



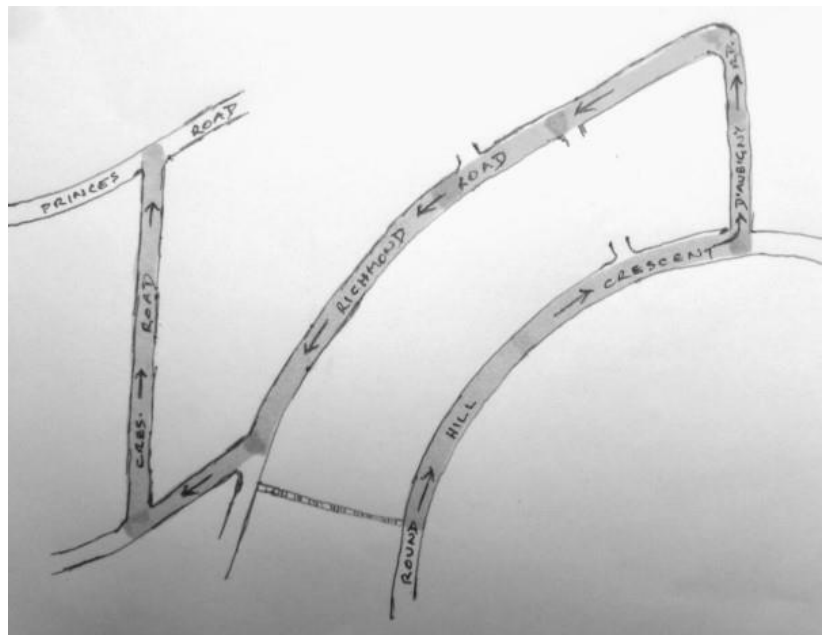
# The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 70  
December 2017

Advent Windows across Round Hill – where they are, how to join in - page 2

## Seasonal Singing on Round Hill

*Starting from the foot  
of the Cat Creep, 6pm  
14<sup>th</sup> December*



If the weather is fine we will collect at the bottom of the Cat Creep on Round Hill Crescent at 6pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 above 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 collection onto the **Martlets Hospice**.

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 – our local Sainsburys is helping us with free food and drink.

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 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 will be a good year.

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Round Hill Society  
by



# Advent Windows on Round Hill

## *Where to see them, and how to join in*

Round Hill Society committee member Miriam Stephens has agreed to co-ordinate this years Advent Windows event. That means she will be receiving requests from residents to join in and will then publish a list of the addresses so that we can all take a walk to view them.

All kinds of window displays have been created in the past, some by children and some by adults. Themes have included Christianity, but also snowmen, reindeers, candles and just about anything you can visualise.

Contact Miriam by e-mailing: [miriamstephens@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:miriamstephens@hotmail.co.uk). With luck you can get on the list even after December 1<sup>st</sup>, after all there are plenty more days until Christmas. Here is one from 2014, a 10th December gingerbread window, displayed for two weeks, then eaten. And remember Belton Road usually does its own, so check it out as well.



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## Round Hill Gathering – 19<sup>th</sup> October

*(the Annual General Meeting in disguise)*

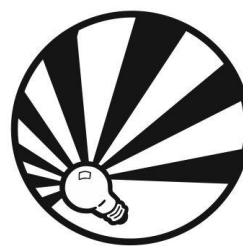
Thirty-six people came to Richmond House for tea and cake and then to discuss concerns and ideas.

Sandy Thomas raised the idea of getting some funding for a Community Safety programme which might help tackle issues such as fly-tipping, car vandalism (several cars have recently had tyres damaged), bike theft and graffiti and tagging. A small group of volunteers plan to meet and pursue the idea further. Sandy will be involved, but has decided to step down from the committee. Thank you Sandy for your active and sustained involvement over the last five years.

Ted spoke of the smells issuing from the waste transfer station on Hollingdean Lane, especially during warmer weather. Given that the plant has no ability to contain the smelly air, or clean it before release, the only true solution is to close it and open on a site big enough to have proper air containment and cleaning facilities installed. A group has been formed to see how we might push for relocation.

Other issues mentioned were: loud and very late parties, barking dogs shut in gardens overnight, the need for a safer crossing on the Upper Lewes Road near Bradley's Store and how to get better waste and recycling behaviour from new residents – perhaps working with landlords.

On the positive side people said that they enjoyed many of the events organised for Round Hill. The Dog Show last summer had special mention.



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The guest judge was Tom, below left, our resident Surrey Police Dog-handler. Thanks to him and also Jan Curry for planning the event.

The Playsafe street closure for 2 hours, 4 or 5 times a year was also praised not just by parents with younger children, but also by those who come along for tea, cake and conversation. It was proposed that we might embellish Playsafe with other activities – perhaps bric-a-brac, book or plant stalls, or singing events. Boxcar racing was also suggested. Seasonal Singing and Advent Windows also received praise – more on them elsewhere in this issue.

Barbara Harris told us how our financial affairs had gone. Income £1141, expenditure £991 – result: Happiness (Dickens, I think) and still a few thousands in the bank.

The long wall at the bottom of Wakefield Road was again raised. The attempt at planting ivy in carefully made holes at the foot of the wall seems to have failed, another attempt is planned (bigger holes and better rooted plants), meanwhile an ivy mural might appear – watch this space and that wall.

Our new committee is also missing Peter Meakins – he decided to step down. Sorry to see you go Peter. But we gained 4 new members – Eva Wendler, Stephania Rosso, Kate Wolstenholme and Vivien Eliades (who has been with us before).

## Level News

### Take you children and make cards.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 4pm.

### Gardener's dedication rewarded.

The Level garden manager **Stephen Peters** has won the first ever South and South East in Bloom Gardener of the Year Award. His post has been funded as part of the Level improvements, but he has put in far more time than paid for. He has helped people learn about planting and pruning, manages weekly garden volunteers and has previously provided Round Hill with some daffodil bulbs for planting around tree bases.



## Shakti Stores

*Your local Premier retailer*

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Fresh organic bread and milk daily, large vegetarian and organic range, frozen food

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102 Ditchling Road  
Established December 1983

## Halloween Playsafe 2017

*ending the year in style*



Cannibalistic pumpkin on the left gets one of the 4 prizes on offer, meanwhile his neighbour looks a little worried.



Children enjoy tackling suspended doughnuts without using their hands. The photo suggests adults are exempt from the hands-free rule.

## Hosting Foreign Students

### *useful extra income, but hard work*

During the summer, as the population of Brighton swells with visitors from around the globe, you might consider welcoming some into your home.

Hosting a foreign student (or 2 or 3!) can be hard work but also very rewarding knowing that you have given that young person a positive experience. It can be financially rewarding too but shop around as rates are very variable.

If you are hosting teenagers (who make up the majority of summer school students) then you will need a CRB check, a smoke alarm and a gas safety check (which costs £60).

The school will visit your house for an inspection but don't worry it's not like OFSTED!

Cooking for your guests can be a bit problematic when catering for teenage whims. Juggling the culinary needs of a vegetarian and a stalwart carnivore, a phobia of vegetables and disgust for cheese was a challenge. Inexperienced at hosting I fretted too much on the cooking front. Remember as long as there is some garlic bread alongside they will eat most things!

We had fun with our guests cooking tortilla with the Spanish (onions or no onions?), showing a young Italian how to make pesto, trying Russian pancakes with a recipe from a German student and playing Articulate with the more, well, articulate guests. Afternoon activities and evening rendezvous with other teenagers means you don't have to fret about entertaining your young charges.

It was hard to say goodbye for the last time and hallo for the first time but we enjoyed our hosting maiden-voyage and the young people with whom she shared our home for a few weeks left with smiles on their faces.

**Linda (not a Round Hill resident, but nearby)**

(I hosted English language students several years ago, and always took 2 - twice the money but not usually twice the work. Ed.)

## Crime stats for Round Hill

Crime category	July 17	Aug 17	Sept 17
All crimes	58	41	36
Anti-social Behaviour	9	5	4
Bike theft	1	5	3
Burglary	1	1	1
Criminal damage	5	1	7
Drugs	0	1	0
Other theft	9	4	7
Shoplifting	27	10	3
Vehicle crime	1	6	0
Violence and sexual offences	5	6	4

These figures are for an area including Round Hill plus Sylvan Hall, the Ditchling Road petrol station and both Sainsbury's and the petrol station and associated businesses at the gyratory. The shoplifting and other theft groups in all months shown took place at Sainsbury's and the petrol station opposite.

Since Bonnie departed in the austerity cuts I have not been given streets for all crimes. The rise in September in criminal damage might be linked to reports of car tyre slashing which have been recorded on the Round Hill Community Noticeboard Facebook page.

What is certain is that we should be sure to report crimes even if you don't expect action. If the police know where they are happening they do divert some resources to those areas. Leaving crimes unreported is not in the interest of our community.

You can visit <https://www.police.uk/shape/bP8qKz/> where there is a map of crimes and links to more details.



## Round Hill Residents Poetry Corner

I would be surprised if this became a regular feature of the Reporter, though not unhappy if it did. I received the first poem in the post and heard the second at a fundraising event. I hope you enjoy them.

### Nancy's Poem

I know a girl whose help never ends,  
she really is the best of friends.  
Her kindness never ceases to surprise,  
at my lowest ebb, an angel in disguise.

It's difficult to be such a good friend back,  
as perfection is very hard to match.  
So if you have a friend so rare,  
make sure they know you really care.

Once they are gone it will be too late  
to find someone who will tolerate  
your problems, issues and distress.  
That friendship makes you truly blessed.

Poppy Prowett

The second poem comes with some context setting words from Jenny Knight:

Some years ago I found myself killing time in the coffee shop of a department store before going to a meeting.

An older couple were sitting on the table beside me, mostly in silence, drinking their tea and eating their small complementary biscuits from the saucers, Their silence was interrupted with short exchanges about whether there was anything they should buy, whether new shirts were necessary after retirement, how nice the biscuits were and what a nice 'little run out' they had had. Both gazed past each other, into the distance, sipping tea and chewing on their biscuits. I was struck by the apparent emptiness of their exchange and the fact that they had found themselves filling time by walking round a department store. At the same time as acknowledging that I knew very little about this couple and their lives other than this snapshot it made me reflect on retirement, getting old and the different phases in our lives. This poem was inspired by that day, and the couple on the table next to me.

### The Road They Took

They sat together on her single bed  
Ate garlic sausage, crispy bread  
Shared money fears, shared future hopes  
Philosophised, read horoscopes  
They talked of life, stayed up all night  
With love, and dreams and appetite

They sat there on their sofa-bed  
Ate home cooked dinner, now well fed  
Shared money fears, shared future plans  
Children in mind, a mortgage and  
A garden where they'd barbeque  
A place called home – what people do

They sat there on the chesterfield  
Baby in arms, their union sealed  
Ate takeaway, no time to cook  
No time to talk, or read a book  
Shared money worries now and then  
So very tired, and broke again

They sat there on the comfy chairs  
No money worries, no real fears  
Children grown up and gone away  
Just working now until the day  
Retirement comes and life is good  
And freedom gives them what it should

They sat there, in the restaurant  
Of Marks and Sparks. "What do you want?"  
"A cup of tea, a slice of cake  
"That would be nice, we'll have a break  
"From looking at the clothing range  
"A nice trip out – it's made a change".

And looking through his face she saw  
The sun was setting, hours before  
It should have been, it's early still  
*"Put on the light, put back my will  
To laugh, to feel both joy and pain  
Give back my time to live again*

*"Where has it gone and is this all  
A biscuit, tea, a shopping mall  
A trolley full of nothing much  
Just stuff to do, it doesn't touch  
My heart, my soul, it leaves me cold  
The sun has set. I'm growing old".*

Jenny Knight  
2011

## More Trees wanted for Round Hill

*its happening elsewhere, so why not here?*

Hanover Action for Sustainable Living is seeking to replace trees lost on the streets of Hanover through a crowd funding appeal. So far two trees have been planted with £300 raised.

Meanwhile in Springfield Road they are losing horse chestnut trees to a canker but 33 folk have pledged nearly £2000 to replace the lost canopy, shade and habitat. One comment on their Spacehive website ([spacehive.com/springfield-road-trees](http://spacehive.com/springfield-road-trees)) does put a different point of view – “with the big tree gone we get loads of natural light, and there is less damage likely to drains, garden walls and pavements”. Planting smaller species of trees would reduce the adverse impacts.

Only a couple of years ago we planted two rowan trees on Richmond Road (one was a replacement for a vandalised tree). The Council have replaced one elm on the Upper Lewes Road, but two more have gone since then.

If we need more trees where should they go? Please give us your thoughts by contacting a committee member.

## Advent Windows on the Round Hill

*as at 20<sup>th</sup> November*

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	10 Ashdown Road
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	14 Mayo Road
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	84 Richmond Road
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	25 Wakefield Road
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	23 Richmond Road
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Volunteer!</b>
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	22 Princes Road
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	5 Ashdown Road
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Volunteer!</b>
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	3 Ashdown Road
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	91 Princes Crescent
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup>	4 D'Aubigny Road
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	13 Wakefield Road
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	69 Round Hill Crescent
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	5 The Willows, Princes Crescent
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	13 Ashdown Road
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	33 Richmond Road
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	116 Richmond Road
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	38 Princes Road
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	41 Princes Road
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	11 Ashdown Road
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8 D'Aubigny Road
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	36 Richmond Road
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	83 Round Hill Crescent

## Christmas Open Houses

*for last minute gifts for others or yourself*

Not much time left to catch a locally made item. Many shows in homes will only be open on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December now, but some gallery and studio spaces have more open days.

In walking distance try 99 Ditchling Rise for bags, cards, beads and pottery, or 23 Stanley Rd for notebooks, silver jewellery, cushions, clogs and cards. Atelier 51 is open 11 to 5pm from 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> at 51 Providence Place (close to St Bartholomew's Church) for prints, ceramics jewellery and more. Check the other 50 or so venues online at [aoh.org.uk/house/](http://aoh.org.uk/house/).

### Round Hill Readers' Meeting

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 8pm

at The Martha Gunn

The pub on the Upper Lewes Road

All welcome

We will be talking about

### One Moment, One Morning

By local author

Sarah Rayner

A story of love death and friendship starts with an incident on a Brighton to London commuter train

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[www.roundhill.org.uk](http://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
Environment	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	01273 601320
	Miriam Stephens	31 Richmond Road	07739 795740
	Eva Wendler	2/19 Round Hill Crescent wendler.eva@gmail.com	
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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	

### 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](mailto:contact.centre@sussex.pnn.police.uk)



Seasonal singers 2014

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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