

HRA Update March 2023, our sixty-second Update

50

Yeah! HRA's Big five-oh

HRA turns 50 in a few days, and how it has changed over the years! Its original activity focused on monitoring planning applications. There were no litterpicks, no film nights, let alone street parties. Minutes of the committee meetings were strictly along the lines of Mr x reported that....., Miss Y explained that.....

Since the Big 50 requires a celebration, and the best form of HRA celebration means a street party, but not in March, our Events Group is planning a mega street party to celebrate our Jubilee along with King Charles's Coronation (see below)

SAVE THE DATE

Annual litter pick, 10:00 a.m. Saturday 11 March in association with OxClean: Meet at the notice board in All Saints' Road. Equipment provided, but you may prefer to bring your own gloves. Refreshments afterwards.

*Linked event. **Headington Singers Concert, 7:30 p.m. Friday 24 March. Faure Requiem, in All Saints' Church.***

Film Night, 7:30 p.m. Friday 31 March: Upper Hall of Church House, New High Street: "Saving Mr Banks", the rave-reviewed film starring Emma Thompson and Tom Hanks, about the making of the film of Mary Poppins. This is the film that we planned to show in March 2020, but had to cancel.

HRA Annual General Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Thursday 27 April in All Saints' Church

*Linked event. **A Prom for Jim 7:00 p.m. Saturday 29 April in All Saints' Church.** For those who remember the late Jim Cocke, Vicar of All Saints' Church for over 60 years. Former choir members giving a concert. Free entry, but collection for the Children's Society. Tickets from: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-prom-for-jim-tickets-525456343067>*

Another epic HRA Street Party. From 11:00 a.m. Sunday 7 May. Details of timings to follow, but coffee, music, lunch, music, tea, crown-making competition, cycle jousting, other games, choral evensong, gathering in The Butcher's Arms, etc.

Open Gardens. Possibly Sunday 18 June. The Garden Group will be releasing details nearer the time.

New Law for 2023: Currently, voters don't need to take their ID to a polling station, but from May 2023, under the new Elections Act 2022, we'll need to show valid photo ID to receive a ballot paper.

Passports, photographic driving licences, biometric immigration documents and some concessionary travel passes will all be accepted as forms of ID. There will also be a new free voter document for those who don't have a form of photographic ID.

£2.00 Bus Fare Cap: This has been extended for another 3 months, i.e. till the end of June.

Changes to collection times at All Saints' Road mail box: From 13 March the final collection time will be 'no earlier than 9.00 a.m. Monday to -Friday, and 7.00 a.m. on Saturdays.' This coincides with the collection times from the Valentia Road mail box. However, if you need to post something later in the day, the Grays Road mail box has a collection time of 4.00 p.m. or later. Information is available on: 03456 011399.

Might you or someone you know be interested in this job opportunity?

The current manager of the Saturday Headington Markets is leaving, so there is an opportunity to get involved in organising the Markets. This is a paid role at an estimated average of twelve hours per week, approximately 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, plus three to four hours off-site during non-market hours. Further details can be found at: <https://www.headingtonmarket.org/manager>

Scam Warning: Have you been scammed or do you know someone who has been? Scams can be very convincing, and it is all too easy to be taken in by them. We all have our vulnerable moments no matter our age or where we live. For some the financial loss is huge, for others it knocks their confidence and can have a negative effect on their lives.

Here are just a few examples. Times of crisis may bring out the best in one, but they are a magnet for scammers, and sadly right now is no different. Fraudsters follow the headlines and have already been working overtime to create ways to encourage people to part with their cash and personal information. We saw this with the Australian bushfires in January 2020, throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and with the war in Ukraine.

If you are looking to help people in Turkey and Syria, donate wisely – do your research first so you give without getting scammed. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-64599553>

Beware the pet reward scams: The caller claims to be from a vet, the RSCPA or a rescue centre informing owners they need to pay immediately as their pet needs an operation. Or, sometimes they ask for a small 'release fee' (around £5) in order for a pet to be released back to its owner.

Don't be taken in by this.

If you're unsure if this is a genuine call about your missing pet - take the name of the vet or rescue centre and google it, find the contact details yourself and then google them directly. If they are genuine, they won't have a problem with this. Don't use the number the scammers offer you. Hang up the phone! If you're using a landline, make sure that they are not still on the line after you've hung up. If you have paid out please send all details urgently to scammer.doglost@gmail.com and Action Fraud <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

It is easy to be taken in by scams, whether in the form of someone coming to your door, emails, SMS messages, social media, advertisements purporting to be from the NHS, delivery companies, health products, supposed friends who need money from you. Friends against Spams has produced an online scam awareness course. See: <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/>

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

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

HRA Addresses:

HRA Admin: hracttee@gmail.com

HRA Chair: hrachair@gmail.com

HRA Planning: hra.oxford.planning@gmail.com

HRA Webmaster: hra.website@gmail.com

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

HRA Covid-19 Support Group: hra-covid19-support@googlegroups.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.