

# HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update Wednesday 27 January 2021, our thirtieth Update

## Big Garden Birdwatch: 29th-31st January



Photo CFCW

See the drama unfold in your own garden, as you take part in the world's largest wildlife survey. Wonderful entertainment for free as we continue to stay at home. Spend one hour in your garden watching and counting the different birds you see. More details can be found on the RSPB website, including tips on attracting birds to your garden, and a chart to help you identify the birds you see there.

Information at: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

## Oxford Brookes University Public Lecture Series of Webinars: Open to all.

To book: [www.brookes.ac.uk/events](http://www.brookes.ac.uk/events)

January 27 at 6.00-7.00 p. m. **TONIGHT** Dominic Dyer in Conversation.

Dominic Dyer is one of Britain's leading wildlife protection campaigners, writers and broadcasters. Unlike many conservationists, he became a wildlife protection campaigner after a career in government and industry using the skills he acquired in Whitehall, Brussels and the corporate boardroom to fight for the protection of animals and nature. He is a regular speaker at wildlife protection protests, conferences and exhibitions and a contributor to the print and broadcast media on a wide range of issues ranging from the badger cull and trophy hunting, to the ivory trade and wildlife crime.

February 3 at 6.30-8.00 p. m. Can fashion and sustainability of the people and the planet go hand-in-hand or should we stop shopping altogether?

As the traditional fashion industry gets exposed for exploiting the basic human rights of people throughout their supply chain, and for causing a great deal of harm to the planet, a global movement is emerging calling for conscious fashion. Come and listen to our panel of Oxford Brookes Alumni discuss how they are helping change the face of the industry to make it fairer, more diverse and sustainable.

The panel will be chaired by Lucy Turner, Head of Quality Assurance and Validation at Oxford Brookes and former Art and Design Foundation Course Leader.

10 March at 6.00-7.00 p.m. Women in Innovation: Closing the Gender Gap. The Brookes Inclusion, Diversity and Gender Network is pleased to host the Athena Swan Annual Open Lecture. The Industrial Strategy has set an ambitious goal for the UK to become the most innovative economy in the world by 2030. However, research shows that there is a gender gap in the ecosystem that drives innovation.

Join Professor Simonetta Manfredi in conversation with Dr Fanya Ismail, winner of "Women in Innovation" award 2019 by Innovate UK. Dr Ismail is CEO and founder of SGMA, and will be sharing her experience of founding a successful research-based business, and reflecting on what can be done to close the gender gap in the innovation ecosystem.

**MOT test stations are open during this lockdown:** NB During this lockdown, contrary to the policy earlier in the pandemic, there is no extension to MOTs this time. If your MOT is due soon, make sure you book it in so that you can drive legally.

## Statements from Oxford University and Oxford Brookes:

**Oxford University states (22/01/21):** "The University recognises that the number of cases in Oxford are the highest they have been since the start of the pandemic, putting enormous strain on the health service. We have therefore taken the difficult decision that we expect teaching to take place online for the remainder of Hilary term for most students, other than those who have been

given specific permission to resume in-person teaching. In addition to those students currently receiving in-person teaching, some students on a small number of additional courses will be invited to return for in-person practical teaching to begin in Week 5 of Hilary term (14 – 20 February) where this is vital for them to complete the academic year.

We are advising all students that, unless permission to return has been agreed with their department or college, they must not travel back to Oxford. If Government restrictions are lifted, it may be possible for more students to return to residence in Oxford later this term. However, formal teaching is very likely to remain online for most students, unless there is a significant change in Government policy. At this stage, we anticipate that we will be able to welcome students back to Oxford next term and are currently exploring the options for teaching and wider student life.” (See HRA website for full statement)

**Oxford Brookes University states (26/01/21):** “25 January marks the start of Semester 2, with remote teaching for the majority of students. However, there are various previously announced exceptions to this and these specific courses will commence face-to-face learning as planned. The University will contact students on these courses to confirm arrangements. Students on these courses should book and take two rapid Covid-19 tests, three days apart, upon arrival. or self-isolate for 10 days before commencing face-to-face study.

**The Government has advised that all other students should remain where they are and start the semester online, studying from their current residence, where possible.** Brookes has written to all students to update them on this change.” (See HRA website for full statement)

**Reminder about Plans to re-develop the Co-op site on London Rd:** If you feel strongly about keeping the Co-op and Post Office, please sign the petition by February 6 and encourage others to do likewise. Petition to: Cantay Estates Ltd **Keep Our Post Office and Co-op Shop in Headington**



“We want to ensure that the Cantay Estates Ltd:

- Keep to their promise of providing a Post Office and Co-op Shop in Headington
- To ensure that the Post Office and Co-op Staff Jobs are safe
- That the Post Office and Co-op Shop are guaranteed to continue trade on a ‘long term lease.’”

For details see:

[https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/keep-our-post-office-and-co-op-shop-in-headington?share=299e1378-e6ff-4d31-b22f-106600ce2bfe&source=email-share-button&utm\\_medium=socialshare&utm\\_source=email](https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/keep-our-post-office-and-co-op-shop-in-headington?share=299e1378-e6ff-4d31-b22f-106600ce2bfe&source=email-share-button&utm_medium=socialshare&utm_source=email)

**For information on COVID-19 from each university:** <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/alerts/coronavirus/> and <https://www.ox.ac.uk/coronavirus>

**Headington News** website:

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

**HRA Addresses:**

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HRA Website:

<https://highfieldresidents.weebly.com>

HRA Covid-19 Support Group:

[hra-covid19-support@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](https://oxford.gov.uk/CommunityAssistance) or 01865 249 811 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**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.