

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update Thursday 12 August 2021, our forty-first Update

Advance Warning.... Keep date for the HRA Late Summer Street Party: We will hold our first Street Party for two years on **Sunday 19th September, 2pm to 5pm on All Saints' Road** (closed to traffic). This is also Neighbours' Day so it is appropriate for our first get-together. There will be a Street Cafe with teas and cakes, street games and live music from local musicians Chris and Friends. More details shortly. We hope this will mark the resumption of our full programme of community events.

Thursday 12 August: This is the night on which the Perseid meteor shower is at its peak for the part of Earth we're standing on. Remember to make a wish as stars shoot across the sky: To be more accurate, what we hope to see will be debris from Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle as it enters the earth's atmosphere and disintegrates. Although Headington is not in the same league as the Kielder Observatory in Northumberland's remote Dark Sky Park, if we go outside between midnight and 4.00 in the morning to the darkest space we can find, and turn away from any artificial light, we might be able to catch sight of some shooting stars.

Advice: maybe take a siesta beforehand and when it is really dark, go out equipped with a comfortable chair and a flask, and adjourn to a dark place, prepared to sit it out! If 12 August is cloudy or wet, don't despair; although this is reckoned to be the night of peak activity, we stand a fair chance of good sightings until 23 August.

HRA Sunflower Competition 2021: Some promising specimens can be sighted in



Highfield's front gardens, but we suspect that many more are forging ahead in people's back gardens, hidden from view by houses, trees and tall fences. You are invited to send in photos of your champion sunflower(s) and the relevant dimensions: tallest sunflower, largest bloom, or plant with the most flower heads, or even the sunflower that adds most to the appeal of your garden.

Some sunflowers will be at their best weeks ahead of others; just take the photo(s) on whatever date best suits you and your



sunflower(s).

Entries please to: hracttee@gmail.com

Deadline for receipt of photos: Friday 1 October

Extension of deadline for free PCR testing for all adults in Oxford: Anyone aged 18 or over who lives or works in Oxford is invited to take a free Covid-19 PCR test. Oxford is an enhanced response area because cases are really high round here. This means Oxford has additional support for testing and vaccinations. It also means that people in Oxford should be cautious about non-essential travel.

Just walk in. You don't need to have symptoms to qualify for this test. No appointment is necessary at any of the five mobile PCR testing units, the nearest of which is in Headington car park, Old High St, alongside Waitrose. The unit is open 10am - 8pm, extended until Sunday 15 August.

Oxford Brookes testing centre is also open every day from 8am to 8pm, but you'll need to [book an appointment first](#).

Waste and Recycling: Message from Oxfordshire County Council: “We operate seven household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) across the county for residents to bring household waste to be disposed of and recycled. Fifteen per cent of waste in Oxfordshire is disposed of through these sites. We want to ensure that they continue to help you manage your waste in the most environmentally friendly way and would like to hear what you think about Oxfordshire’s HWRC service, if and how you currently use it and your opinions on some of the ideas we've had for the future. We'll use this information to help us plan the network of sites and how they are run going forward.”

Click here for: [Waste and Recycling questionnaire](#)

Or go to:

https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/lets-talk-waste-and-recycling-2021?tool=survey_tool#tool_tab

- Closing Date: 27 September

The rules of the road are changing in Britain, benefiting walkers and cyclists:

Pending parliamentary approval the Highway Code is being overhauled to sustain the increase in active travel seen during the pandemic. The proposed changes to the Highway Code in Great Britain will put pedestrians at the top of a new road user hierarchy, giving them priority over cars at junctions and crossings. The changes will also benefit cyclists, giving them priority over motor vehicles when travelling straight on at junctions.

Once approved, the revised code is due to come into effect in the autumn. It will apply in England, Wales and Scotland. Northern Ireland has its own version of the code.

Oxfordshire County Council Interactive Covid-19 Dashboard: See the facts at:

https://phdashboard.oxfordshire.gov.uk/?utm_source=YourOxfordshire&utm_campaign=41e26f4a48-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_02_26_11_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_206c6fb447-41e26f4a48-408038548

Headington News website: <http://www.headington.org.uk/news/items/coronavirus.html>

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

Useful contacts for people seeking information or help outside the HRA area:

Local data on Covid-19 <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/coronavirus-covid-19/controlling-local-coronavirus-outbreaks/stopping-spread>
Oxford Hub: <https://www.oxfordhub.org/>

The City Council provides a single point of contact for people to ask for help they may need as a result of Covid-19: oxford.gov.uk/CommunityAssistance or 01865 249 811 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Disclaimer: The information we give in each edition is, as far as we can tell, correct at the time of circulation but be aware that it can change.