

# HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update: Thursday 3 September 2020, our seventeenth Update

**Free Electric Blanket Checks in Oxfordshire:** Is your electric blanket safe? Why not take advantage of this free check?

**FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECKS IN OXFORDSHIRE**  
Make sure your blanket is safe to use this winter.

**FREE**

**Things change**  
- but your safety is most important to us.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we will test your blanket, but you will not be able to visit the test venue.

We will collect your blanket from your house, take it to be tested and then return it to your house (we will post you a plastic bag and label prior to our collection).

**Testing in Oxfordshire in OCTOBER 2020**  
**Monday 5 – Friday 9 and**  
**Monday 19 – Friday 23**

**BOOKING INFORMATION:**  
To book your collection call **01865 895999 Option 1**  
Or email: [communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## What's happened to our Number 4 bus? or When is a 4 not a 4, but a 15?

Since 30 August the city 4 service has been split in the City Centre with an improved **city15** service operating every 12-15 minutes on Mondays to Fridays, and every 20 minutes on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays between Wood Farm and the City Centre (west-bound ending at Speedwell St: east-bound starting from Oxford Police Station). It still makes its detour along Churchill Drive and Roosevelt Drive.

A 15-minute city4 service is provided on Mondays to Fridays on the Botley Road. Buses operate every 30 minutes to Elms Rise and every 30 minutes to Cumnor, extended hourly to Abingdon. On Saturdays and Sundays the service operates every 20 minutes along the Botley Road, with two buses per hour to Elms Rise and an hourly service to Cumnor and Abingdon. A special 4C timetable serving Dean Court operates on Mondays to Fridays only.

See: [https://assets.goaheadbus.com/media/cms\\_page\\_media/8103/200830\\_city15 - COVID-19 Coronavirus Timetable.pdf](https://assets.goaheadbus.com/media/cms_page_media/8103/200830_city15_-_COVID-19_Coronavirus_Timetable.pdf)

Or Tel.01865 785400 (Mon-Fri 9.00-17.00)

## Proposed bus gate on Warneford Lane: (repeat of information given in Update of 21 August)

If you have views about the advisability of creating a bus gate on Warneford Lane, you are advised to write, giving the subject line *Bus Gates*, to [yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:yvonne.constance@oxfordshire.gov.uk) copying your email to [roz.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:roz.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**MOT Tests:** During the early part of the pandemic, deadlines for MOT tests due between 30 March and 31 July were extended by 6 months. That means that in the next few weeks annual MOT tests that were postponed in the spring must now be carried out in addition to those MOT tests that would normally fall due in the autumn. Repairer Kwik Fit estimates a huge 11.3 million tests are therefore needed in the next 3 months.



That has prompted the Government to urge motorists to book their MOT test ASAP if it is upcoming as test centres will be fully booked. Check when your MOT is due. Driving without a valid MOT incurs a fine of up to £1,000.

**Nature on HRA website:** If you are missing the birdsong that we enjoyed earlier in the year, listen to birdsong recordings made available to HRA by local ethno ornithologist Andy Gosler, guest speaker at the HRA AGM in 2016. <https://ewatlas.net/digital-heritage/learn-some-oxford-birds-while-lockdown> This link will give access to both 'Thirty-one birds round Oxford by sight and sound' and 'Oxfordshire's Lost Voices' - birds that are now rare or extinct in Oxfordshire. And for a stunning collection of wildlife photographed in Headington by HRA member Tom Bedford, see: <https://highfieldresidents.weebly.com/wildlife-photographs.html>

**COVID-19 update:** Data available at 10.00 a.m. on 3 September for the 7 days up to 28 August show a total of 69 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire, this is a decrease from the 89 cases in the previous week. The majority of cases in the county continue to be in Oxford itself, and are predominantly among young people (aged 18-29). Of the 89 confirmed cases the previous week, 47 were in Oxford. This had taken the weekly rate for Oxford to 30.8 per 100,000, moving close to parts of the country labelled by the central government as areas of concern.

**Brookes University and Covid-19:** An official Covid-19 statement from Brookes will be posted on the HRA website once it becomes available. Preliminary information in notes taken at the Brookes Residents' Liaison Committee meeting on 2 September informs us of the following.

- Anyone wishing to go on the campus who is not a member of the Brookes community will require an invitation. We understand that residents who are Studental patients should check for information.
- A large percentage of staff will work from home until 4 January 2021.
- Brookes accommodation will be open, with a reduced level of catering.
- Arrival times at halls of residence will be staggered.
- All students must sign up to a Behaviour Expectations document, which includes being mindful of the local community. Infractions will be subject to appropriate penalties.
- Any issues regarding student behaviour can be reported to [community@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:community@brookes.ac.uk)
- There will be a Covid-19 testing station in Brookes Restaurant.
- Events, such as the Public Lecture Series will be run on a virtual basis.

**Headington News** website: <http://www.headington.org.uk/news/items/coronavirus.html>

**HRA Addresses:** Chair: [hrachair@gmail.com](mailto:hrachair@gmail.com)  
Admin: [hracttee@gmail.com](mailto:hracttee@gmail.com)  
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 help outside the HRA area:**

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://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, with the easing of lockdown Update is being circulated less frequently, until it ceases all together. This may turn out to be our last edition, depending on developments in the next week or so.