

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Weekly update: Thursday 23rd April 2020

Here is our fourth update. If you have a Highfield neighbour not on email, it would be a great kindness if you could print a copy of this update and put it through their letterbox.

Today: Clap for Carers. The weekly key workers' tribute is at 8 pm each Thursday, so let's again be on our doorsteps/at our windows this evening to show our appreciation.

Sewing to save Lives: May Wylie, HRA Old Road member, has been putting her time and talents to incredibly good use. When hopes of making gowns for PPE were dashed by non-availability of the requisite fabric, undeterred she set about making laundry bags in which gowns could be washed and re-used. In a mere 1½ days she produced a stunning total of 40 bags. 'Sewing was the easy part', says May modestly. 'I had to improvise drawstrings from curtain rufflette tape, and everything had to be boiled and ironed once finished.' A round of applause, please!



Any-Time Litter-picks: If you are thinking of doing a bit of litterpicking, our attention is drawn to the new entry on the OxClean website that its support for this scheme is temporarily suspended. <https://www.oxclean.org.uk/anytime-litter-picks/>

Waterperry Gardens, currently closed to visitors, is now offering a limited local delivery service from their garden shop. The shop manager is there to take orders Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri on 01844 339226. Further details <https://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk/>

Rectory Farm Shop is open Tues – Sun, with plenty of fresh veg (including asparagus), dairy, bread, eggs and meat. Click-and-collect orders can be made Tues – Sun. Further details <https://www.rectoryfarmpyo.co.uk/>

Planning Decisions in Oxford: you may have seen press reports that Oxford City Council has delegated planning decisions to officers during the crisis. However we understand that it hopes to have online Council meetings set up very shortly when it will resume its normal decision-making process.

Is your hair getting you down? See MSE's hair-cutting tips <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/team-blog/2020/04/diy-haircut-tips/>

The Rowan tree HRA members planted last November at the lower end of Stapleton Road is establishing well and putting on growth. Do have a look at it whilst it is in flower. Our thanks to the team of volunteers who are keeping not only this tree well watered, but also the Whitebeam at the top end of the road. This is in addition to the planter boxes in Lime Walk that require weekly watering.



Brown wheelies: good news for gardeners as the City Council confirmed yesterday that brown bin collections will resume on Tuesday 28th April and will be synchronised with green bin collections. As five brown bin collections have been missed, the Council will add on five collections for subscribed households.

The binmen are doing a great job despite operating with reduced staff. Let's help them by putting bins out at the right time and making sure the food caddy handle is down to ensure it locks, thereby stopping foxes and squirrels helping themselves to the contents and scattering them over the pavement in the process.

May Morning (1st May) at 8 am members of our local community band, Horns of Plenty, will play "Somewhere over the Rainbow" from different locations all over the city, including from here in Highfield. We hope you will all lean out of a window or stand by the door and join in singing, playing, humming. Further details, including words and sheet music:

<https://www.hornsofplenty.co.uk/event/may-morning-4/>

Telephone scammers, ever-inventive, continue to devise new ways of catching us unawares. Beware of the following recorded phone messages:

- *"The UK Government plans to make the wearing of masks mandatory. To avoid disappointment, order your masks now by pressing 1 on your keypad"*
- *"As of August you will require a TV licence. Press 5 now to set up your direct debit payment"*.

Essential Support Directory: the City Council has launched an online Essential Support Directory to help residents deal with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on their lives. The Directory is at **<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/essentialsupport>** and has been put together to guide residents to financial and other support they might need if they have been affected by the national lockdown. It includes links to subjects including benefits, debt, money-saving tips, housing advice and mental health support.

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

HRA Committee:

Chair:

hrachair@gmail.com

Admin:

hracttee@gmail.com

HRA website:

<https://highfieldresidents.weebly.com/>

HRA Covid-19 support group:

hra-covid19-support@googlegroups.com