

HRA Update November 2023, our 68th edition

HRA Street Carol Singing – Saturday 9 December. NB Change of date! Do come and join Father Christmas and the rest of us in singing carols round the streets of Highfield. **Starts at 6 p.m. at community noticeboard in All Saints' Rd.** Refreshments afterwards in All Saints' Church. (NB This event was erroneously announced as 15 December.

Other local events that may also be of interest

Sunday 26 November, 6 p.m., Advent Carols in All Saints' Church. Free, followed by refreshments.

Friday 1 December, 7:30 p.m., Headington Singers Concert of Christmas and Winter Music in All Saints' Church. Tickets on the door £12 (£10 concessions, children free).

Saturday 16 December 7 p.m., Oxford Brookes University and Community Choir and Orchestra Christmas Concert in All Saints' Church. (Free and no tickets are required).

Sunday 17 December, 6 p.m., Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, All Saints' Highfield and Holy Trinity Headington Quarry combined at All Saints'. (Free, followed by refreshments).



Headington Action
Working together for Headington

Light in the darkness: Let's light up Headington's residential streets



We need the warmth of light and the brightness of hope in winter's dark days. We urge you to bring light to your neighbours by lighting your windows, front gardens and street trees. **To encourage you, a free set of lights (batteries included) can be obtained from haconcommunities@gmail.com** (subject to availability and if you did not have them last year).

Several major faiths have festivals of light between Nov. 12 (Diwali) and Jan. 7 (Orthodox Christmas) including Christmas and Hanukkah, and there are the secular Christmas traditions too. Celebrate by keeping your lights twinkling through November, December and early January.

Shine lights for peace.

December 2, from 4.15. The Christmas Tree (sponsored by Finders Keepers) will be switched on. There will be music and food!!!

December 23, Christmas-themed market. Pick up your pre-ordered food or buy treats on the day. For more details see www.headingtonaction.org

Priority Services Register (PSR): This is a free UK-wide service which provides extra advice and support, including when there's an interruption to your electricity, gas or water supply. Among those eligible to join are households with a child under 5, persons of pensionable age, and those with certain conditions. To see if you are eligible to join, and to join go to: <https://www.thepsr.co.uk/>

Warning from Thames Water: Having contended last week with a major episode (the Old Rd. burst main and its aftermath), Thames Water will be working from Mon. 27 until Fri. 1 December. from 8.00-18.00. In addition, there will be night work (Mon. 27 from 22.00 till Tues 28 at 01.00. Lime Walk will be closed at the junction with Old Rd for the duration of the works. A diversion will be put in place for through traffic, and 3-way lights, to include Churchill Drive, will be set up on Old Rd. The bus stop opposite the Lime Walk junction will be suspended.

Public Consultation on proposed development of Plot B2 on the Old Rd. Campus on Tues. Dec. 5, 4.00-7.00 p.m., in the Atrium of the Green Building on the Old Rd Campus. This proposed development is in addition to that of Plot B1, Institute for Global Health (ground currently being levelled), also the Clinical BioManufacturing Facility on Roosevelt Drive and the proposal to build on the Warneford site. All welcome to attend and fill in the questionnaire.

Oxfordshire as a place to live: We are invited to express our views about Oxfordshire as a place to live, work, visit and do business now, and also to send in our ideas about what opportunities there may be for Oxfordshire in the next 10 years. Closing Date: 31 December 2023. Go to: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-place-narrative>

HRA Film Group: HRA community cinema is thriving! We show a film in All Saints' Church House every few months to relatively large audiences. It's all very convivial with refreshments and chat before/after and a range of quality films. To put the cinema evenings on a more secure footing we need some volunteers to join our HRA Film Group. This involves selecting a programme of films, booking the hall, arranging publicity, organising refreshments, setting up the hall with our sound system and projector on the night, managing the refreshments, collecting the entry fee and helping to clear up afterwards. Sharing the tasks means no one has too much to do. If you'd like to join us please contact Patrick Coulter at patco@supanet.com / 07941 210 429

Rail Strike: ASLEF (train drivers' union) has announced further strikes at the start of December, as part of a rolling programme of strikes across operators. This is separate from negotiations with the RMT union (on-board and station staff) where members are currently voting on a proposed pay deal.

ASLEF members will be **on strike at GWR and Cross Country on Thurs. 7 December**, when many parts of these networks will have no service whatsoever, and any services that do run will start late and finish earlier than usual. Anyone planning to travel should check before doing so at www.gwr.com/check There may also be alterations to services on the evening of **Weds. 6 Dec. and the morning of Fri. 8 December**. For full information see: www.gwr.com/strike

ASLEF has also announced action short of a strike from Fri.1 to Sat. 9 December.

Additionally, there may be short notice alterations and cancellations because this industrial action will mean there is a very limited number of spare drivers.

Royal Mail last posting dates:

UK last posting dates:



Royal Mail 2nd class and Signed for 2nd class: Mon.18 Dec.

Royal Mail 1st class and Signed for 1st class: Weds. 20 Dec.

Royal Mail International: Australia, New Zealand: Weds. 6 Dec.

Canada, Spain, US: Mon. 11 Dec.

France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland- Weds. 13 Dec.

Zero Emission Zone discount applications: Blue Badge holders are exempt from the restrictions in place in the Zero Emission Zone in Oxford's city centre. Applications must be made at least 10 days before first use, via the following link: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/oxford-zero-emission-zone-zez/apply-zez-discount>

Parking for Blue Badge Holders: Blue Badge holders can park on-street in Oxford in the following locations free of charge:

- in disabled bays for an unlimited time
- on single/double yellow lines (providing a loading/unloading ban is not in force) for up to three hours. Please ensure your clock is displayed
- in time-restricted bays/permit bays for an unlimited time
- in on-street Pay & Display bays for an unlimited time

Trading Standards: Staff will only respond to calls from businesses, schools and enforcement agencies. Other enquiries should be directed to the Citizens' Advice Bureau National Consumer helpline 0808 223 1133 or via its website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Keeping safe online: To maintain privacy and keep personal data safe online, we are encouraged to remove any apps not in regular use, especially social media and shopping apps. Apps can continue to track us even when we're not using them. The fewer our apps, the safer our data are.

E-scooters, what NOT to give your children: A crackdown on privately-owned e-scooters is coming. Parents could be fined £300 and given 6 points on their licence for allowing their children to use privately-owned e-scooters. Thames Valley Police say: "We are going to be moving to confiscating privately-owned e-scooters", which are effectively illegal to use in public places. Just as with cars, the driver/rider needs to have a licence, insurance and tax to ride on one on Britain's roads, and they're not allowed on the pavement. Thames Valley Police say that as it's not currently possible to get insurance for privately-owned e-scooters, "it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces". Parents of children caught using e-scooters could be charged as it is illegal to "cause or permit" another person to drive on the road without insurance. Thames Valley Police say: "You can't ride on them on the road or on the pavement unless it's part of a council-accredited scheme, and you would need a driving licence, insurance and a helmet – and you can't get insurance for an e-scooter."

Trauma Audit and Research Network: Data have been used to assess differences between the pattern of injuries to cyclists and e-scooter riders, finding a greater number of head injuries following a fall from an e-scooter. There is, however, a clear pattern of human and technical factors involved in e-scooter accidents, namely: male riders; intoxication; late evening; more than one person riding; private rather than hired e-scooter, no speed limiter; small wheels; low kickboard.

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 <https://stopscamsuk.org.uk/159>

If you think someone is trying to trick you into handing over money or personal details - stop, hang up and call 159 to speak directly to your bank.

Headington News website: <https://www.headington.org.uk/news/today.htm>

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>

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.