



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 66
December 2016

Halloween Playsafe on Mayo Road – Sunday 30th October 3 to 5pm – see page 4.

Seasonal Singing around Round Hill

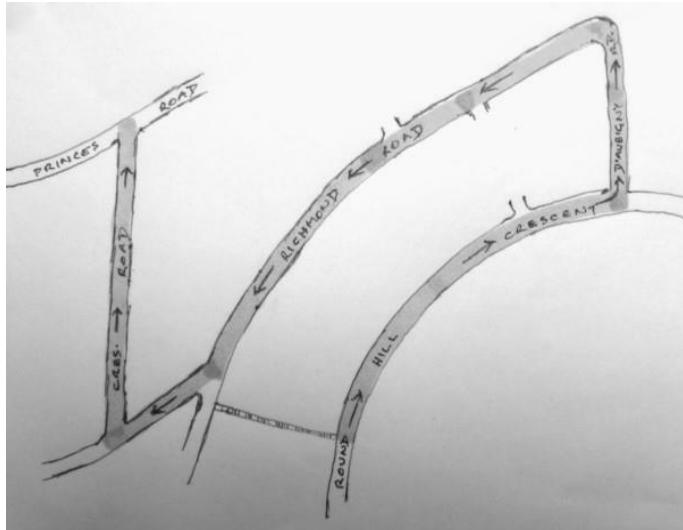
Starting from the foot of the Cat Creep, 6pm 15th December

If the weather is fine we will collect at the bottom of the Cat Creep on Round Hill Crescent at 6pm on Thursday 15th December. Wrap up warm and bring a torch or lantern, and children if you have them. There will be at least one musician, and plenty of printed songsheets to encourage lively and loud singing.

The route is shown on the adjacent map – Round Hill Crescent, D'Aubigny Rd, Richmond Rd and Crescent Rd. We will stop and sing a song or two beneath handy lampposts whilst others knock on doors seeking smiles and contributions for charity. This year we have decided to pass the money onto the mayor's charity choices.

The whole event takes about 90 minutes and we will finish at 55 Princes Rd where warm mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies will be available.

In the best of previous years we have sung loudly if not well, and have met lots of family groups on the doorstep and raised over £200 for charity. On the worst years we have had to cancel because of torrential rain. Let's hope the 15th December 2016 will be a good year.



Advent Windows

Once again there will be decorated windows across Round Hill (in addition to those in Belton Road – if they are doing it again (hope so)).

If you and your household want a date to reveal yours please contact Cath Kronhamn. At this late stage you may get a duplicate date with another resident – but the more the merrier.

cathrynkronhamn@gmail.com

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Community Composting Plan

Searching for users and managers

In the last issue there was a tiny item floating the idea of a small 'community composting' scheme here on Round Hill. A few people got in touch and said they would like to use it, but not enough to make it viable.

At the Annual General Meeting we talked some more about the idea and it quickly became clear that the first article had not been clear enough.

Working with Pavilions at Richmond House we would get two wooden locked compost bins installed on the south side of their building. They will need to be filled, over time, with a mix of vegetable waste and torn up cardboard by registered users (who would have keys to the bins). The pair of bins needs about 8 or 10 households to be adding uncooked vegetable kitchen waste regularly. In addition the bins need a manager to keep an eye on the mix going in, and to alter it if

necessary, by, for example adding more card or stirring the contents. The manager will also decide when to leave one bin to mature and start using the other one. We will get training from Brighton and Hove Food Partnership. When the bin is emptied users will have first refusal on a share of the compost.

Please get in touch with Annie Rimington if you are interested in being part of this project.



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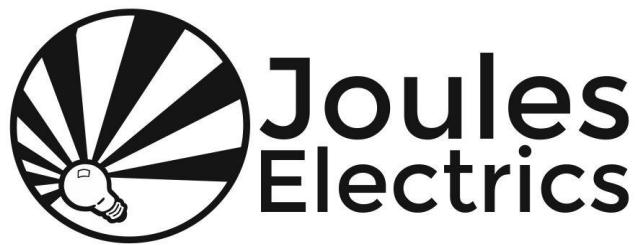
Woof woof, my name is Benjie and I've been told that on **May 21st, 2017** there is probably going to be a very local dog show. It will be for well-behaved dogs (which may rule me out), dogs who live on Round Hill or who just regularly walk through. There will be other things happening too, like stalls for cakes and plants and books and more, and music, in fact all sorts of things. Woof.

I intend to enter for the dog that looks most like its owner, my friend Bramble thinks she might win the waggiest tail, as she's got one. Neither of us will win the best trick although she is very good at 'watch and wait for a treat. Poppy or Lottie might win the prettiest 'oldie; (over seven). You will have gathered this not exactly Crufts.

Please put the date in your 2017 Calendar now and start perfecting those tricks High Five, and Take a Bow things like that oh and obedience and good behaviour. See you there. Woof, woof

Dark Evening Dog Poo Syndrome

An October outbreak of this winter syndrome elicited cries of dismay, howls of outrage, and sighs of incredulity. Dog poo really gets to people - in more ways than one! The offending waste (apparently of one large and one small dog) was particularly troublesome in Roundhill Crescent. An intensification of dog poo stencils seems to have had some effect, but we are considering further imaginative measures to minimise a menace which has upset RH residents, on and off, over the years. In the meantime, please be vigilant and report offenders while taking heart from the reality that most dog owners do a great job in keeping our streets clean. Who was it who said, "We are all in this together"?



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Autumn cut-back

Sunday the 30th October saw a small but perfectly formed team of resident volunteers gather at the bottom of Mayo Road to meet up with two CityClean staff and their wire-cage van and plastic sacks to roam the hill in search of eye-scratchingly overgrown vegetation, then to cut it down and bag it for CityClean to take away. Perhaps you have noticed the hot-spots of improved passage? The Cat Creep, the bottom of Wakefield Road and parts of the boundary fence with our north-neighbouring industrial estate.

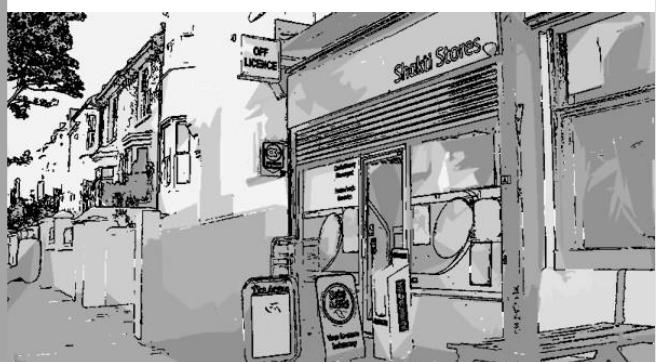


Once this mass of ivy, bramble and Virginia creeper projected half way across the pavement.

Christmas on The Level

Saturday 10th December will see craft activities for children in the MacLaren Room just south of the café in the middle of the Level. Under expert guidance children will be able to make decorations and cards to take away. This will happen between 11am and 3.30pm.

At 4pm the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex will be present for the turning on of lights on a Christmas tree. We hope that lots of people will attend to share refreshments, music and seasonal goodwill.



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Historic Round Hill



The picture shows a pair of telephone insulators fixed to a fascia board in Princes Road. A modern insulated telephone wire is attached to the upper insulator support, but the original wires bringing telephone services were not insulated so had to be kept apart – thus two separated pots, one for each bare wire. Insulated wires came in during the 1960s.

Josh's Story

[The following story was given to the Reporter by one of the many people being helped by Pavilions, the Drug and Alcohol recovery service provider for our city.]

My initial contact with Pavilions was via a police station. While in the care of the authorities I was adamant to speak with someone (anyone for that matter), as I literally had nothing left in my life that I felt was worth continuing for. My Alcoholism had me where it wanted – fearful, damaged and bemused. How had I ended up in custody yet again? A lady from Pavilions within the Criminal Justice team spoke and listened to me at length and, as a result, was able to signpost me to numerous options unbeknown to me at that time.

The following morning I went along to Pavilions to explore one of those 'options'; self-referring for an assessment to try and address the damaging relationship I had with alcohol. I remember vividly that the staff were unable to see me that morning and I was very distraught by this. However, the nice lady at the reception took my contact details and said they would be in touch. This changed everything. I was contacted that afternoon and had an assessment towards the end of their working day. I felt helpless not hopeless from then on.

The considerable amount of support and guidance that was on offer after that assessment was incredible, and I no longer felt alone in my alcoholism. I was able to self-disclose safely in groups and one to ones - quickly finding my voice through the intervention of Pavilions. I subsequently went on to a treatment centre in the Brighton and Hove area and, after successful completion, began training as a Peer Mentor for Pavilions to use my experiences to help others with their own negative blocks relating to drugs and alcohol. This synopsis reflects the dramatic turnaround my life has taken in a mere 13 months and I am thankful that Pavilions exists.

All of a Twitter

They are back! The chirpy sparrows that share our streets have been on holiday. All has been quiet (especially as those squawky sea gulls are going through their annual quiet patch too).

Late summer, strangely, our flocks of sparrows fly off for a few weeks – not far – the Race Hill perhaps or Falmer, looking for a glut of fallen seeds in the fields around.

Then back to their favourite shrubs in Richmond Road or Crescent Road or your garden perhaps, where the colony have in all likelihood hung out for years.

If not immersed in your own kind of twitter, you have probably heard their twittering as you walk along the road. It is loud and cheery. What are they saying to each other? It all sounds very social, friendly, comforting even. Then suddenly without any warning, with one accord the twitter stops abruptly, there is no slow twit, one out of step with the others, just an immediate and disconcerting silence. A few minutes (or less) of eerie quietness, and they begin again – all of a twitter.

Bird numbers continue to fall and in a city like ours where so many small, local pockets of green spaces are being concreted over and built on, birds need all the help we can give as winter creeps up. Lots of people in cities feed the birds all the year round but if you are not one of them, how about now?

Biscuit, and cake crumbs, bought seeds, apple, suet will bring birds into your garden or even your window ledge. Don't put out too much, it should all be eaten by dusk and given fresh next day. It is also helpful to have two or three small feeding stations, rather than one big bird table, where the small birds might not get a look in.

Bird feeding and bird watching are not just for dotty old ladies like me, I know from experience, that children can easily get hooked. A pair of binoculars, a book of bird food recipes (yes, there are such things!), an eye catching, informative but easy to read book

Such as "The Secret Lives of Garden Birds" by Dominic Couzens, illustrated beautifully by Peter Partington, will in many cases instill an interest that may last a lifetime. Tweet, tweet.

Jan Curry



Male House sparrow



Female House sparrow

Editorial rant: Birdwatching is just one of the many ways we can become sensitive to the existence of some of the thousands of other species we share the planet/ Round Hill/ our gardens/ our skin and guts with. Only by growing awareness of other species can we help ensure the long term survival of the complex web of life that is the biosphere. **Birdwatching is much, much more than a hobby.**

Round Hill Rat Run

I'm sure I'm not the only person in the area that has noticed the amount of fast through traffic that's been increasing over the years. At rush hours it can be very busy, especially on Wakefield Road and Prince's Crescent as frustrated drivers from outside our area seek to avoid the queues that build up at the Viaduct Road / Upper Lewes Rd / Ditchling Road junction.

I read an interesting piece in the Round Hill Reporter recently that documented the painted cricket wicket against the long old flint wall that bounds Wakefield Road, and how, in the 1950's, the whole road hosted cricket games and general play despite the gradient. Adults, meanwhile, would socialise in comfort on the streets unmolested by speeding cars. The recent 'Play Safe' initiative has acknowledged this problem by occasionally closing off Mayo Road for a couple of blissful hours and thereby allowing us all to turn the clocks back to the 1950's and to appreciate the peace of vehicle free streets!

When I moved here in 1998 it wasn't as bad because the parking on both sides of Wakefield Road kept speeds down, although this blocked one pavement. Then the southbound London Road traffic was diverted down Viaduct Road. This made the junction at Ditchling Road busier and this in turn created more through traffic for us. Later still, most applauded the road closure on Richmond Road, but of course this diverted *all* the rat runners down Prince's Crescent and Wakefield Road.

Is there a solution? One-way streets were rejected when mooted a while back. Maybe 'no left' or 'no right' turns would help but the lack of traffic police nowadays to enforce such an edict means it probably wouldn't work. Meanwhile we have the safety and peace of our area disturbed by through traffic, at considerable disadvantage to us locals.

Bruce Jonas

Bruce is not alone in commenting on traffic using Wakefield Rd. The other issue raised has been how motorists seem to speed up in an attempt to get through without meeting any oncoming vehicles.

Halloween Playsafe

Sunday 30th October saw a gathering on Mayo Road of witches and skeletons and vampires and yet others that seemed to be small children.

These witches seemed uninterested in broth of toad and bat, and the vampires shunned warm blood, but all seemed keen on doughnuts. The doughnuts would have been eaten in seconds, but the various witches, ghouls and vampires had to eat them without using their hands (or magic spells).



You can't have Halloween without carved and hollowed pumpkins, and we had plenty, as you will see at the front of this group picture:



But who is the bigger person in fancy dress near the middle back of this group? Check out the back page to find out.

This was the last Playsafe of 2016, they will be back in the spring.

Old Laundry Site Planning Application

Residents' concerns & Councillors' lack of interest

Planning applications for this site have appeared regularly over the last 3 years with the theme of refitting the old laundry buildings as houses. Also, a new house, partially underground, at the south end of the site was proposed. Each application was opposed by local residents and was refused by Council Planners until the last application. Submitted in the spring of 2016 it was held back and subject to further amendments by the applicant then placed before the Planning Committee this 12th October with the officer's recommendation to grant.

Many objections to all the applications have been sent by neighbours with extensive arguments covering all aspects.

A group of neighbours attended this Planning Committee. The application was the last but one to be presented over a seven hour meeting. I gave a short presentation to the Councillors – no questions were asked of me! Furthermore, the Councillors decided on the application without any debate.

It was bad enough for neighbours of this site to lose a case such as this but to have their presence prolonged so purposely seemed highly disrespectful.

We are left with a very definite impression that committee member's only interest in this application was to complete the agenda asap to the benefit of tired councillors but to the disbenefit of genuinely concerned residents.

Chris Morley

Volunteering at the Women's Centre

My name's Rowena and I've been part of the BWC volunteer team for a year.

So what does that mean? It means working to build up trustful and positive ways of working together. It means that I've been getting to know some of the women who regularly access the service, sharing stories and learning about their lives, providing emotional support and opportunities for social interaction. It means I've been part of a team helping new women to access the services we provide at drop-in, helping them to feel welcome and supported. It means signposting women to other services available in Brighton and Hove. For example, I have supported several women in making contact with the domestic abuse charity, RISE; I have helped women to make appointments with Moneyworks, for financial advice; Brighton Housing Trust is another organization that we regularly signpost women to, including the woman who had lost her home due to a relationship breakdown and came to BWC seeking support. It means that as part of our team, I have supported one of our regular service users to make necessary phone calls, such as to the council and to the doctor and hospital. We make appointments for women who want to access the therapies that are offered at reduced rates. I have been part of the team on the day for the fantastic BWC-led International Women's Day event at The Brighton Dome.

The day enabled thousands of members of the public to celebrate the achievements of women around the globe and learn about ongoing action for gender parity. Further, we encouraged some of the women who regularly attend drop-in to be part of the IWD team. One woman commented on what a positive experience it had been to be part of the event.

Brighton Women's Centre is currently running their Period Project! This is aimed at providing women with essential sanitary provisions. Fancy supporting the Period Project? Three ways you can get involved:

1. Gather a sanitary pad mountain! You can be a collection point for your friends and then deliver them to our 72 High Street building
2. Gather with friends and family, talk periods and collect some pads
3. Donate to Brighton Women's Centre through this website

<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/brightonwomenscentre> to support us in empowering women throughout Brighton and Hove and Sussex.

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Round Hill Reporter

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www.roundhill.org.uk

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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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	Ray Knight	93 Princes Crescent	01273 681965
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Environment	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	01273 601320
	Peter Meakins	19 Round Hill Street	01273 571519
	Miriam Stephens	31 Richmond Road	07739 795 740

Veolia Waste Plant issues :

Smell, noise and dust problems – Environment Agency 0800 807060

Illegal parking in the CPZ

Report it on 0845 603 5469 and select option 3 for a traffic warden.

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

Halloween part two



Yes, it's the Mayor of Brighton and Hove in full regalia. We just can't keep him away from Round Hill this year, he's been to our summer garden party, June Playsafe and now Halloween Playsafe. He can't be with us for the Seasonal Singing, but his choice of charities will benefit from any money we collect on the night.

Round Hill Crime Round-up

Bonnie Scovell, our PCSO has sent the last two months of crime statistics for our immediate area. They divide into two groups – September for bike crimes: 1st – bike stolen from Upper Lewes Rd, 19th – another bike stolen on the Upper Lewes Rd, 20th – a bike stolen from the public rack in Ashdown Rd.

October saw only car crimes, all on the 23rd: on Wakefield Rd an attempt was made to steal a car, a satellite navigation unit was taken from a van on Princes Crescent and two vehicles were damaged on the Upper Lewes Rd.

Finally, the police received three phone calls from residents reporting suspected drug dealing on the Cat Creep. Bonnie has been keeping an eye on the steps and has warned a woman she found loitering there to stay away.

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 March edition 18th February 2017

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