

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update: Thursday 7th May 2020

This is our sixth weekly update, and with it the customary reminder that today being Thursday, tonight we have our next key workers' tribute at 8 p.m. Let's be there on our doorsteps/ at our windows/ in the front garden/ on the pavement to clap, ring bells or play an instrument to show our gratitude.

Local wildlife:



Appreciation is also to be shown to our local wildlife photographer for these delightful photographs.



Left: Orange-tip Butterfly on a Bluebell, taken in the Boundary Brook Wildlife Corridor off Old Road.
Right: A Goldcrest, Britain's smallest bird, taken on Warneford Meadow.

Problem with slugs? Here's a tip from one of our HRA members: "Slugs and snails love new succulent leaves but hate going over coffee grinds, so sprinkle some dried used coffee grinds around your plants when you put seedlings out or when your plants start sending out new leaves. Marigolds are a special favourite for slugs which have decimated my new plants for years, but last year I put spent coffee grounds around the base of each plant and the flowers survived and gave a beautiful display. Not only is coffee a deterrent, but it will also feed the soil ready for next year. I'm not sure whether the remaining caffeine stimulates growth."

From slugs to scrubs: HRA committee decided to make a donation of £50 to Janie Hampton's Crowd Funding for Scrubs for NHS Oxford. As mentioned in last week's edition, Janie and her group of 50 volunteers have sourced wholesale fabric –100% cotton, comfortable, long-lasting, and washable at high temperatures, and are sewing to meet the desperate shortage of surgical scrubs in places where they don't normally need them. e.g. GP surgeries, hospices, etc. The initiative has reached over £7000 towards the raised target of £10,000.

VE Day Celebrations, tomorrow, 8th May: 11 a.m. 2 minutes silence for a national moment of remembrance. For the full programme of events, see:

<https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/1417/oxford-residents-encouraged-to-mark-the-75th-anniversary-of-ve-day-from-home/>

Oxford Bus Company has revised its timetables and introduced some new measures for Covid-19. It has raised the ceiling on contactless payment to £45 to minimise the use of cash on all its buses and enabled on-bus key top-ups for all 1-week, 4-week, 12-trip passes and 5-day products. NB The Thornhill P&R service is still running, but the 300 and 500 services are suspended. On Friday 8 May services will run to a Sunday time-table and there will be no Pick-me-Up service. For full details, see: <https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/covid-19/> Tel Mon-Fri 9-5 (except May 8) 01865 785 400

Words from a front-line doctor, now recovered from Covid-19: “We are all longing to see the easing of Covid-19 restrictions. However, as a front-line doctor who has seen how seriously ill even healthy young adults can become, and who has suffered from this very unpleasant, dangerous and debilitating virus myself, I would beg you please to be cautious at this critical time. Having got so far, we really must all do our utmost to prevent the almost-inevitable second surge.”

Aquafaba: What’s this? Hello in Arabic? No! Even more useful than that, if you are out of eggs! Aquafaba is the liquid in a can of chick peas, and among other things, makes fabulous meringues, so pavlova may be on your menu! All I would add to the following link is that there is no need to pipe your meringues, and that once the oven is turned off, leaving the meringues in the oven for a few hours or overnight helps prevent them going gooey. See <https://lovingitvegan.com/vegan-meringue/>

Closure of Barclays in Headington: Customers of Barclays and Lloyds can pay cheques in at the Post Office in the London Rd Co-op without paying fees. Take your cheque and your pre-printed paying-in slip to the Post Office. Put them into the envelope which you will be given for your bank. This will go into the clearing system; clearing will take a day longer than when paying in at you bank
Tip 1. Ask the clerk for one of your bank’s envelopes to speed up the process on a subsequent visit.
Tip 2. Cash machines are still available at Santander, NatWest, HSBC and the Shell petrol station.

Safer exercise: When taking your daily exercise, as you round a street corner how often do you fear being mown down by a runner or speedy cyclist? Worrying enough at any time, but all the more so when Covid-19 particles may be flying through the air. Since most people stick to the inside of a corner, for your safety try taking the outside of the pavement.

At last... where to forward scam emails. Send them to report@phishing.gov.uk, and the National Cyber Security Centre (part of GCHQ) will analyse, and possibly remove the culprit sites.

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/>

For people seeking help outside the HRA area contact either:

Oxford Hub: <https://www.oxfordhub.org/>

Or 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: www.oxford.gov.uk/CommunityAssistance or 01865 249 811

Disclaimer: the information we give each week, as far as we can tell, is correct at the time of circulation but be aware that it can change.