



The **Round Hill** Reporter

Issue 80
June 2020

Electric car charging points coming to Richmond Road – page 5

COVID - 19

Coping with a new disease

The New Scientist magazine first reported a new disease in China in its edition of 11th January this year. By the next edition the disease organism had been identified as a coronavirus and China had shared its genetic sequence internationally, one person in Wuhan had died.

The new form of coronavirus, named Covid19, reached Brighton in early February. At that time 5 of the 8 known cases in the UK were linked to Brighton. Four months later, at the end of May there have been over a quarter of a million cases identified in the UK and nearly 37,000 people have died from it.

The Office of National Statistics tell us that Brighton and Hove had registered 128 deaths from Covid19 by 15th May, including 70 in hospitals and 52 in care homes or hospices.

Many people have been self-isolating, many are suffering from loneliness and financial hardship, but there are sources of help and advice out there – though most are available through the internet.

If you might know of someone who might need help, or you have not heard from for a while try calling them, knocking on the door (and stepping back of course) or leaving a note.

One of the best sources of help is a new website put up by Community Matters and the Trust for Developing Communities. The site is updated daily. Find it at <http://www.CovidBrightonHove.org.uk>

The City Council have a support and help service at new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/request-help. No internet access? You can phone:

Hannah Barker – 07771 389497

Simon Bannister – 07795 336202

Emma Reeves – 07411 251969.

There is also a Mutual Aid group, brought together by B&H Food Partnership, which helps establish networks of local people who can help with grocery and prescription deliveries, accessing local services and resources, and offer moral support via local groups and volunteers. Find the local group on Facebook at

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/Covid19AidLondondonRD/>

Brighton Cooking Club has set up a service to deliver cooked meals to people who cannot manage, or have no time because of caring duties or NHS work pressure. Meals are free, phone 01273 855874. You can volunteer to help on the same number. Another dedicated volunteer site is <http://www.volunteer.bhcommunityworks.org.uk> where you can see what help is needed.

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Easy to see toad couple



Harder to spot newt



A newt walks past one toad and three newts hiding in the crack

Toad (and newt and frog) Patrol *Catcreep Springwatch survey results*

Through February and March a growing team of 'Toad Patrollers' headed out almost every night to monitor amphibian numbers on the 'Cat Creep', to spread awareness amongst passers-by and to help protect migrating toads, newts and frogs from the perils of using this popular pedestrian shortcut linking Round Hill Crescent and Richmond Road.

During that time we had **782 amphibian sightings!** It's the first 'official' year of data-collection for the Toad Crossing, but what a mega migration! Warmer, wetter nights seemed to see the higher numbers. The 16th and 23rd Feb had over 50 amphibians counted, the 10th and 15th March had 76 and 43 counted.

These data will make for an impressive contribution to local record centres and amphibian groups and will help inform local and national amphibian conservation efforts. Records have been submitted to: [Froglife](#) (who co-ordinate Toad Crossings nationally), the [Sussex Amphibian and Reptile Group](#) (SxARG) and [Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre](#) .

Lessons learnt

While many Roundhill residents are well-aware of our annual toad phenomenon, it was still news to a lot of folks the patrol team would meet on the steps. So I think a must-have for next year would be some improvements to our signage – with special reference to newts as well as toads. Unfortunately, while our bigger and 'hoppy-er' amphibians seemed this year to escape any trampling-casualties, we found our newts took a bit of a pummelling... In fact, almost 10% of newt sightings were of squashed newts rather than live ones 😞. Awareness of newts seemed to be comparatively lacking amongst those whom patrollers met on the steps – and there's no denying these smaller, well-camouflaged critters are harder to spot!

Kate Wolstenholme.

kate.wolstenholme@googlemail.com

THINGS and the Climate Crisis

managing our stuff for the planet

‘Substitute something with nothing’ is certainly one way of helping the environment. How many of the things we buy do we actually need, or use, or even like after the initial ‘retail therapy’ buzz has worn off? Most of our homes are filled with clutter, in corners, in drawers, on top shelves, collecting dust (although I suspect a lot of clearing out has happened over the last couple of months). So, yes, we can simply consume less, but there are other ways we can address the climate crisis, some of which were discussed at a talk in the Jubilee Library earlier in the year, organised by A Drop in the Ocean.

The first issue to be considered was fast fashion. 7 tonnes of clothing is thrown away in the UK every 10 minutes. Yes, 7 tonnes! **Ruby Moon** is a non-profit social enterprise company which uses waste as a resource, specifically ‘ghost’ fishing nets (which are left in the ocean, often lost, trapping and killing all sorts of marine life along the way). These are reprocessed to make active wear, thus contributing to a circular economy, as opposed to our current linear economy which is basically manufacture, sell, dump. Fast fashion is helping to destroy our world (and also involves modern slavery). The UK is second only to the US in relation to the creation of disposable clothing and its immediate waste. The technology does not yet exist to fully break down the fibres of clothing made of mixed materials (the fishing nets are 100% nylon) but hopefully in the next 5 years or so it will.

However, extending the lifespan of clothing also seriously reduces carbon and energy usage. Buying better quality garments in classic styles, not dictated by ephemeral fashion, results in greater sustainability (and is ultimately kinder on the wallet!) XR52 is an Extinction Rebellion initiative which asks people to refrain from buying any new clothes for a year, using secondhand shops instead. This has its merits, but to effect real change we need to alter the whole manufacturing system so that businesses can still thrive and employ people. A circular economy is a way of doing this.

We also heard from **The Repair Café**, a local initiative set up and run by volunteers. It started off 7 years ago simply repairing clothes but has since expanded to cover all sorts of things including bicycles, small electrical appliances and computers. Currently based in Hanover Community Centre on the last Saturday of each month (before the lockdown), a team of experts, all volunteers, shows people how to fix their items. For years now, many companies have manufactured things with ‘built-in obsolescence’ so when something goes wrong you have to buy a new one. The Right to Repair movement is campaigning for better legislation to enable the public to repair things, for example by making parts for electrical goods more easily available. It is also pushing for goods to be labelled in terms of their durability and repairability. A sealed device makes you think that if it breaks you have to throw it away or at least get an expert to fix it. There are now 63 Repair Cafes in the UK. Others nearby are in Hollingbury, Hove, Lewes and Saltdean, which will hopefully be able to re-open before too long.

Understanding how things are made can help change our perceptions of their value and even ownership itself. The sharing economy is booming, but that is a whole new topic!

Jo Alexander

Drug and Alcohol Service Moves

future of Richmond House uncertain

The contract for drug & alcohol services came up for its 5 year review from 1st April. Pavilions bid again, but were not successful. ‘**Change Grow Live**’ took over the staff and service, though some staff may have to re-apply for their posts due to restructuring.

<https://www.changegrowlive.org/brighton-hove-recovery-service>

Change Grow Live wanted to remain at Pavilions, but the freeholder, Matsims, was able to refuse them. It is thought that Matsims will seek a more profitable use for the site.

Because of Covid19 there are no face to face sessions, all is being done on line or by phone.



Round Hill Green Spaces

As you've probably guessed, our plans have more or less come to a halt because of the coronavirus. We prepared an application for central government funding at the end of last year but couldn't get it "rubber stamped" in time by Brighton and Hove council. We've raised £1000 from a trust + £1000 donation from the Roundhill Society and have funding applications ready to mail to various organisations. The chief exec of Brighton Buses has offered us a £1500 contribution to the bus stop project. So, with the help of our councillor Pete West, we hope to pick up where we left off at a later date.

In the meantime the charity which provided us with 150 native shrubs and very small trees for the project, agreed to us using them in other ways within the community. We're happy to report that



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Celebrating 35 years on Round Hill

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Established December 1983

most of these have now been distributed and are making Round Hill a little greener. They're small at the moment, but will be visible in front gardens and containers, in Roundhill Crescent, Richmond Road, Princes Road, Roundhill Road, Belton Road, Belton Close, Upper Lewes Road, Princes Crescent and d'Aubigny Road. Oh, and Rob Stephenson is hoping to plant one in the stump of the recently felled tree in Upper Lewes Road. Thank you to everyone who got involved and came along to collect plants. We should be able to get more next year.

And we do have a little bit more activity with our project. Huge thanks to local resident and furniture maker Karl Weitz who's volunteered to give his time to make us a large planter to be sited at the junction of Richmond/Mayo Road – the site previously discussed, where cars somehow manage to cut through this no-entry road by using the pavement. We may be getting compost from Veolia – they agreed to this in those wonderful pre-virus days so we're hoping they can still deliver. Shame we can't have a community planting day, but when the planter's in-situ we'll plant up with shrubs saved from the above donation, and invite residents to be individually involved in donating or planting up other plants and bulbs. Have a look at Karl's wonderful furniture at <https://www.kwfurniture.co.uk>.

You may have heard that one of our neighbours has moved on - Karen, the wonderful gardener who made 2 of the Roundhill Crescent planters so beautiful has relocated to a new home. Unless any other neighbours would like to continue her brilliant work, Green Spaces will include this site in our project in the future. We can't wait to get out with the volunteer gardening crew to make Roundhill a little greener.

Jane Power and Dominic Furlong

Swifts back over Round Hill

As far as the Reporter is aware the first sighting of swifts was Friday 8th May, when Kate Wolstenholme saw 7 or 8 swifts wheeling and screaming over her garden. If you know of any swift nesting sites in Roundhill we'd love to hear from you. You can record sightings at <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/conservation-and-sustainability/safeguarding-species/swiftmapper/>

The rest of your Round Hill committee member introductions



Jan: I have lived in Richmond Road since I married 62 years ago, and I've seen some changes! I love living in this area, and the view from our house across the valley and to the sea is amazing. Round Hill neighbours are great, it's like living in a village. Rusty and I feel we've been very lucky.

Kate R: I've lived in Round Hill for 15 years and live on Richmond Road with my family. I lead the community 'playing out' sessions where we close Mayo Road for a couple of hours to let kids play out and adults socialise in a safe space. I love foreign language films, sitting in my garden in the sun and reading - I'm also trying to get fitter & stronger at a dawn bootcamp!



Kate W: I joined the committee a couple of years ago, and have a particular interest in the environment. For 2020 I've enjoyed starting the first official 'toad patrol' at the new Toad Crossing up Cats Creep! I live with my furniture-maker boyfriend and work in ecological consultancy. Feel free to get in touch!



Stefania: I've lived in Round Hill since 2001, as an international student first. I am now a sustainability and circular economy professional, and passionate outdoor sportive girl loving to get active in social actions. I joined the committee to welcome new neighbours and return benefit to this friendly community.



Jamie: I've lived here since 2007 with my wife and children. I work in Sports Broadcasting and travel a lot, but am always glad to get back to Round Hill. Seeing everyone interact in response to the current crisis is fantastic and I hope it'll continue going forwards! We on the committee can help drive us all to improve what is already a fantastic neighbourhood.



The Roundhill at Home

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Wednesday to Saturday
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We can't wait to see you again soon!

www.theroundhill.co.uk

Electric car charge point for Round Hill

The City Council has confirmed its plan to install a fast-charge point for electric cars in Round Hill. It intends to install a charger on the north side of Richmond Road, by the electricity sub-station next to the junction with Mayo Road.

The charger will be able to charge two vehicles, and will have two dedicated parking bays to keep the space free for electric vehicles.

The plan is part of the council's commitment to encourage more of us to use electric cars, and to help make the city carbon-neutral by 2030.

No date has yet been given for the installation: residents near the planned charge point were sent letters from the council at the end of May, and the council has asked for comments by 15 June by email to parkingprojects@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Brighton General Hospital site *potential for listing as a conservation area.*

The committee of the Round Hill Society met on Tuesday 12 May. We had been asked to support a plan to seek Conservation Area status for the whole Brighton General Hospital site, which would require any developer to seek planning permission before any demolition could take place, thus giving the Council more control over the site's future. The following is our response.

We recognise the historical value of the site and its former use as a workhouse and infirmary. We agree that the history of the site must be taken into account when deciding its long-term future. Apart from the listed main building (the symmetrical building with central clock and bell tower visible from most of Round Hill) we believe that some of the other buildings on the site may have some architectural or historical merit which should be considered when deciding their future retention, conversion or demolition.

We believe that, in particular, the flint wall that surrounds the site should be preserved. We also recognise that some other buildings on the site may have limited or no historical or architectural value.

We recognise the need to improve and develop the NHS services provided from the site. We believe that the NHS should be supported in providing these services in a modern, effective and efficient setting, to benefit the community in this part of the city.

We are concerned that whilst Conservation Area status would require planning permission for demolition, we would not want it to so deter developers that the new NHS clinic on the site might be delayed or even cancelled. It is important to balance the historical importance of the site, and of individual buildings (or elements such as the flint wall), against the importance of maintaining NHS services at the site and of providing them from much-improved facilities in a way which is affordable to the NHS and beneficial to the community at large.



From inside, Andrea's Crescent Rd window



Fiona & family flower border, Ashdown Rd

Door by Jo, Karen & Woody, Round Hill Cr.



Celebrating Spring Equinox *decorating windows on Round Hill*

With Italians singing opera from their balconies, on the 2020 Spring Equinox, Roundhillers spread joy across the streets in a different way during the 'lockdown'.

In the Roundhill area of Brighton, neighbours enjoy an annual 'Advent Windows' initiative; households elect to make wintery window displays, each to be unveiled on selected days from the 1st December onwards, by way of 'counting down to Christmas'. The houses participating and their chosen calendar dates are shared in our local neighbourly paper, the Roundhill Reporter, inviting folks to enjoy the advent 'trail' as it plays out throughout December – and get excited for the 25th!

At the Round Hill Society's first committee meeting of 2020, when brainstorming some ways the Society might get involved in the city-wide Nature2020 initiative, the idea of '**20 Nature Windows on March 20th (Spring Equinox)**' was born. Catchy title, I know!

Of course, originally the idea would have been to share the fun via the Nature2020 event listing, inviting the wider Brighton and Hove community into Roundhill to wander the 'nature trail', explore the area, get inspired and meet new people... However, COVID-19!

Despite this rather major interruption to everyday life, the strength of the Roundhill community spirit shone through as ever, and a number of folks were keen to (keep calm and) carry on regardless – spreading the love through their windows if not able to in person, and welcoming in the spring and the uplift and vitality it brings.

So, without further a-do, since (this year) the city-wide opportunity to participate in the nature trail wasn't possible, we invite you to (until next year?!) enjoy some of the creative window displays in 'print', on the left!

This article was originally published on Living Coast blog.

Kate Wolstenholme



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**We can't wait to re-open and
see all your faces again.
Loads of love please stay safe
and hopefully see you soon.**



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:

Round Hill Community Noticeboard

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

The Round Hill Society Committee

Secretary/editor	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road rob.stephenson51@gmail.com	01273 673511
Treasurer	Andrew Partington	6 Richmond Road Andrewjpartington@gmail.com	07580 408522
Community Events	Kate Rice	72 Richmond Road katepotter72@gmail.com	07789 904 865
	Jamie Aitchison	47 Richmond Road Jamieaitchison71@gmail.com	07866 424890
Environment	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	01273 601320
	Barbara Harris	14 Mayo Road	01273 677610
	Eva Wendler	2/19 Round Hill Crescent wendler.eva@gmail.com	
	Stefania Rosso	98 Richmond Road stefania.rosso@gmail.com	07855 894202
	Kate Wolstenholme	Bsmt 48 Round Hill Crescent kate.wolstenholme@gmail.com	07547 983169
	Jo Alexander	69c Round Hill Crescent jmalex@live.com	01273 605287 07940 652986
	Rosi & Max	The Roundhill theroundhillbrighton@mail.com	

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 (if there are still any in the city)

Sussex- 01273 678220 or on-line form at : www.sussex.ac.uk/about/community/talk-to-us

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 www.sussex.police.uk/reportonline.

A perfect 'Car-free' development opportunity



The long-derelict house at the bottom of Wakefield Road is now being extended and reconfigured as 5 flats in what seems to be a fairly sympathetic conversion.

One issue spotted in the planning application was a request for 5 on-street car permits to be allocated to the house. This issue has been faced before in Princes Rd and Crescent Rd, and in both cases we have managed to have the application refused, and the work went ahead as car-free developments. Several people on Round Hill and your committee have appealed to the planners to reject the permit permission request. This site is on level ground and close to main bus routes, and thus ideal for 'car free' status.

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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