



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 86
December 2021



Advent Windows across Round Hill

On the 20th November the black marked houses above had all registered to display an Advent window during the run up to Christmas Day. Some will only be seen near to 24th, others will be up from the 1st, so probably best to walk around nearer Christmas and get the best show for your effort. There are already more houses than 24, and by the time you see this Reporter there may be even more signed up to display.

Belton Road is marked with grey – they do their own thing every year, so make a point of having a walk through.

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Round Hill Society
by



Stop the Round Hill Rat Run

petition success

Great news! Thank you to the 171 residents who signed the petition – what a great response in a short space of time. The petition was presented to the Environment committee on 16 November and the councillors were very supportive – in particular we’ve had strong support from our ward councillors, Pete West and Sue Shanks. You may know that the petition was presented because, after countless near misses over the years, a 10-year-old child was knocked down by a car on Prince’s Crescent on 18 October. Thankfully she’s recovering.

The petition asked the Environment committee to

- (1) Consider introducing traffic calming measures like speed bumps and bollards;
 - (2) Review the 20mph road markings and signage; and
 - (3) Station a mobile vehicle-activated warning sign along the route.
- (4) Previously we’d been promised a report into narrowing Crescent Road at the junction with Prince’s Crescent to make it safer to cross – this had never been published, so the petition also asked again for this.

WE’RE HAPPY TO SAY THAT THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO ALL THESE THINGS!

In addition to the petition, have you seen the great “stop speeding” posters designed by local children, which have been put up on posts along the route? That was an initiative from a local resident who witnessed the accident.

Round Hill has long been used for “rat running” to dodge the traffic lights at the bottom of Ditchling Road and get to the Vogue gyratory faster. Traffic used to rat run down Prince’s, Mayo, Richmond and d’Aubigny Roads and in 2001 bollards were used to close the lower half of Richmond Road

and stop this. Solve one problem and along comes another – motorists began to pass through Prince’s Crescent and Wakefield Road instead – and this route follows that of many local carers and children walking to the Downs Infant and Junior Schools. Another improvement – a new pedestrian crossing at the Ditchling/Upper Lewes junction – has led to longer waits for cars coming down Ditchling Road and more drivers using this short cut. It’s clear that rat runs through any of our residential streets pose a danger to pedestrians and other road users.

Concerns over the rat run have also been raised with Sussex Police and the **Community Speedwatch** initiative run by the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership. The Neighbourhood Policing Team have said they will consider increasing foot patrols in the area and deploying speed indicator devices more often.



January can drag... but February can be hopping!

Yes, those green and slimy little glimmers of hope, which let us know that Spring will surely spring again soon enough. *'Fear not, nature's got this, won't be long now'...*

When night time temperatures begin to succeed about 5°C, and usually after a good dumping of rain, our local amphibians respond to the call of nature and emerge from their winter hibernation with one thing on their minds: get to the breeding ponds.

Toads in particular can be especially loyal and will endeavour almost robotically to return to the same ponds year on year - may nothing stand in their way!

This makes the migration period one of the most vulnerable times in an amphibian's life story; should they not make it, there goes a whole future generation of spawn not replaced.

Luckily for the amphibians migrating between ponds linked by the Cat Creep, they are minded by the caring and curious community of Roundhillers they share their habitat with :)

So next year, as February approaches, keep your eyes peeled for the start of this glorious little wildlife spectacle we are privileged to witness right on our doorsteps - and please keep up the great work and use a torch / phone light to CHECK BEFORE YOU STEP!



If you're in need of a reason to inspire getting out of the house for a quick evening wander, a little encouragement in not letting the February weather keep you from getting some fresh air and a few steps in, a mindful moment in nature to decompress at the end of the working day and ease the transition into the evening, then why not



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join a neighbour on a 'toad patrol' one evening to find out more?

Sometimes you can hear them serenading under the moonlight...

Kate Wolstenholme - contact on back page



Poetry Corner

Last Christmas

aye it was about two years ago
about this time in the sun

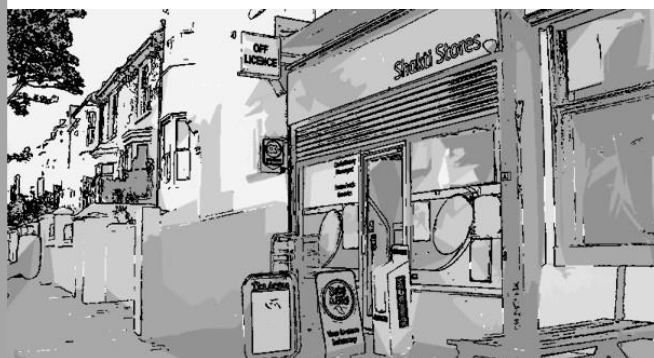
you in the kitchen chair
as I worked at the cooker

chopping parsnips and spuds
turning the turkey over

following your instructions
'you cooked this not me'

I mentioned at the fire
but you hardly ate anything

& later dozed off
halfway through Emmerdale



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Celebrating 38 years on Round Hill

102 Ditchling Road
Established December 1983

Number 55

please don't think me strange
I used to live here
& would like to wander about
in the upstairs rooms

in my dreams I've counted
every step from Mama's bedroom
up to mine & then Martin's
in the attic with the wardrobe outside

& you'll have changed the place
yet I won't mind
as long as you let me
breathe in my past again

These two poems are from Brendan
Cleary's latest collection, 'The Other Place',
published by Pighog Press. He lives in
Brighton, and of course, he granted
permission to use them here.
The Christmas poem seemed an obvious
choice. Number 55 caught my attention as
so many of us have been researching the
history of our homes.



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Round Hill to become a Low Traffic Neighbourhood

Many of you will know that we set up “Round Hill Green Spaces” to promote the idea of creating small pedestrian-friendly areas of public planting and seating, and features like bug hotels, bird boxes etc. Progress has been slow and our councillor, Pete West, agreed to ask a question on our behalf at the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee meeting on 16 November.

We feel really excited by the outcome! Councillors decided that the multiple issues and projects put forward by Round Hill residents should be considered together, and proposed a report into making Round Hill a “**Low-Traffic Neighbourhood**” within the framework of its new “**Liveable Neighbourhood**” scheme. Lots of capital letters, but the idea of the scheme is to improve residential areas by making them more pedestrian-friendly and reducing through traffic. The plan is to pilot this in Hanover & Tarner.

The committee agreed to an officer’s report. Among the initiatives to be considered, prior to further consultation with residents, are the Round Hill Green Spaces “pocket park” proposals:

- (3) Ditchling Road southbound bus stop at the junction with Prince’s Crescent. To make the sizeable amount of pavement space at this site a safer and more community-friendly space with planters, seating, cycle racks; this will also deter the escalating pavement parking problem.
- (4) Crescent Road and Prince’s Crescent junction. To narrow this wide and dangerous junction, making it safer for pedestrians. The pavement space may then be made more attractive with planters.
- (5) Richmond Road and Mayo Road junction. To add to the existing planting where the road already has bollards, perhaps incorporating

seating, a community noticeboard, a children’s library etc.

In addition, the report will consider the measures outlined in the Stop the Round Hill Rat Run petition to the Council (rat running in Prince’s Crescent and Wakefield Road) to:

- (1) Introduce traffic-calming measures, such as speed bumps and modal filters (bollards or planters); review the 20mph road markings and signage; and station a mobile vehicle activated warning sign along the route.

And finally, following the recent increase in reports of anti-social behaviour on the Cats Creep, the report will:

- (2) Consider improving the lighting on the Cats Creep beyond the white LED upgrade to the existing orange lights scheduled to happen in the next couple of months.

Round Hill Green Spaces are talking with councillors and council officers and will report back to the Residents’ Association and to the community as a whole when there’s more information.



Bike Rack Rubbish?

thirty percent of places lost

There are a number of bike rack areas on Round Hill which tend to be used by people who have smaller homes or more difficult access. They are not as secure as we might like, and there is some pressure to get a lidded secure bike storage box for Round Hill.

And we still have a couple of D-ring high quality bike locks available for anyone who would like one. These were provided by the Council some months ago, and although they were offered on these pages some time ago, amazingly they did not all go.

before removing them and freeing up the spaces for others to use. But this will take time, so if you have left a bike you no longer use, please remove it. Dispose of it as scrap or to a charity shop, depending on condition.



There is yet another problem with the existing bike racks – they are clogged up with bikes and part-bikes showing signs of being unused for several months.

The committee is contacting the Council so that they can start the process of labelling bikes,

Bikes abandoned in (clockwise from left) Ashdown Rd, D'Aubigny Rd and Richmond Rd.

Street Art

there's a lot of it about

Over two days in November a new piece of street art appeared on a wall on the Upper Lewes Road. On the second day I went over to talk to the artist.

First, I should say I like this image, and I tend to think a piece of well executed art, pleasing to the eye, not too cartoony or brash, is better than tagging and does tend to delay the appearance of more tagging and scrawl. That's why I have been active in supporting a new nature-themed mural on the long wall at the bottom of Wakefield Road.

Guy told me he lives in Patcham but that his children live nearby in Hartington Road and his family have a had a property near here for several decades, so this area is his stamping ground. He also told me that he had permission from the householder, but I was unable to confirm that.



This is his first portrait, taken from the internet, gridded and scaled up on site. He has a commissioned mural in St Paul's St, just behind Bradley's, fishes on the old Co-op in Caledonian Rd and a Buddha in Mary Magdalene St beside Orienthai. See more of Guy Favela on Instagram.



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The Long Wall

Questions, Reservations, Concerns?

Whilst talking about street art you have an opportunity to tell the lead artists selected by the Council what you think about a nature inspired mural on the long wall. Ideally constructive comments – the wall belongs to the Council and they have given permission for the work, and paid for it. But 'nature inspired' is a broad field, and open to interpretation. Do you want kelp forest with seahorses, badgers, urban foxes, the pride of Sussex – the Rampion?

Send an email to thelongwall@hotmail.com and/or contact our community engagement officer at Hannah.barker@brighton-hove.gov.uk.



Round Hill Reporter

51 Upper Lewes Road

Brighton BN2 3FH

www.roundhill.org.uk

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group-email for email
updates. Send a request to
Stefania (see details on
right).

The Round Hill Society Committee

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Secretary/editor | Rob Stephenson | 51 Upper Lewes Road rob.stephenson51@gmail.com | 01273 673511 |
| Treasurer | Gary Jenkins | 40 Crescent Road garyjenkins@phonecoop.coop | 01273 239546 |
| | Jamie Aitchison | 47 Richmond Road Jamieaitchison71@gmail.com | 07866 424890 |
| | Eva Wendler | 2/19 Round Hill Crescent wendler.eva@gmail.com | |
| | Stefania Rosso | 98 Richmond Road stefania.rosso@gmail.com | 07855 894202 |
| | Kate Wolstenholme | Bsmt 48 Round Hill Crescent kate.wolstenholme@gmail.com | 07547 983169 |
| | Jo Alexander | 69c Round Hill Crescent jmalex@live.com | 01273 605287 07940 652986 |
| | Summer Dean | 53 Richmond Rd contact@summerdean.co.uk | 07933 507337 |

Veolia Waste Plant issues :

Smell, noise and dust problems – Environment Agency 0800 807060

Illegal parking in the CPZ

Report it on 0345 603 5469 and select option 3 for a traffic warden.

Student liaison officers :

Sussex- 01273 678220 or housing@sussex.ac.uk

Brighton- Andrew Keeffe communityrelations@brighton.ac.uk

Non-emergency police reporting: call 101 if your issue is not urgent or you have a question, alternatively report a crime or incident on www.sussex.police.uk/reportonline.

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Round Hill Annual Community Meeting

This year it happened with people together in a room generously provided by the City's Drug and Alcohol Rehab service in Richmond House. You can read the minutes on our website (see above left), just scroll to the 'Follow us' box and click on Minutes.

The key items discussed resulted in the actions reported on pages 2 and 5.

We were sad to say goodbye to two very valuable committee members – Kate Rice and Andrew Partington. Both left because changing family circumstances led to altered priorities.

The new committee is listed above. It would be good to have a couple more members . . .

The Round Hill Reporter is published by the Round Hill Society to keep residents in the area in touch with local news, events and each other. We try to present a fair and balanced view but the opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily shared by all.

Letters or ideas for articles are welcome – please contact the editor at the address shown above.

Deadline for the March 2022 edition 15th Feb.

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