

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update: Thursday 19 November 2020, our twenty-fourth Update

Reminder



HIGHFIELD LIGHT NIGHT: JOIN US TO LIGHT UP OUR STREETS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON AND BRING SOME SPARKLE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Be ready for the countdown and switch on at 6.00pm on Saturday 21st November

Buy some fairy lights and put them so they are visible from the road, either inside, in your hedge, on your gate, on bushes/ trees or in your front window – the more the merrier! Make a lantern or decoration. There are some brilliant ideas here: www.oxfordlightfest.com/get-involved

This will be a doorstep celebration so wrap up warm, have a hot drink and chat to neighbours over the wall. Buy lights locally or online. For information: Claire 07930 366 645; Patrick 07941 210 429

For help buying/putting up lights hracttee@gmail.com; <https://highfieldresidents.weebly.com/>

Further update about Bury Knowle Library: Headington library is among those not open for browsing, but with some facilities now available.

- Click & Collect: To use this free service, complete a form on the website <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraryclickandcollect> or phone 01865 897811 stating the sort of books you would like to read. Staff will pick up to six books that fit your preferences
- Pre-booked access to public computers: Sessions are 30 minutes maximum and must be booked via the website or by telephoning 01865 897811. Printing will be available.
- Reservations and reading group orders: these are available for collection during library hours.
- Return of books and other library loans: items can be returned during library hours, and out of hours via letterboxes (where available).
- Reminder: all existing loans have been automatically extended to January 2021.

Redbridge household waste centre closed till November 30: However, the site will remain open to trade customers, but will not accept asbestos during this time. Other sites will remain open as normal but may experience a higher number of visitors as a result.

Looking for a lockdown walk with a purpose? The Friends of Headington Hill Park like to plant a tree in National Tree Week at the end of November to add to the collection of trees in the Park. Usually it is an occasion for a short ceremony, which of course is not possible this year. However the good news is that the new tree, a Chinese Red Barked Birch, has been chosen, and planted. For a map of HHP Tree Trail and Guide go to:

<http://www.friendsofheadingtonhillpark.org.uk/index.php/trees/>

Looking for a project? Oxford's Botanic Garden has plans to celebrate its 400th anniversary in less than a year. As part of the celebrations, it plans to collect and grow over 400 trees from seed within and around Oxford. To achieve this goal it invites people to plant seeds to grow the following native trees: oak, field maple, hornbeam, and hazel. See https://www.obqa.ox.ac.uk/400-trees?utm_source=Ashmolean+Museum+Newsletter&utm_campaign=b5999a7214-&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_be53cee750-b5999a7214-19666587 For how to grow these trees, see: <https://www.obqa.ox.ac.uk/files/howtogrowatreeoxfordbotanicgardenandarboretumpdf>

Parking in Highfield: Residents are encouraged to check the street-side signs about restrictions before leaving their car; one resident was surprised to be given a parking ticket after parking in an area where the family had frequently parked in the past, displaying their residents' parking permit.

Road Safety Week, November 16-22: Brake (the road safety charity), together with the National Police Chiefs' Council, has organised Older Drivers Week, comprising three free webinars. These are aimed at older drivers, as well as their families and friends, with advice on how to drive safely for longer, recognising that during lockdown many people having not been using their car. All places were taken very soon after the event was announced, but it is possible to listen to the webinars, starting from the day after each was held (Nov 17, 19, 21). The webinars are run on Zoom, but it will not be necessary to have a Zoom account. You can access them on a computer, laptop or phone with internet. For titles and details see: <https://olderdriversforum.com/webinars/>

Warning about fake PayPal emails: Action Fraud is warning people selling items online to be on the lookout for criminals sending fake PayPal emails. Such emails trick sellers into believing they have received payment for the items they are selling, after which sellers will ship the item to the criminal, resulting in the seller having neither the payment nor the item. If you are selling items on an online marketplace, be aware of the warning signs that your buyer is a scammer. Scammers may have negative feedback history, or may have recently set up a new account to avoid getting poor feedback. Do not be persuaded into sending off anything until you can verify you've received the payment. Never click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to messages that ask for your personal or financial details. A genuine PayPal email will address you by your first and last name, or your business name, and will never ask you for your full password, bank account, or credit card details in a message.

Report on HRA's 47th AGM: (Piece held over from previous Update in order to make space for urgent items). When the AGM had to be cancelled from its traditional April slot, we were over-optimistic in thinking it could be held in All Saints' Church House in the autumn. The AGM for 2019-2020 was unusual in two ways: firstly, it was held by the video-conferencing system Zoom, and secondly, instead of covering the previous 12 months, on this occasion it covered 12 months that ended in April, 6 months ago, requiring a few mental gymnastics.

The Minutes of the 46th AGM were approved, and the Treasurer confirmed that the accounts had been inspected and signed off in April as an accurate record. Subscriptions are waived for the current year. The Chair summarised the year's activities up to April 2020, both those organised by the HRA Events team and those organised by other residents, thanking all concerned, and outlining the ways in which the various activities had strengthened the community spirit in Highfield, thereby fulfilling the aims of HRA in making Highfield a congenial place in which to live. It was also pointed out that the HRA Covid-19 Support Group remains in place for anyone who is ill, in quarantine or sheltering –member or non-member- living within the HRA boundaries, and needing assistance with a prescription, emergency shopping, dog-walking etc. Committee members had agreed to remain in office until at least the AGM in April 2021; the committee and the reps and others who have played a vital role in the organisation in 2019-20 were warmly thanked for their contribution to the community.

Headington News website:

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

HRA Addresses:

HRA Admin:

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HRA Chair:

hrachair@gmail.com

HRA Planning

hra.oxford.planning@gmail.com

HRA Webmaster

hra.website@gmail.com

HRA Website

<https://highfieldresidents.weebly.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 the extra help they may need as a result of Covid-19: [oxford.gov.uk/CommunityAssistance](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/CommunityAssistance) or 01865 249 811

Disclaimer: The information we give each week is, as far as we can tell, correct at the time of circulation but be aware that it can change. NB As previously mentioned, Update is being circulated less frequently, until it ceases all together.