

HRA Update, May/June 2023, our 64th edition



Have you been having a No Mow May? Did you give wild plants and wildlife a boost by allowing them room to breathe and grow this May? It's really easy. You can choose not to mow some or all of your green space – then just sit back and watch the flowers and grasses grow. Why not get the children or grandchildren involved? It's a great chance to get right down and explore the plants and bugs that will start to appear – a different mini-world in your own garden or community space.

Have your say about Broad Street: The survey is open for responses until 31st July. Go to: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/broad-street-consultation/>

Home Improvement Agency: This provides a support service to enable disabled and vulnerable people to live safely and independently in their own homes by providing advice, assistance and grants for home adaptations, repairs, heating, falls prevention, safety within the home and energy efficiency. For more information visit their website at <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/hia> or call them on Tel: 01865 252 788

Train Service Disruption and Update on the Nuneham Viaduct Repair Work: The latest travel advice is available at: <https://www.gwr.com/oxford-update>.

Road Closures on parts of the A34: This is due to repairs to the Wolvercote viaduct. *Southbound closures* between the Peartree and Botley Interchanges:

- Weekend – 9 p.m. Friday, June 2nd to 6 a.m. Monday, June 5th
- Overnight – 9 p.m. Tuesday, June 6th to 6 a.m. Wednesday, June 7th

Northbound closures between the Botley and Peartree Interchanges:

- Weekend – 9 p.m. Friday, June 9th to 6 a.m. Monday, June 12th
- Weekend – 9 p.m. Friday, June 16th to 6 a.m. Monday, June 19th
- Weekend – 9 p.m. Friday, June 23rd to 6 a.m. Monday, June 26th

It is said that a fully signed diversion will be in place via Eastern Bypass Road, A40 and A44 between the Peartree and Hinksey Hill Interchanges.

Cycle Safety: Warm days and light evenings make one keen to get on the bike. Are you up-to-date on the changes to the Highway Code? Is your bike mechanically sound? See: <https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk> and <https://www.365alive.co.uk/cms/content/cycle-safety>

Out-of-Hours Noise Service: Oxford City Council no longer provides an out-of-hours weekend noise service and will not attend night-time noise complaints. Incidents of noise nuisance can be reported to noise@oxford.gov.uk. Disorderly, drunken or rowdy behaviour in the street should be reported to Thames Valley Police. For all other noise complaints such as people noise, music, parties, dogs barking, noise from industrial premises, download [The Noise App](#) from the Apple or Android app store on your smartphone or tablet. This app is free to all residents, and your recording of the noise is sent directly to the City Council for investigation during office hours.

If you do not have a smart phone, you can report noise issues in the following ways:

- phone the Council during office hours on 01865 249 811
- email saferoxford@oxford.gov.uk describing the noise nuisance.

To report suspicious sightings etc. to the police:

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/soh/seen-or-heard/>

Dangers to pets: Most pet owners know that various human food items harm our pets, but did you know that due to toxins known as tremorgenic mycotoxins, mouldy food and plant material (including compost) can be dangerous for dogs and cats? Dogs that raid rubbish bins containing food waste are especially at risk of exposure to tremorgenic mycotoxins, and effects can last for several days. Common signs include vomiting, wobbliness, tremors, agitation and hyperactivity, a high body temperature and panting. In severe cases there may be seizures, and deaths have occurred in both cats and dogs. Prompt veterinary treatment is essential.

FixMyStreet: <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> is a really useful link if one wants to report local problems (e.g. graffiti, fly tipping, pot holes, broken paving slabs, or faulty street lighting). What's more, they send feedback on progress resolving the problem that you raised.

Oxford's Park and Rides Joint Bus and Parking Offer extended to end of September 2023: Passengers can continue to buy a combined ticket at a reduced price which covers both parking and return bus travel at a rate of £4 for a car with only one adult, or £5 for a car and two adults. With both options, up to three children under 16 can travel for free.

Temporary Collection Banks: Oxford Direct Services (ODS) and the British Heart Foundation have collaborated to install temporary collection banks across the city to raise money for heart research and help students and local residents reuse and recycle. These are located on the following street corners: Bulan Rd./ Peat Moors; Grays Rd./ Old Rd; Union Street/ Morrell Ave., and will be emptied by the British Heart Foundation on a regular basis. If you notice a problem with any of the banks, please contact ODS on: recyclingandwaste@odsgroup.co.uk

Loading Restrictions aim to make The Plain safer: Work, including amendments to road markings and traffic signs, installation of road studs, bollards and cycle stands was carried out at The Plain last November to improve safety for cyclists, after a cyclist had been killed there. Recently, restrictions on vehicles loading at The Plain have been approved. Cycling groups had expressed concerns about vehicles loading on or near The Plain and blocking cycle lanes, causing serious danger. A peak hour loading ban from 7 – 10 a.m. and 4.30 – 7 p.m. is being brought in to improve safety at the roundabout, particularly for the most vulnerable road users, such as cyclists and pedestrians.

Latest evening venue: Covered market extends its hours: Following overwhelmingly positive feedback in a 2022 consultation, Oxford City Council has announced a year-long trial of extended opening hours at Oxford's historic Covered Market. In February this year, the Council [approved an investment of £6.87m](#) to revitalise Oxford's historic Covered Market. The funding package aims to revitalise the market, provide larger seating areas inside, and a new dwell space outside in a new pedestrian-friendly Market Street. The regeneration will respect the unique character, heritage and history of the Covered Market, which first opened fully in 1774, while securing the long-term future of this prized Grade II-listed Council asset. Separately, [the City Council is already investing £3.1m in the Covered Market](#). This investment includes £1.8m for on-going work to secure the roof for another 60 to 80 years, and £1.3m for internal refurbishment and decorations.

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:

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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.