

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update: Thursday 4 June 2020

Thursday has come round again, and with it our tenth update.

Lime Walk Planters: Ever wondered how come the Lime Walk planter boxes look so good? Prime movers and shakers in the HRA Garden Group, Gill and Phil, were spotted hard at work this week. All the summer bedding plants that they put in: cosmos, marigold, French marigold, rudbeckia, ornamental grass, were grown from seed on their windowsills. Not only does the Garden Group organise the planting, weeding and dead-heading, but they and nearby residents have a rota for watering the planter boxes. We are greatly indebted to them.



Headington Farmers' Market: As stated last week, the date of re-opening remains unclear, pending careful consideration of social distancing. Meanwhile, the online market is providing a good alternative. See: <https://www.headingtonaction.org/headington-market.html>

Gloucester Green Market: This will re-open on Wednesday 17 June.

Old Road Campus Construction Work: Those of you living closest to the eastern end of the Old Rd Campus will have seen and heard that construction work is progressing apace. The construction phase of The Institute of Developmental and Regenerative Medicine (IDRM) is expected to last 18 months. The following information was received today:

“On the 8th to 10th June there is a planned concrete pour for the new development on the Old Road Campus. There will be increased construction traffic over this period. On the weekend of the 13th and 14th June the tower crane will be arriving on site. The traffic route is not to use Churchill Drive, but to pass the Warneford Hospital and enter the Old Road Campus from Roosevelt Drive. There are agreed holding locations on the ring road should any delay be caused on site”.

Any queries should be addressed to eveline.james@admin.ox.ac.uk

Zooming without tears: Zoom has been a great boon for many of us during lockdown, yet we sometimes put ourselves and others in danger. To reduce the risk of being ‘bombed (interruptions and intrusions, sometimes with pornographic material) we are advised as follows:

Tips for hosting a meeting:

- Don't announce Zoom meetings on social media or other public outlets
- Use the Waiting Room option to screen participants and admit them manually
- Require a password for participants to enter your meetings
- Don't use the personal meeting ID; allow Zoom to generate a random ID for each meeting
- During the meeting watch the list of meeting participants in the Zoom window and remove unauthorized users

Tips for attending a meeting:

- If joining a Zoom meeting on a computer (as opposed to a mobile 'phone), enter via your browser. This avoids anyone exploiting bugs in the Zoom app to steal personal information or take over your computer.
- Be wary of clicking on email links to a meeting. If in any doubt about the invitation or the sender, copy the ID (a number sequence) from the invitation, and enter it in the Zoom browser window or application to join.
- Be careful what you say, or what participants can see, in a Zoom meeting. Depending on the participants, you could be virtually letting strangers into your home.

Recording Daily Activity and Energy Use as Lockdown Develops: Managing energy demand is one of the research projects at the Environmental Change Institute (University of Oxford), and more volunteers are invited to record their daily activity and energy use over a 24-hour period as Lockdown develops.

How it works: *“Any activities you record now using the [JoyMeter](#) app will contribute to an increasingly valuable body of data. There is no minimum or maximum number of activities we ask you to record. Picking a specific day on which to aim for 25 activities is a good ambition, but this is entirely voluntary. Any of your friends, family and neighbours who want to take part are also most welcome. The more people take part, the more we learn. And everyone has a chance to win a year’s free electricity. Please join the Oxford Lockdown study to help us understand the impact on activities and energy use.”*

For their blog see: <https://www.joymeter.uk/news.php>

If interested in taking part, please go to: <https://www.JoyMeter.uk>

Scrubs for Oxford NHS: As reported in the HRA Update of 30 April, Janie Hampton of Cowley was crowd-funding to buy fabric to make scrubs. Thanks to 218 donors (among them HRA who made a small contribution) and 72 amazing sewing volunteers, by 1 June they had made an amazing 557 scrub sets for hospices, care homes, a prison, GPs and community nurses.



Bonfires: There is no law against bonfires, but apart from the risk of setting fire to hedges and fences in this dry weather, we are warned that it is an offence if the smoke, or the smell of the smoke, causes a nuisance. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA), a statutory nuisance includes “Smoke, fumes or gases emitted from premises so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance” and “In practice a fire should not substantially interfere with a neighbour’s well-being, comfort or enjoyment of their property”. We are asked to be mindful of this, particularly in warm weather when windows are open and washing may be on the line. Preferably compost garden waste, take it to the tip or use a brown wheely bin. Items that must not be burned on a bonfire include: industrial and domestic waste, rubber tyres, plastics, anything with foam or paint, or which emits dark smoke.

For guidance see: https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20216/air_quality_management/214/bonfires

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/>

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: <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/communityassistance> or 01865 249811

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 With the easing of lockdown, Update is likely to be circulated less frequently, until it ceases all together.