

HIGHFIELD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Update: Thursday 28 May 2020

Thursday has come round again, and with it our ninth weekly update, and the customary reminder that tonight we have our key workers' tribute at 8 p.m.

Evolution of Clap for Carers: Recognition of the role played by front-line workers, which has spread world-wide, was brought to the UK by Dutch Londoner Annemarie Plas. Held in the UK for the first time on 26 March, the event initially recognised the role of NHS workers during the Covid-19 pandemic, moving in its second week to applaud all key workers: 'all that go out to work so that we can stay in'. Now, however, for a variety of reasons Annemarie Plas, has suggested that it would be appropriate to end it in this, its 10th week. HRA agrees with this proposal. Let's be out there on our doorsteps/ at our windows/ in the front garden/ on the pavement to clap, play an instrument, ring bells or bang pots and pans in a final display of gratitude.

Reminder about socially distanced goodbye to Karen Paton and road closure: Given the very strict limit on the number of people allowed to attend funerals during lockdown, Stapleton Road will be closed on Friday 29 May (tomorrow) between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to enable friends and family to say a socially distanced goodbye to Karen, long-time supporter of HRA. We send our condolences to Alex, Louis and Sacha.

If you wish to raise any concerns or have any questions, please email clairelgarton@yahoo.co.uk

Headington Farmers' Market: Following news that markets may open in the week beginning 1 June, Headington Action is assessing other sites which could be suitable for the market while social distancing rules apply. However, it is unlikely the market will open again any time soon. We'll update you when we know more, Meanwhile, the online market is providing a good alternative. See: <https://www.headingtonaction.org/headington-market.html>

Covid-19 Support Group: There has been reduced call on HRA Covid-19 Support Group members for a while now, people having got to know their neighbours during lockdown, and having devised ways of supporting one another. Some residents have launched their street WhatsApp, but some of the most vulnerable in our community cannot access WhatsApp. We have written to the Support Group volunteers to thank them for their input into the success of the scheme, and their generosity with their time, and suggesting that we keep the list in place so that we can still offer help, particularly in the event of the feared second (or third) spike.

Blanchford Building Supplies, 59 Windmill Rd: Now taking phone-and-collect orders from retail as well as trade customers. Card payment only. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 01865 759200 oxford@blanchford.co.uk

Headington Heating & Plumbing Supplies, 57 Lime Walk: Reopened, but with reduced staff and NB hours reduced to: Monday to Friday, 8am–3pm:. Tel. 01865 750669 enquiries@headingtonheating.co.uk

Oxford Vaccine Group Trials: The Jenner Institute (Old Rd. Campus) seeks volunteers for its Covid-19 Phase II/III Vaccine Study (COV002). The research is headed by Sarah Gilbert, guest speaker at the HRA AGM in 2018, and the trial is being conducted in multiple locations in the UK, of which the Oxford Vaccine Centre is one. The trial length is 12 months, requiring 6-12 visits according to the group to which each volunteer is allocated. Volunteers must be aged 18 or over and live in the Thames Valley. There is no upper age limit. Recruitment of those with likely higher exposure to SARS-CoV-2 will be prioritised. Further information: <https://covid19vaccinetrial.co.uk/participate-trial>

Bus services: From Monday 1 June some services will operate a phased increase in frequency; other services including the 700 route, will return to their pre-Covid-19 schedule. A protective screen will provide a barrier between drivers and passengers, with face masks available for drivers. An enhanced cleaning regime will be in operation, with a particular focus on key touch points. Social distancing measures will be in place, resulting in each bus/coach having approximately 20% of normal passenger capacity, the maximum number of passengers being according to vehicle size and layout. Passengers are asked to respect this, are asked to sit in a window seat, leaving the adjacent seat free (unless accompanied by a member of their own household), with the seats in front and behind them also unoccupied. They are advised to wear face covering, to use contactless, bus pass or exact change.

<https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/covid-19/> e-mail info@oxfordbus.co.uk Tel 01865 785400

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-and-offers/oxfordshire/covid-19>

e-mail: oxford.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com Tel. 01865 77 22 50 (NB not currently being answered)

Concessionary bus passes: It has been confirmed by both companies that concessionary bus passes are not currently time-barred and can be used **at any time** by both companies. This is subject to review in due course.

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