

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update: Thursday 14th May 2020

This is our seventh 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.

Lockdown and car use: If your car has lain idle during lockdown, you may be wondering whether car ownership is really essential, or if you have two cars, would one suffice? In either case, might the Co-wheels car club be a practical step for you? Although some Co-wheels cars have been withdrawn, we are blessed with having a Co-wheels car in All Saints' Rd, and others further afield, including Sandfield Rd, St Leonard's Rd and the Coach House car park in Quarry Rd. What's more, there is a time-limited special offer in Oxford: the £25 lifetime membership fee has been cut to £1, there is no monthly fee - normally £5 a month - and each new member receives £25 driving credit. That amounts to benefits worth £110! Promotion code OXFORD 110.

<https://www.co-wheels.org.uk/>



Sunflower-growing competition: Bateman Street, Norton Close and Gardiner Street are all planting sunflower seeds, hoping that later in the summer the rewards of their labours will be visible, with everyone secretly hoping their sunflowers will be tallest. We are invited to join in. There are two good sources of seeds locally: Headington Homewares (Windmill Rd), or online from

The Garden.: <https://www.thegardenoxford.co.uk/>

Local birdsong and help in identifying it:

Improved air quality and reduced traffic noise have resulted in our increasing awareness of birdsong, but how good are we at identifying the typical song of the birds living in our gardens and nearby open spaces? A local ethno-ornithologist has created just such a website. NB The website is so popular that the link may not respond immediately, but your patience will pay off, particularly if you access it at non-peak times. I am reliably informed that funding has been sought to speed up access. <https://ewatlas.net/digital-heritage/learn-some-oxford-birds-while-lockdown>



Funding opportunities: Oxford City Council is looking at all the current funding opportunities and putting the details on their website. The list is truly comprehensive, with way over 100 funding and finance opportunities for organisations, community groups and charities involved in: supporting sport-based services addressing local need; working on meeting the needs of those experiencing homelessness; tackling childhood obesity; community groups addressing the needs of the over-70s; grants to charities supporting migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, criminal justice, penal reform; organisations with a focus on sport, physical and outdoor activities; groups promoting the arts including music, theatre and museums; entrepreneurs and small businesses; teaching; charities working on home improvements for the elderly/ disabled/ vulnerable.

The link is here: https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20044/grants/284/external_funding_opportunities

Walks on the Oxford Golf Club course: Residents who during lockdown have relished the opportunity to take their exercise on the golf course adjacent to Warneford Meadow, please note that sadly those days are over. Golf resumed on Wednesday 13 May.

Household Waste Recycling Centres (aka 'tips'): These will re-open on Monday 18 May for the same categories of waste as previously, 7 days a week from 8 a.m. till 4 p.m; the earlier closing time is to allow for additional cleaning of the premises. NB Trips to the tip should only be made if essential, i.e. if waste cannot be stored safely without harm to health. Other changes include:

- The number of vehicles on site at any one time will be reduced by 50% to allow for social distancing
- Traffic marshals will manage queues
- Queuing will not be allowed on the public highway
- Only one resident will be allowed out of the vehicle except when handling very heavy items

Freegle has resumed: Sifting through possessions during lockdown has resulted in many homes identifying surplus possessions. Rather than disposing of unwanted items at the tip, we can follow government advice to use an online platform such as Freegle, whose slogan, 'Don't throw it away; give it away' invites us to do just that. Post unwanted items under 'Give Stuff', for others to collect for free. Alternatively, post under 'Find Stuff' and relieve someone else of their unwanted possessions.

<https://www.ilovefreegle.org/>

More about slugs: As an alternative to scattering coffee grounds round precious plants, or in addition to coffee grounds, try using eggshells. When using eggs in cooking, immediately the egg is cracked open, gently peel off and discard the inner membrane. Once you have a collection of clean, dry shells bash them really thoroughly with a rolling pin, either between sheets of newspaper or in a suitably sized plastic bag. If you are concerned that even when ground up very small they would spoil the appearance of your garden, add them to the compost heap for added texture.

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/>

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