



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 71
March 2018

Street Play dates for 2018, see page 5

Safe to Cross Darling? *When will she be old enough to cross this road alone?*

How many of you have had to grasp a little gap between streams of vehicles when waiting to cross the Upper Lewes Road? As I accompany my daughter on her daily walk to school I wonder: "When will I be able to trust her to cross this treacherous road by herself while there is no safe crossing point?" Even if it was just for pleasure to get a sweetie from the corner shop or run a little errand for the family? With bins obstructing the pedestrian's vision (South end of Roundhill Crescent) one has to lean right forward to get a good view of oncoming traffic. This can be challenging even for adults. We surely don't need another incident to add to the 27 serious pedestrian accidents to children in Brighton and Hove within the last 5 years (information from www.travelindependent.org)

Brighton and Hove's UK ranking is 7th out of the 10 worst pedestrian casualty capitals, a figure not to be proud of.

A few exchanges with neighbours made it clear to me that I am not the only one who wishes there were a safer way for all of us to move around the city. There have been three applications for pedestrian crossings on the Upper Lewes Road in the last 7 years. When an application is made the Council assess is using

Data including the number of pedestrian collisions, access to services, pedestrian movements and vehicle counts over a peak hour. Our three applications scored 7.6, 3.5 and 4.4. The score necessary to give priority for a new pedestrian crossing is 12.

So what now? Is there a way of using current road safety groups and campaigns like Living Streets and Sustrans' *Safer Routes to School* to help get the much needed crossing irrespective of the Council's priority scoring system? Should it not be of concern that there are 5 primary schools and at least 2 nurseries in close proximity to Upper Lewes Road?

A campaign outline:

1. Re-apply nominating a pedestrian crossing on the site of Upper Lewes Road as an urgent priority
2. Safer streets which encourage walking instead of using cars have health and environmental benefits as more take outdoor exercise instead of contributing to poor air quality through use of cars for the school run or short journeys.
3. Proper crossing facilities will make it possible for younger residents to gain the confidence to be independent pedestrians walking alone or with young friends to school or shops, integrating them into their community and reducing parental concern.
4. Encouraging more children to walk to school will benefit both them and their parents health as obesity rates are on the increase. The UK has one of the highest rankings for obesity amongst EU countries. (cont. p2)

Advent Window report **page 3** • Spring Clean Day 18th March **page 4**
Long Wall new plans **page 6** • Seasonal Singers raise record sum **page 7**

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5. Safe crossings are greatly needed by mobility impaired, elderly and disabled people, who may otherwise be discouraged from getting around.
6. Make Upper Lewes Road safer for all and help keep accident free.
7. The presence of a zebra crossing will help slow down the traffic in a 20 miles zone which is poorly observed.

If there any Roundhill residents who also feel passionate about making an attempt to help improve the neighbourhood in this way then please leave your comments and contact mail so that a meeting for those who want to help with communication and formulation of a potential re-application can be held.

Looking forward to having your ideas shared, Eva Wendler, a Roundhill Resident, contact details on the back page.



Useful links and resources for road safety:

www.travelindependent.org.uk/area_120.html

www.saferoutestoschool.org.uk

www.sustrans.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/sr_s_safe_routes_sf01.pdf

www.livingstreets.org.uk/what-we-do/walk-to-school

A little related extra: Some of the new lampposts on the Upper Lewes Rd have had 20mph speed limit signs attached, but not all of them, and too few face traffic coming from the Ditchling Road end. Other 20mph signs are effectively useless:



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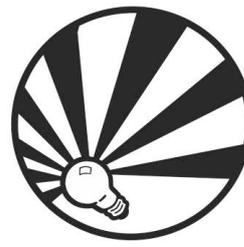
Advent Window Report

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who participated in the Advent Windows last December! It was wonderful to see so many Christmassy designs in the houses around Round Hill, and great to see so much enthusiasm from lots of residents!

In total, 27 households took part which meant we had two windows displaying on some dates. I didn't get to see them all, but I did have some personal favourites that I regularly walked past, including a paper camel and star scene in Wakefield Road; polar bears in Princes Road; a howling wolf in Richmond Road; recycled CDs at the end of Princes Crescent, and a beautiful handcrafted scene of stars, elves, houses, birds and animals also in Wakefield, I believe.

Belton Road also had their own Advent Windows last year with some lovely designs that I managed to see, so there was a lot of creativity in our neighbourhood in December – towards the end it felt a bit like Selfridges in Oxford Street! I'm not going to wish this year away by thinking about what we'll do in December just yet, but it would be great to do something similar and get even more people involved. Any ideas, email me, see back page.

Miriam Stephens



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Another tree gone *Just two left on Upper Lewes Rd*

Last year we lost two street elms on the Upper Lewes Road, now another has been cut down in February. It has had the bark stripped from the remaining stump, which suggests it was Dutch Elm disease again.



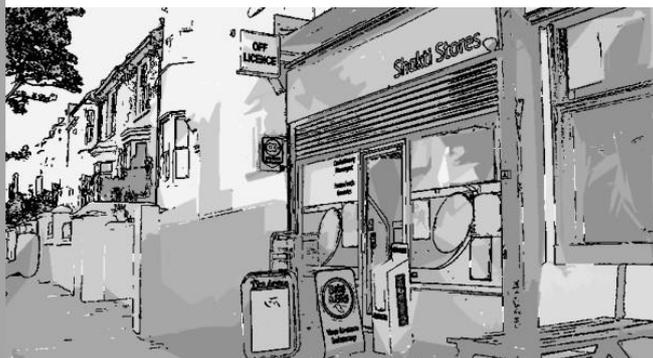
Spring Clean Day

Sunday 18th March 10.30am to 1.30pm

An opportunity to get out (with children if you have them) and help tidy up Round Hill. City Clean will support us with tools and gloves, and they will carry off any and all the green waste we cut back.

If you plan to come please let me know, so that I can ensure tools and gloves are available. If you have spotted places where overhanging vegetation should be cut back please pass that on as well.

We will gather at the junction of Mayo and Richmond Roads at 10.30am. We could talk about getting involved in some community front garden activity whilst we work.



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102 Ditchling Road
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Margaret Ward

departure of a well-known and well-liked resident

Very sadly Margaret Ward of D'Aubigny Rd died just before Christmas. Margaret was 94 and had lived in D'Aubigny Rd for over 60 years and even longer in the local area. She was a wonderful source of local history, with many memories about Round Hill, including the Kempton railway line, Cox's Pill Factory and many local corner shops that used to be in our area.

Margaret enjoyed her cooking and often baked contributions for our community events. She had a great sense of humour and will be sadly missed by many. Our sympathies go to her family for their loss.



Roundhill Readers Bookgroup

our next meeting

'Roundhill Readers' is a friendly and open book club that meets once a month at a local pub to discuss a book as chosen by the group. Keen to support the arts scene here in Brighton, we have read several novels by local writers and have been lucky enough to have the authors themselves come and talk to us at most of our meetups. The format is relaxed - if the author is present we ask them questions about the story, the process of writing and anything else that comes to mind! We try and make sure we have some time on our own afterwards to discuss the book in more detail and share our thoughts openly.

Although we read mainly novels, in the last meet-up we discussed a memoir so we are always open to new suggestions. Coming to the group is not only a chance to take part in engaging discussions but also a fantastic way to get to know your neighbours (we are all Roundhillers!) and find out what is happening in the area.

We have a 'Roundhill Readers' Facebook page - this can best be accessed by becoming a member of The Roundhill Community Noticeboard first. There is no compulsion to attend every session and you are welcome to attend even if you haven't read the book. The next meeting of the Roundhill Readers will be 8pm on Tuesday 6rd March at the Jolly Poacher on Ditchling Road. We will be discussing 'What is the What' by Dave Eggers. Come along and say hello!

Ayndrilla Singharay, for 'Roundhill Readers'

Crime Statistics for the Roundhill Area

The figures below relate to Round Hill, Sylvan Hall and the Gyratory. You can see the area and more detail about the reported crimes at the webpage: <https://www.police.uk/shape/bP8qKz/>

Crime category	Sept 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17
All crimes	36	30	21	21
Anti-social Behaviour	4	4	3	1
Bike theft	3	3	0	1
Burglary	1	0	1	0
Criminal damage	7	2	4	3
Drugs	0	1	0	0
Other theft	7	10	0	4
Shoplifting	3	3	2	2
Vehicle crime	0	2	4	2
Violence and sexual offences	4	4	4	6

Street Play 2018

Mayo Road on Sunday 3 to 5pm

Our popular children's Street Play events will return on the following dates **April 22nd, May 27th, June 24th, July 22nd, September 16th and October 28th (Halloween theme).**

At our AGM we agreed to open the event up to people who might like to run table-top sales such as plants, books, good toys and games your children may have outgrown. This will need to be organised by others, but if you plan to get involved please let me know so that I can include you in the advertising.

As always we need volunteers to make these events happen (marshalling, baking etc.) so please let me know if you can help – even 30 minutes at one session is valuable.

We'd like to thank the whole community, and in particular the residents of Mayo Road, for supporting Street Play, and allowing the road closure to keep the children safe.

Kate Rice (contact details back page)



New Plans for the Long Wall *Better for ecology, noise reduction and air quality*

If you are a regular reader of the Reporter you will know the long wall saga is not new. It all started in 2015 when the wall received some very bright and rather angry images, well executed but not to everyone's taste. After canvassing local opinion we asked the Council to paint over it all, as shown below.



You will also know that the wall along Upper Lewes Rd and Wakefield Road continues to be regularly spray painted. Local resident Harry works hard to paint over this unwelcome tagging but it is a never ending task. There are other walls in the area where owners have given permission for graffiti artists to display their work, but this wall is not among those. The Round Hill Society has canvassed residents who overlook the wall and live nearby along with Sylvan Hall and residents in the Triangle area, about what they would like to see as a long term solution for the wall.

Based on their feedback we have put together a bid for support and funding to create a green living (mainly ivy) wall growing over and merging with a mural depicting local flora and fauna. Not only will this make a lovely vista for many people living locally, it will also help reduce pollution along this busy road. Support and involvement from Round Hill residents is very welcome.

Ivy is great – a good refuge for insects and a food store for birds - and it has other positive benefits. Researchers have found that, because pollution cannot easily escape street canyons, 'green walls' of grass, climbing ivy and other plants have a better opportunity than previously thought to act as an air pollution filter. Instead of reducing pollution by 1 or 2%, reductions of more than ten times this have been measured.

Air quality in the playground of a school in Kensington and Chelsea has been monitored since before a green wall was planted. The screen was found to be an effective pollution barrier once the ivy had started growing and a significant impact could be seen once the screen had matured. The ivy screen led to a decrease in the pollution concentrations on the playground side of the screen by 24% for Nitrogen Dioxide and 38% for small particulate matter; both were higher than the measurement uncertainty and thus significant. Comparing school hours independently a reduction in concentrations of up to 36% and 41% were found for NO₂ and particulates, respectively. This demonstrates that the screen is very effective during daytime hours, when both emissions and exposure are highest

Planted surfaces have one more benefit. They have low noise reflectivity and high noise absorption properties. Ambient noise is reduced by green wall systems, improving conditions for nearby building occupants and pedestrians.



Hugely Successful Seasonal Singing *more money collected than ever before*

On behalf of the Round Hill Society I would like to say a big **Thank You** to all the residents of Round Hill who took part in December's Seasonal Singing and made it such a success.

To those who joined us as we made our way around the streets of Round Hill singing, playing and admiring Advent Windows along the way. Singers and musicians were rewarded on reaching Princes Road, with Mince Pies and Mulled Wine plus squash for younger participants.

Also thank you to all who so generously helped to fill the collecting buckets. I am pleased to tell you we collected the grand sum of £304.54p for this year's chosen charity, Martlets Hospice.

For residents who may not have heard of Martlets Hospice, this is a local hospice that serves the Brighton and Hove area. They receive no NHS funding, so rely entirely on donations from the local community. I'm sure residents, especially those with children, will remember seeing Snow Dogs dotted round the town in November and December of 2016.

The dogs were decorated by various artists and sponsored by local businesses and eventually auctioned off the proceeds going to Martlets.

Martlets have a shop in the London Rd to which will be happy to take your Donations of clothes, furniture and bric-a-brac. They organise other fund raising events such as the Ladies Midnight Walk, throughout the year. Please have a look at their web site, www.themartlets.org.uk.

Special thanks are due to Ted and Jane for hosting the drinks and food gathering at the end, and to Sainsbury's at the gyratory for providing all that food and drink.



Six Week Slow Down *on Wakefield Road*

You may have spotted six large colourful Slow Down signs in Wakefield Rd in recent weeks. They came from the Town Hall, and we had permission to put them up for 6 weeks in an attempt to remind rat-runners to stick to the 20mph speed limit. If you noticed any effect please let me know.

Rob Stephenson

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from your recent Seasonal Singing evening around Round Hill area.


Martlets
life-changing hospice care

Signed

Liz Dawes - Community Fundraiser

Martlets Hospice
Wayfield Avenue
Hove
BN3 7LW
Registered Charity no. 802145





Round Hill Reporter
51 Upper Lewes Road
Brighton BN2 3FH

www.roundhill.org.uk

We Tweet :

Follow us at: @RoundhillSoc

Yahoo Roundhill Community Group: a forum for local info and advice (Google or find the link on our website).

On Facebook at both :

Round Hill Community Noticeboard
Round Hill Society Brighton UK

The Round Hill Society Committee

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	Kate Wolstenholme	Bsmt 48 Round Hill Crescent kate.wolstenholme@gmail.com	07547 983169
	Vivien Eliades	66 Richmond Road vivien@eliades.org	

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Student liaison officers:

Sussex-Mark Woolford 01273 678219 M.A.Woolford@sussex.ac.uk.

Brighton- Andrew Keeffe 01273 641894 a.w.b.keeffe@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 contact.centre@sussex.pnn.police.uk

The First Blue Plaque on the Lewes Road

Commemorating 2nd Lt. Ernest Beal VC

There will be a short ceremony on Friday 16th March just after 2pm when the Mayor will unveil a new commemorative plaque on the Pevensey Road side of Mojo Café (148 Lewes Road) to the memory of Ernest Beal. He was awarded the Victoria Cross after leading his squad into the enemy trenches and overcoming three machine gun positions. Later he crossed into no-mans-land again to bring back an injured soldier. He died the next day when a shell landed in his trench.

Ernest Beal was born and lived at 148 Lewes Road until he joined the Army in 1914. He died just before the war ended. Brighton Museum is creating an exhibition about him in conjunction with this event. Ernest was part of the family firm which ran Beal's Stationers in East Street for many years.

Picture of Ernest Beal courtesy of Royal Pavilion and Museums, Brighton and Hove



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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