

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update: Thursday 6 August 2020, our fifteenth Update

All Saints' Church: The church's opening times are Sunday 12-4 and Thursday 10-4. There is hand sanitiser at the door and arrangements are made for social distancing.

Bury Knowle Library is now open! With a few exceptions everyone is expected to wear a face covering when in an enclosed space; this includes libraries. All items returned to Oxfordshire libraries are being quarantined for at least 72 hours to protect both library staff and customers. Items will remain on your account for at least three days before being processed. During this time they won't become subject to fines and you can still borrow new items.

Due dates have been extended for all items taken out before the lockdown and due back between 19 March and 16 August; these items will not be due back before October, and no overdue charges will apply to these items during this period. However, items borrowed on or after Monday 27 July must be returned or renewed by their due date, to avoid incurring charges.

Opening hours: Monday, Wednesday 9.15-1.00; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9.15-5.00; Saturday 9.15-4.30; Sunday closed.

Ashmolean Museum: Opens Monday 10 August.

Playhouse Box Office: Closed till Tuesday 1 September.

Fraudsters use Scams: Although courier fraud has not increased during lockdown, it is ongoing, and although anyone can be targeted by the fraudster, the majority of those targeted are aged over 70. Residents are asked to be wary of calls received out of the blue. The police and other reputable organisations will never ask you to move money to a safe account, ask you to reveal your banking PIN or full password or send anyone to your house to collect cards, cash or jewellery. If you think you have fallen victim to a scam, contact your bank immediately (on a different phone from the one on which you received the fraudster's call), and make a report to Action Fraud online or by calling 0300 123 2040."

Thinking of taking a dip? Every 20 hours one person in the UK dies from drowning. It is also the third highest cause of accidental death of children in the UK. For water safety advice from the Fire Service, see: https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/water-safety-advice-issued-to-oxfordshire-residents-by-fire-crews/?utm_source=YourOxfordshire&utm_campaign=d58502c48a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_07_20_08_36&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_206c6fb447-d58502c48a-408038548

Stop the Spread: The number of coronavirus cases in Oxfordshire is rising, especially in eastern parts of Oxford city. We are reminded that it is up to each of us to stop the virus spreading; we are urged to act now to protect ourselves and others by continuing to wash hands regularly, avoid busy gatherings, maintain social distancing, and wear a face covering where required. If we have any coronavirus symptoms, we need to self-isolate immediately and call 119 to book a test. For more information see: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/stophespread

Message from Oxford University, dated 30 July: See below for information received by HRA from Oxford University outlining its coronavirus-related health and safety measures being put in place to help protect students, staff and the wider community. We understand that Oxford Brookes University will soon be releasing similar information.

Covid-19 response – University of Oxford plans for Michaelmas Term 2020

I am writing to the Highfield Residents' Association about the University of Oxford's plans for the start of the next academic year in October 2020 and the impact on the local community of the return of Oxford's student population.

The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that significant changes to the University's operations are required. We are acutely aware of the need to keep Oxford's residents, businesses and community organisations, as well as the local authorities, fully informed as our plans progress. Preparing for the next academic year is a

complex task and there are a number of details still under consideration. We would like to take this opportunity to set out what we have been doing and update you on the status of our plans.

We appreciate that some people will have concerns about the potential risk of infection from students arriving in Oxford, particularly those moving into private accommodation in residential areas. Please be reassured that the University's first priority is the welfare of our students, staff and our neighbours across the city. It is essential that our students, and indeed all of us, act responsibly and follow the Government's guidance on social distancing and good hygiene.

The University is putting in place extensive health and safety measures in our buildings and facilities, including in student accommodation. Cleaning regimes will be significantly enhanced, with regular cleaning of contact points such as door handles, banisters and bathrooms. Additional facilities will be in place for everyone to maintain good hygiene such as through regular hand washing with soap and water or hand sanitiser. Buildings and spaces open to the public are being adapted to ensure social distancing and appropriate ventilation. These measures have been designed in accordance with Government guidelines and with input from an expert advisory group made up of the University's clinical academics.

The most important of the new health and safety measures is the creation of a dedicated coronavirus testing service, which will be open to all our staff and students. This service will enable us to detect any new cases of Covid-19 early and react quickly to halt further transmission. It is also intended to help reduce any additional burdens on the local NHS services upon which the whole city relies. One testing centre will be based in central Oxford and the other in Headington.

On accommodation, our aim is to house the majority of students in college and University accommodation. In this accommodation, we are planning for the grouping of students into 'households' where they share high-contact facilities such as bathrooms or kitchens. They will be supported by their college welfare services if required to self-isolate.

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Further detail:

Those living in private accommodation and needing to self-isolate will be required to do so at that accommodation and receive welfare support where appropriate.

In addition to this, we are pleased to confirm that we are developing a set of guidelines or 'charter' for our students, outlining behaviours expected of them in order to protect themselves and others, and what they can expect from the University. The content of this charter needs to be given careful thought if it is to be effective; we are working closely with student representatives and colleagues across the University and colleges to ensure these guidelines are reasonable and that students comply with them.

Other aspects of student life are still under review. We are looking into the possibility of reopening college bars, dining halls and common rooms, as we aim to offer as full a social experience as possible for our students. However, services will only be allowed to reopen in line with Government guidance and health advice.

We hope that the measures set out here go some way to address any worries you may have about our plans for the coming academic year. Should you have concerns about potential breaches of Government guidelines by our students, or if there are any other matters you would like to raise with us, please contact our community relations team at local.community@admin.ox.ac.uk They will be able to take these issues forward with the relevant University or college colleagues.

As more of the detail is agreed we promise to keep you and our other community partners up to date on developments. You can also check our new Covid-19 response website, which will be updated on a regular basis: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/coronavirus>

On behalf of the University, I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we finalise our plans for October. We know that our students will endeavour to be good neighbours during their time at Oxford.

Yours sincerely,

Laurence Garfield, Government and Community Relations Officer, University of Oxford

Headington News website:

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

HRA Committee: Chair:

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Admin:

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HRA website:

<https://highfieldresidents.weebly.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 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.