tree ourselves near the bottom of Stapleton Road using HRA funds.

**Lime Walk planter boxes:** Once again, a big thank you to the group of volunteers who have tended the plants and kept them well-watered throughout the summer. The boxes are now planted with wallflowers (Fire King) for next spring. GB

