

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update Wednesday 31 March 2021, our thirty-fifth Update

HRA GRAND EASTER EGG HUNT



Calling all Egg Hunters! Join in with this year's Grand Hunt this Easter weekend by placing a decorated egg or a picture of one in your front window or garden. It can be big or small, sparkly or plain - whatever you have time to do. Then join in from Sunday 4th April and see how many eggs you can spot on your daily exercise around Highfield.*

If eggs can be left on show till the end of the Easter holiday it will give us all a chance over the coming days to spot as many eggs as possible.

Please only go on a hunt in your bubbles, be mindful and stay COVID safe. Good luck hunting!

*NB: Highfield Residents' Association area covers Lime Walk to Finch Close/ Brookside, and Old Road from Finch Close to The Slade.

Warneford Lane 'bus gate' is on hold: Along with the Cowley Road 'bus gate' and the plan to ban right turns into Donnington Bridge Road from Abingdon Road, the Warneford Lane 'bus gate' is on hold. These works would have been funded by a government grant to encourage more people to use public transport, walk or cycle. The reason given for the delay? There being insufficient "time or budget within the... programme to undertake the necessary level of assessment and consultation" for the schemes to go ahead.

Household Waste Recycling Centres: Queues at some of Oxfordshire's seven Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) have increasingly become an issue over recent weekends despite the lockdown rules continuing to be in place which state that trips to an HWRC should only be made if 'essential'. Apparently, residents see visiting the sites as a good excuse to get out of the house. Easter weekend is normally a peak time for visits to the HWRCs, and with the schools on holiday, the lockdown restrictions not changing until 12th April, some residents still furloughed, and possibly better weather, it is felt necessary to introduce short-term measures to control the queues at certain sites, among them Redbridge.

The measures outlined below will be kept under review.

At Redbridge a queuing system will operate through the Park and Ride car park from 2nd -5th April and 9th -11th April

NB It will be necessary to vacate the Park and Ride car park before April 12th to allow for the anticipated influx of shoppers to the city centre when shops re-open.

Sunflower competition 2021: Following on from last year's sunflower competition, let's see if we can get planting and produce another great crop this year.

Reminder about HRA AGM by Zoom: Tuesday 27th April, 7.30- 8.45 (max), 'waiting room' open as of 7.15. Links will be emailed to members on Friday 23rd April and again on Tuesday 27th.

After approving the Notes of the postponed AGM for 2019-2020, held by Zoom on 3rd November 2020, the review of 2020-21 and the various reports, we shall hear from HRA member Dr Sarah Darby, who works at the Environmental Change Institute of the University of Oxford. Sarah will speak on: *'Are we nearly there yet? Getting to zero carbon emissions and a healthier planet at home and abroad.'* At the end of her talk Sarah has agreed to answer your questions. Be ready to ask Sarah to cast light on topics such as: energy use, local, national and international measures and of course COP26, being held in Glasgow in November.

Barton Leisure Centre: Plans are afoot to re-open the gym at Barton Leisure Centre on 19th April, subject to final government confirmation. The pool will re-open 'shortly after.' No reference as yet to the activity classes, although these are currently continuing online.

Tiny Forest in Dunstan Park: Earthwatch Europe's Tiny Forest initiative, has built on a technique developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki. A Tiny Forest is a dense native woodland area that helps to mitigate the effects of climate change, supporting wildlife and reconnecting people with nature. One of Oxford's first Tiny Forests was planted in January in collaboration with Oxford City Council between Headington and the ring road, on the corner of Foxwell Drive.

Further information at: <https://headingtonliveablestreets.ghost.io/tiny-forests/>

Wanting to de-clutter, but nowhere to store unwanted items? Help is at hand. While charity shops are still closed, you can still donate unwanted items, post-free. For example, to check what items the British Heart Foundation will accept, and to be sent a postage-free label, go to:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/shop/donating-goods/post-your-donations>

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

For information on COVID-19 from each of Oxford's universities:

<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

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 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.