



# The Round Hill Reporter

See all issues of *The Reporter* and much more on [www.roundhill.org.uk](http://www.roundhill.org.uk). Contact RHS Committee: [roundhillsociety@gmail.com](mailto:roundhillsociety@gmail.com)

## THE ROUND HILL REPORTER: 24 YEARS AND COUNTING!

The Round Hill Society had its inaugural meeting in 1999, and the first *Reporter* was printed in early 2000. It was only eight pages of A5 and was delivered to people who had paid to be members of the Society. Along with familiar topics, such as litter, dog excrement on the pavement and local crime, it was also buzzing with enthusiasm from a new, keen Society wanting to celebrate and make a difference to their local community.

In its 2002 Annual Meeting, the Society decided to make membership free and open to all Round Hill residents. The *Reporter* was increased to A4 to publish adverts for the first time, which would fund the 1000 copies per issue. Twenty volunteers signed up to help distribute each issue.

**Read more on page 2**

## 24 HOUR SKATEATHON FOR CHILDREN WITH CANCER FUND

Did you know a superstar skater lives in Round Hill? Marlow Brain is 12 years old and recently organised a 24 hour skateathon with his friends to raise money for Children With Cancer Fund.

Marlow's little brother, Rudy, was diagnosed with a brain tumour at three years old. Now aged seven, Rudy is going through chemotherapy again. Rudy and Marlow's mother, Cathie, told *The Reporter* about Children with Cancer Fund. It's a small charity that offers support for children and their families who are suffering from cancer. "We took the charity up on their offer of a night in Port Lympne Safari Park in Kent. We slept in the tiger enclosure in a lodge for a night, which was a great experience for the whole family and a much needed break."

To give back to Children with Cancer Fund, Marlow agreed with four friends that they would skate for five hours each to complete a 24 hour sponsored skateathon. They set a goal of £300, but they've already received almost £5500!



To continue the donations to Children with Cancer Fund, access Marlow's JustGiving page at <https://bit.ly/3OYEcnR>

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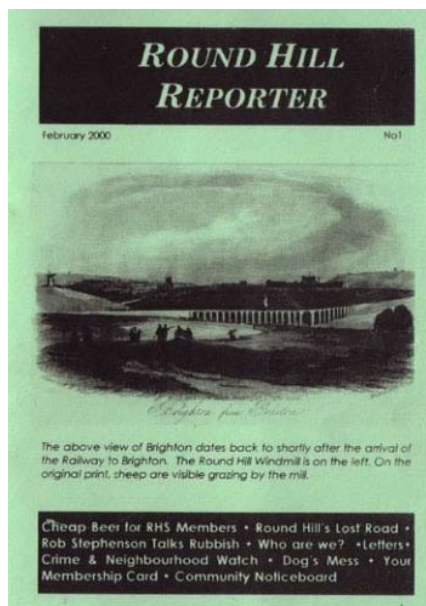


## THE ROUND HILL REPORTER: 24 YEARS AND COUNTING!

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*The Reporter* enables our community to connect, which is especially important for those not frequently online or who are new to the area.

In 24 years we have had six editors and we're so grateful to all our volunteers for diligently distributing the publication. We need a large team to ensure *The Reporter* can continue for another 24 years. It's a great opportunity for those looking to gain journalistic experience, or to get to know others in our wonderful community.



If you'd like to see *The Reporter* continue, and be a part of making it better than ever, email the Round Hill Society Committee (email on back page) today!

**Rob Stephenson**  
Ex-Reporter Editor

## LAST CHRISTMAS...

Well done to everyone who took part in the annual December advent windows competition. Here are a few of our favourites for *The Reporter* (thanks to Heidi Green for the pics). The black & white printing doesn't do them justice!

Every year, the Round Hill Society can vote on the best window. This year the winner was 130 Ditchling Road with their number 19! They will win a voucher for the lovely Green Room cafe.



Thanks to everyone who came out carol singing around Round Hill just before Christmas. A small but enthusiastic group sang around Princes Road, Mayo Road, Richmond Road, (bits of) Princes Crescent, Belton Road and Round Hill Street. On the night, we raised £265.66 for the Phoenix Food Bank, based near The Level. Others donated directly to the food bank after the event so the end total was over £300! If you'd like to donate to the food bank, you'll find details on [phoenixfood.org](http://phoenixfood.org).

**Steve Bustin**  
[steve@stevebustin.com](mailto:steve@stevebustin.com)



## TOAD ALLY ON THE MOVE...

The annual counting of toads, frogs and newts migrating on the Cat's Creep has finished for the fifth year running. Thank you to Paolo Oprandi for leading a growing group of toad patrollers and delivering data to the Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Trust.

This year volunteers travelled from as far as Hove, Fiveways and Moulsecomb to join the local residents. The team now includes the newt officer for East Sussex, zoology students and a Froglife representative. We were also invited to Froglife's South-East Toad Summit, where a top fact we learned was that drains can become traps for amphibians, but you can save their lives by offering them little ladders to escape!

Thank you to our Round Hill ward councillors for fighting to keep the Cat's Creep free from proposed weed killer spraying, which harms the local wildlife.

If you'd like to join the toad patrol next year, email Paolo Oprandi: [paolo.oprandi@gmail.com](mailto:paolo.oprandi@gmail.com)

**Eva Wendler**



Thanks to Lily Walwyn for her top pics of a toad (pretending to be a frog!) and a newt.

Councillor Raphael Hill, told *The Reporter*: "Thank you to Paolo and the toad patrollers for their good work. I share their concerns about using weed killer on the Cat's Creep. At the last Environment Committee meeting, Labour's decision was that where weeds are visible, there will be glyphosate sprayed. This is a far cry from their local election manifesto pledge, which promised not to use glyphosate. Research shows the harmful impacts on amphibians, whose porous skin and reliance on ponds make them vulnerable. I continue to push on why the Cat's Creep must be kept glyphosate free."

## YOGA *for every body*



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[www.unit4brighton.co.uk](http://www.unit4brighton.co.uk)

## GREEN SPACES IN ROUND HILL AND SYLVAN HALL

You may have noticed a new feature in the fence around the east end of Sylvan Hall, bordering Princes Crescent: a gate! Aurelie Elder (the force behind this space since Syvan Hall's previous community leader, Barry Hughes, passed away) applied for a community grant to install the gate. This will give the Round Hill community better access to the hedgerow and meadow with its fruit trees.



As well as improving access for volunteers to help maintain this delightful resource, it also gives easy access to admire and enjoy the space that belongs to the Sylvan Hall Estate residents. If you'd like to volunteer please email: [aurelie.elder@gmail.com](mailto:aurelie.elder@gmail.com).

**Rob Stephenson**

Right by the new Sylvan Hall gate, Round Hill is to get its **first community composter**! Composting fruit and vegetable peelings is a great way to reduce household waste. But not everyone has the space to do this at home, so community composting provides a great solution.

Sylvan Hall Residents' Association Committee has agreed to the location of the composting scheme. And we're lucky that a Sylvan Hall resident is responsible for building and installing community composters across the city.

The initial pilot will have one composter. If the pilot is successful, additional composters can be placed inside the triangle of the Sylvan Hall orchard space. The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership will provide advice and training, and is happy to answer any questions residents may have about the scheme. Visit their website at [bhfood.org.uk](http://bhfood.org.uk).

The scheme requires two community compost monitors and a minimum of 10 users. If you'd like to join, send an email with the subject line "For the Attention of Stefania Rosso – Community Composting" to [roundhillsociety@gmail.com](mailto:roundhillsociety@gmail.com).

**Dominic Furlong & Stefania Rosso**

Elsewhere, Round Hill Green Spaces is applying for funding to install a **pocket park** alongside the southbound bus stop at the junction of Princes Crescent with Ditchling Road.

This comes in the wake of a successful four-year campaign to get council permission for the project, which now opens us up for many more funding opportunities.

The Wood Store has provided us with a quote, based on the design approved by the council, to build and install the pocket park's four wooden planters. We are incorporating this quote into our funding applications, together with the design plans agreed with the council.

The first of our major funding applications was submitted to the new Brighton & Hove UK Shared Prosperity Fund in January. We are still waiting to hear the outcome, but in the meantime, we are researching other sources of funding to make Round Hill's new pocket park an even more special place for our community.

**Dominic Furlong & Jane Power**  
[dominicfurlong@gmail.com](mailto:dominicfurlong@gmail.com)





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vegetarian and organic range, frozen food,  
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wines

**Celebrating 41 years in Round Hill**

102 Ditchling Road  
Established December 1983

## YOU CAN ADOPT!

In 2021 my husband and I welcomed a newborn baby boy into our home.

We spent nine months training to be adopters and foster parents, followed by a year awaiting placement of a baby. Initially, as the baby's foster carers, we started a daily care and nurture routine, including baby classes, playgroups and swimming.

At a year old, the baby was ready to be adopted, and we completed the process to do this in two months. Now we have a happy, healthy two year old toddler. You'll often see us out and about in Round Hill on the way to play at the local parks.

"Can I adopt?" is a question we asked as a same-sex couple. Adoption is open to anyone over the age of 21, whether single, married, civil partnered or divorced - with or without birth children. If you are considering adopting a child there are many in the Brighton area who need a good, loving home. These children are of all ages and include sibling groups.

We adopted our son via the Local Authority Adoption Agency called Adoption South East.



If you are interested in adoption, you can find out more on the Adoption South East website: <https://www.adoptionsoutheast.org.uk>

**Paul Griffiths**

## ROUND HILL CRIME: A PLEA TO KEEP REPORTING

Round Hill continues to appear virtually crime free in respect of reported crimes and police interventions.

However, some Round Hill residents have witnessed drug dealing and consumption in the area. Our Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), Ben Drewswood, confirmed that, thanks to residents reporting, the police are aware of this problem. PCSO patrols have increased accordingly, notably on Mayo and Ashdown roads.

The police include Round Hill in the slightly larger area of Viaduct. In November last year, there were 83 crimes reported, but these were outside of the Round Hill conservation area.

Please keep reporting all crimes, even non-urgent, so the police can update their statistics and allocate resources appropriately.

**Christopher Paul**  
christopherpaul@hotmail.co.uk

## ROUND HILL RAT RUN NOT TOP PRIORITY FOR COUNCIL

The rat run along Princes Crescent and Wakefield Road has been ranked as a low priority by the council's assessment framework for improving the safety of pedestrians and cyclists across the city.

The new framework, "Better, Safer Streets", was launched last year as a more efficient way for capacity-constrained council officers to deal with the backlog of city-wide requests for road safety improvements. It also introduced a more holistic assessment approach, which takes into consideration more factors than just the blunt casualty figures used previously.

The Round Hill community conducted a five-year road safety campaign, including:

1. A petition asking the council to improve road safety measures for pedestrians and cyclists along the rat run
2. A petition asking the council to narrow the wide junction at the Princes Crescent with Crescent Road
3. A formal deputation to the council to prioritise low-traffic and greening measures within the Round Hill conservation area



It was thanks to this long-running campaign that the community was included in the Better, Safer Streets assessment. Out of 92 locations put forward, the framework assessed 41 locations and ranked them according to priority. Pedestrian safety at the junction of Wakefield Road and Upper Lewes Road was ranked 38 out of 41 in terms of priority, while traffic-calming measures on Princes Crescent and Wakefield Road were ranked 39 out of 41.

Given constraints on council funding, and the greater priority afforded other locations across the city, it is unlikely any pedestrian safety improvements in Round Hill will happen soon. We will, of course, continue to campaign when worthwhile.

**Dominic Furlong**

## STREET PLAY RETURNS TO RICHMOND ROAD IN 2024

In the next few weeks the events team will be heading out to Richmond Road to get signatures for the 2024 Street Play events. These will coincide with other community gatherings to help attract more of our wonderful community.

Dates will be announced very soon, and we're open to your suggestions. We plan to do three events this year:

1. Spring (plant sale and toy swap)
2. Summer (Water Fight)
3. Autumn (Halloween)

As always, we need your support to get these events off the ground. Can you spare just 30-60 mins of your time to help ensure these events continue? I would love to hear from students looking to enhance their CVs or local people simply wanting to meet more of the community. WE NEED YOU!!

Email [laura-kate.roe@outlook.com](mailto:laura-kate.roe@outlook.com) to register your interest.

**Laura-Kate Roe**



*Making gardens beautiful*

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- General garden tidying

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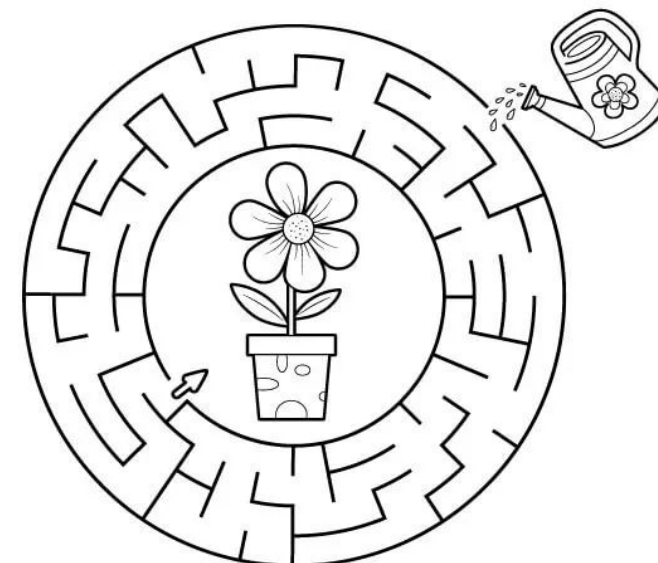
Contact Stephanie - 07817 209515  
[stephanie1303@btinternet.com](mailto:stephanie1303@btinternet.com)



## KIDS' CORNER



## MAZE GAME



**kids**  
Activities

[www.kidsactivities.online](http://www.kidsactivities.online)



## HANDY LOCAL CONTACTS



### **Veolia waste plant smell, noise, dust:**

Environment Agency, 0800 807060

### **Illegal parking in the CPZ:**

Report it on 0345 603 5469

### **Non-emergency police reporting:**

Call 101 for non-urgent issues. Alternatively, report a crime or incident online:

[www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report](http://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report)

### **Report fly-tipping or overflowing bins:**

[www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/report-problem-and-request-clean](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/report-problem-and-request-clean)

### **Request to join the Round Hill Community**

**Noticeboard UK on Facebook** to stay updated on everything going on in the area, share local news, swap goods, and more!

### **Stay up-to-date with Round Hill Society**

online: [www.roundhill.org.uk](http://www.roundhill.org.uk)

Request to **join the Friends of RHS mailing list** or write for/advertise in *The Reporter*:

[roundhillsociety@gmail.com](mailto:roundhillsociety@gmail.com)



## NEW BLUE PLAQUE PANEL REP NEEDED!

A blue plaque is a permanent sign installed in a public place to commemorate a link between that location and a famous person or event - serving as a kind of historical marker. Brighton & Hove's scheme started in 1923, and the plaques are now a familiar sight across the city. You can find out more about them on the Visit Brighton website: <https://bit.ly/3wloCGN>

Decisions on who gets a blue plaque and where they're placed are made by a panel. For a long time, Rob Stephenson represented Round Hill on this panel. He is now stepping down. The main tasks on the panel include attending meetings, sometimes taking meeting minutes, and attending some blue plaque unveilings. If you're interested in this unique opportunity, give Rob a call at 01273 673511.

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