



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 83
March 2021

Communal Bin consultation and the issues – pages 4 & 5

Census Day is coming *21st March 2021*

The census is coming. By taking part, you can help inform decisions on services that shape your community, such as healthcare, education and transport.

The census is a unique survey that happens every 10 years. It gives us a snapshot of all the people and households in England and Wales – the most detailed information we have about our society.

It's important that you fill in your census questionnaire. Without the information you share, it'd be more difficult to understand your community's needs and to plan and fund public services.

In one way or another, your information touches the lives of every single person living in England and Wales, whether it's through using census information to plan new schools, doctors' surgeries or bike lanes.

Because these things matter to us all, everyone needs to complete the census. Do not worry, government officials dealing with applications you've made or payments or services you receive cannot see it.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) runs the census in England and Wales and is independent from government. Your details are protected by law and information published is always anonymous.

Census Day is Sunday 21 March 2021. You can fill yours in online as soon as you get your access code in the post. If your household circumstances change on Census Day, you can let the ONS know.

You can request support for yourself, or someone else, including:

- guidance and help in many languages and formats
- a paper version of the questionnaire, if you prefer
- accessible census guidance, for example, in braille

There is a help area on the census website. It covers everything from who to include on the questionnaire to how to answer each question. If you need help, visit www.census.gov.uk

There is also a phone number for requesting a paper form and other help – it will be in the letter you will receive in March.

Ethnicity, religion and national identity

The ONS will ask you about your ethnicity, religion and national identity.

You can identify with your chosen background, religion and national identity. If you cannot find the option you require, you can use the search-as-you-type function. Alternatively, you can request a paper questionnaire. That will allow you to write in the identity that you feel most accurately represents you.

Sexual orientation and gender identity

Census 2021 asks voluntary questions about sexual orientation and gender identity for the first time.

This is to give us more accurate information on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender populations. It will help organisations combat any inequalities these groups face and show where services are needed.

The ONS will only ask people aged 16 years and over these voluntary questions.

Continues over page

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Round Hill Society
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THE MARTHA GUNN

Your local entertainment hub

We will be opening again as soon as the law allows, when once again we will be offering beers, wines, spirits and food in a comfortable indoor setting, as well as a pool table and heated outdoor sheltered seating.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

We are at 100 Upper Lewes Road where a warm welcome is guaranteed when we are permitted to open.
01273 681671.

Census is coming - continued

If you do not feel comfortable identifying on the same form as the rest of your household, you can request an individual census questionnaire and answer separately.

Armed Forces

For the first time, the census will ask if you've served in the UK Armed Forces. The information you share will help us understand the numbers, locations and ages of our armed forces community. This will show where resources and services are needed to make sure those who have served, and their families, are treated fairly.

You only need to answer this question if you are aged 16 years or above. It's up to you to decide how you would like to answer each question, do it in the way that you feel best represents you.

Remember, by filling in your census questionnaire, you're helping make sure you and your community get the services needed for the next 10 years and beyond. That's why it's so important to take part.

Personal identifying information is not made available to any other organisation, including government departments, and remains secret for 100 years. It becomes available then, as you may know if you have used old census reports to trace family history, or explore the types of work done and household make-up in times gone by.

(Much of this article is adapted from copy available for community groups on census.gov.uk)

The Sylvan Hall Orchard

Hopefully planted when you read this

Using the Plant Your Postcode initiative the Sylvan Hall Residents' Association, in partnership with CPRE* Sussex, decided to plant an orchard in the Spring of 2020 on the triangle of land at the east end of Sylvan Hall, bounded by Wakefield Rd and Princes Crescent.

Then came Covid, so planting was delayed until Autumn 2020 and then again until January 2021. Now the volunteers, residents of Sylvan Hall and Round Hill, have been stood down and the orchard of apple and pear trees is to be professionally planted in mid-February.

Volunteers will be encouraged to adopt a tree and to tend to the plants and help them to crop in the Autumn and to enjoy the fruit. The long wait will have been worth it.

Barry Hughes, Chairman SHRA.

*Campaign to Protect Rural England – for more information see <https://www.cpresussex.org.uk/>

More trees for Round Hill

A blessing or a leaf problem?

Sylvan Hall has made use of the Plant Your Postcode (plantyourpostcode.org) scheme to get fruit trees planted. Our outside public space is tougher for trees, but we have had some, notably on Richmond Road.

We might have to raise money for new trees, but first it is important to discover where they might go, and whether local residents there will be supportive.

The draft tree policy seems to deny new trees where pavements are narrow. Perhaps trees could be added to bike parking areas – in the road. Planting in the tarmac is common across the Ditchling Road.

If you think there is space for a tree near you, and you have got support from homes nearby then we can take the proposal to the Council and press the case.

See another way to green the streets – page 6 – which leaves the choice to more individuals and less need to involve the Council.

Rob Stephenson

Carry a Torch for Toads

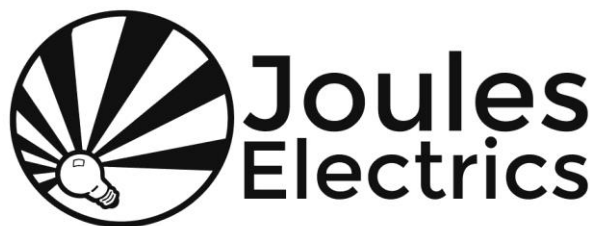
And help count them

One newt has been seen on the Catcreep already this year, sadly it was just before the snow and big freeze. Soon newts and toads will be crossing the Catcreep in large numbers, especially on damp dark evenings. Last year we had our first official Toad Crossing patrols, to alert people to the amphibians and to count them. At the end of their migration season over 700 toads and newts had been seen.

This year it is unlikely that groups will carry out this activity, but hopefully individuals will visit the catcreep with torch, notebook and pencil to count animals and engage with people using the catcreep (suitably distanced of course). There will be a notice at each end of the passage to alert users, but being shown the beasts can better engage people. Toads seem to have better survival skills than newts. Perhaps the newts freeze when they become aware of people, but that does not save them from being squashed underfoot, and they can be hard to see.

Please keep an eye out for these delightful amphibians, and carry a torch, or use you mobile phone lamp function. If you want to count, just head out anytime from dusk and move slowly up or down the steps peering into nooks, crannies and any weedy places, as well as scanning the path and steps. You can pass on your numbers, along with date and times you surveyed, to committee member Kate Wolstenholme (see back page for contact info).

One toad and five newts, a pair of toads on right.



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Secure Bike Storage

And a strange spinoff

The subject of covered secure cycle storage came up at a recent committee meeting, and committee member Summer Dean agreed to talk to 'The Council'. Who she found was Environmental Improvement Officer Simon Bannister, and he offered advice about seeking a piece of private land where the owner might allow a secure cycle store to go. At that point the Council might be able to help with resources.

Meanwhile he gave Summer 10 expensive cycle locks (D-ring or Kryptonite type) to offer to resident cyclists. Now we have them we have to hand them out – but who should get them?

If you think it should be you perhaps you'll approach Summer (back page for details) and put your case?

Communal Bins

Good or Bad?

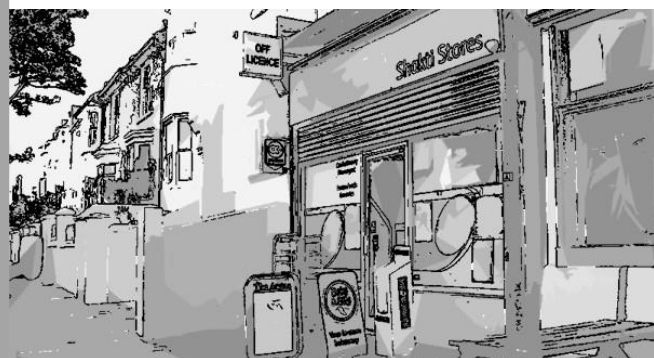


As seen here the answer seems easy – they are bad. But perhaps this awful mess is because we don't have enough communal bins, and people are bringing their excess packaging here rather than store it at home until rubbish day?

If we had more clusters of waste and recycling bins on street corners – beside windowless gable ends, or on the side of streets without housing, then they would be close enough to bring your stuff home if the bins were full just then. And they would be close to your homes so you would behave better – perhaps.

There will always be some anti-social folk who will carry a mattress or chair to the bins rather than pay to have it taken away to a proper place, but if it wasn't beside the bins it would just be a street corner. The answer is the same in either case – report it to the Council – just search for Brighton and Hove fly-tipping.

Uncollected waste or recycling should happen less as the narrowest streets will not be visited. You will have to take the material to the bins, but it won't be far, and you can do it every other day on your way out – no rubbish needs be stored at home, eat kippers more often!



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Celebrating 37 years on Round Hill

102 Ditchling Road
Established December 1983

Proposed Communal Bins for Round Hill

Consultation coming soon

The November Reporter mentioned CityClean's upcoming consultation, regarding the proposal to introduce communal bins in Round Hill. This follows an audit by CityClean as part of their cost reducing modernisation programme. Timescales are to be confirmed, but the result of the consultation will be presented to the BHCC's Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee (ETSC) in September 2021, so residents can expect to be notified soon.

A small group of neighbours from Round Hill Crescent, Ashdown Road, D'Aubigny Road and Richmond Road became aware of the January meeting of the ETSC at short notice and presented a deputation objecting to the proposal. They felt that the named streets did not meet CityClean's audit criteria and would therefore be unsuitable as communal bin locations. Ongoing issues with CityClean's management of existing communal bins were seen as likely to cause additional issues:

- Overflowing rubbish, including bulky items, food waste and broken glass presenting a health hazard and obstructing access despite planned daily collections
- Reduced recycling rates due to increased contamination
- Greater anonymity exacerbating fly-tipping and improper waste disposal
- Degrading of our conservation area, by being unsightly, poorly designed and attractive targets for graffiti

Arguments in favour of communal bins are understood, however it's felt few people would like to have one outside their home



and that nearby bins on the Upper Lewes Road that have been present for several years have not been made to work. We think finding suitable locations for communal bins in Round Hill will be extremely difficult without encroaching on peoples' properties or sacrificing valued communal spaces such as planters or bike racks. Other areas of the city such as the North Laine and Hanover have also reported concerns including residents incorrectly being accused of fly tipping. Wheelie bins work successfully here so why change them?

BHCC will confirm the timeline for the consultation, proposed locations of the communal bins and collection schedule within the consultation document.

When the consultation is launched, please ensure you take the opportunity to consider the impact on all our homes, spread the word to your neighbours and submit your response in the designated time frame. It is of course acknowledged that some roads may welcome communal bins and also fit CityClean's criteria, so it is important for all opinions to be heard. We hope the consultation process and results will be fully transparent and subject to scrutiny.

If you want to discuss this further, please use the RH Community Noticeboard on Facebook or contact the Round Hill Society by email; the RHS will continue to keep this important issue on their monthly agenda and promote community engagement with the consultation.



Who knows what will happen?

If all goes well we will be open for business in December, offering our 100% plant-based food and drink menu.

We can't wait to welcome you back!

www.theroundhill.co.uk



Pavement too narrow for trees?

Grow a shrub up the house!



This fine plant is growing from the pavement on a street in North Laine up the west facing house front. West, east or south facing houses can easily support a shrub. It does not have to be a clinging species, Pyracanthas grows well against a wall and offers spring flowers and berries for birds later. If you don't want spines you could try Californian lilac (Ceanothus) or Osmanthus burkwoodii (both evergreen) or try an apple or pear grown espalier.

If you can fit wires for plants to grow up then the choice grows, and includes grape vines, passionflower, clematis and honeysuckles; as well as roses and runner beans!

Poetry Corner

We got a new committee member, Ingrid Ramirez - our first student committee member, at our 2020 Annual meeting. But Covid got in the way of normal stuff, so there has been little subsequent contact. But here is a poem from Ingrid. I hope it's not as dark as it seems.

I want to be me.

The trudges through the mud seem too sickly to stick to.
I fear I can no longer stick to this regime I've been issued.

How much is there left of me?
I can't see the lines, none at all.
All I feel is unfamiliarity within these cold fleshed walls.

Sinking deeper into that endless void
Should I recognise where I am?
Where I must ponder, where I must float,
Where my rigidness surly expands, where it bloats?

Here my emotions have no essence,
My thoughts, a metaphysical substance.
Here, my fingers are not fingers.
My feet are not feet.
they are microdot pixels,
they are the invaluable dust seeking release.

Although, it's hard to see in the dark.
Humans are engineered to fear the Dark.
Who is It? And what has It done with me?
I know this girl; do I know this girl?
I want to know her; I want to be me.

Ingrid Ramirez

East-Sussex-Counselling BACP registered counsellor

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Remember Christmas 2020

Advent Windows

Lockdown perfection, made at home, viewed during permitted exercise.



Day 15 in Princes Road – Santa and his sleigh



Santa sleigh borne in D'Abigny Road



A beauty in Princes Crescent, great design and precision creation, but I confess to not understanding it.



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Brighton Art School's Raymond Briggs's creation, the Snowman, flying over our Royal Pavilion in Round Hill Crescent



Round Hill Reporter

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www.roundhill.org.uk

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Noticeboard

If you want to keep current,
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And you can register with
the **Friends of Round Hill**
group-email for email
updates. Send a request to
Stefania (see details on
right).

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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.

Sylvan Hall Estate

Ever wondered why Sylvan Hall Estate is so called? Wonder no longer – the big house here was Sylvan Hall. You can reach this same viewpoint if you walk up the steps (seen in the foreground) which link Canterbury Drive to Bromley Road (its between The Lindens and The Pines on Canterbury Drive). Walk up the steps a short way and look right. That's the view shown here.



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.

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