



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 76
June 2019

Summer festivals and RHS's 20th anniversary – page 3

Playsafe Plus events for 2019 bringing in more than the children

Our ever popular children's street play events return this year and we're combining them with wider community events to try and get a few more people out and along to socialise. Alongside the kids playing out, we're planning the following:

June 2nd + **Bike Maintenance** (with Bike for Life) and a **Plant Sale/Swap**

June 30th + **Live Music** (any volunteers to organise and/or sing?)

July 28th + Our second **Dog Show** (starting at 2pm)

Sept 15th + **book swap** (kids & adults)

Nov 3rd **Halloween theme**

All take place from 3-5pm on Mayo Road. Please note we have permission from the Council to close the road to traffic for these events.

Please let Kate Rice know if you can help out with any of these events or have any other suggestions which you could support to make them happen.



DeciBelle singers on Round Hill in June 2016

POLITE REMINDER *or perhaps news!*

Your black recycling box accepts **PLASTIC BOTTLES** – just plastic bottles, no other plastic materials.

If you put plastic trays, tubs and film into the black box then all the contents will go for incineration.

Please help recycling to work and sort it correctly.

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Printed for the
Round Hill Society
by



Coffee and Cake at the Roundhill Pub *a regular event perhaps?*

On Saturday April 27th we held a community coffee morning at the Roundhill pub to bring local residents together for coffee, cake and conversation. We had over 30 people drop in and everyone agreed it was a lovely event and that we should do it again (we're thinking quarterly - any thoughts?).

A huge thank you to Max, Rosi and the staff at the Roundhill pub for hosting the event and for providing some delicious vegan and gluten free cakes including great chocolate cake with raspberries, and a delicious mocha cake as well as their regular but no less tasty glazed doughnuts.

Thanks also to all those who baked treats and to all those along on the day. It really was fun and we made £30 which Max & Rosi at the Roundhill pub have very kindly doubled up to £60 which will go towards future community events.

On the right some of the 30 folk present



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Festivals and Celebrations *including our 20th anniversary*



Last July saw a full and varied programme of events on the Level, including this fine orchestra. Another **Level Best Fest** is being planned for this summer, but no details yet – keep an eye on Level noticeboards.

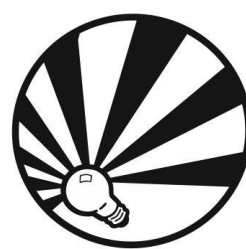
Patchfest in William Clarke Park will happen on Saturday 13th July from 1pm to 9pm, with live bands, food, circus skills and more.

The Round Hill Society is twenty years old

And here on Round Hill we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary with . . . something. There will almost certainly be a **Garden Party**, and perhaps a self-guided walking tour of our heritage, with stories and history on display across the Hill.

There may even be a Round Hill calendar. Perhaps you have a photograph or two which captures a special aspect of Round Hill that you could offer for a calendar. If so please contact Rob Stephenson or Andrew Partington.

If you have other ideas or enthusiasms for Round Hill please contact any of the committee and tell us. The Society held its first public meeting on the 14th September 1999 so the weekend of 14th/15th September this year looks good for celebrating.



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Funding a Blue Plaque on Round Hill *first ever hospital for women run by women*



Wendy of 101 Round Hill Crescent has given permission to erect a plaque, now we need about £1200 to pay for it. This house was the site of a 12 bed hospital to treat women with mental health issues often caused by poor housing, onerous physical labour and constant childbirth.

In May the play 'Clean' was performed on Round Hill, and money collected for the plaque, but more will be needed. Watch out for fundraising events.

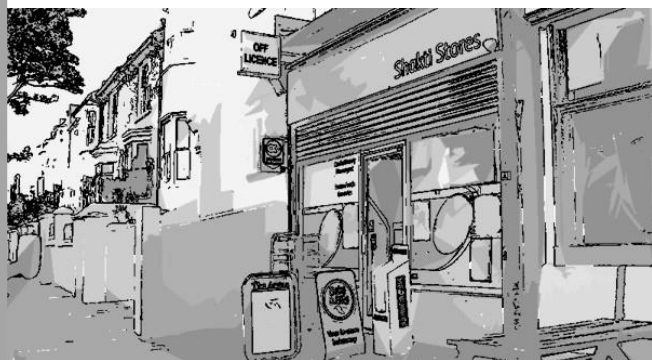


How much do use your car?

Could the Car Club be an alternative?

Our lovely neighbourhood is very densely populated and recent figures show that car parking is at or near 100%. Recent property developments at the back of Princes and Crescent Roads have been approved on condition that they're car-free and both have retrospectively applied for these restrictions to be removed. This would obviously create a precedent, not only in Round Hill, but also across the city, and would put additional pressure on our precious parking spaces. You can read more about this on our website www.roundhill.org.uk.

I recently objected to one of these applications and when considering this, I remembered that we used to have a Car Club space in d'Aubigny Road which has now disappeared, apparently through lack of use, which surprised me.



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Celebrating 35 years on Round Hill

102 Ditchling Road
Established December 1983

City Car Club was introduced to Brighton in 2003, and between then and 2015, there were 100 car-sharing vehicles across Brighton & Hove used by more than 3,000 people and has been credited with helping the city reduce congestion and air pollution and making it one of the least car-dependent cities in the country. Research by Carplus, the UK's regulatory body for car clubs, found that for every car club vehicle in operation in Brighton & Hove, five private vehicles are taken off the road. This also surprised me, given the density of our traffic, so if you add those potential 3,000 vehicles (probably more now), the effects would be deleterious to our quality of life in so many ways.

So why are we not using the Car Club? Is it because we've got such good public transport connections to our area? Maybe we're too attached to our vehicles? Perhaps it's time to consider the advantages of giving up our cars and joining a car club. It would certainly be a viable option for those moving into the new car-free developments. Basically, you pay a nominal amount for membership which entitles you to use the Car Club vehicle, which you then book when you need it. It's great for longer trips and when you need to carry heavy shopping and you avoid the cost of buying a car, taxing, maintaining and parking it.

The scheme is provided by Enterprise Car Club – www.enterpriseclub.co.uk - where you can read more about how the scheme works, with a map of existing Car Club spaces. Now that our own Car Club space has gone, our nearest ones are:

on the corner of Lewes Road/St Leonard's Road
on the corner of Ditchling Rise/Warleigh Road
at the Baker Street end of Kingsbury Road
and in the middle of Park Crescent.

There's a useful item, if a bit dated, in the Guardian – 'Is it worth joining a car club': www.theguardian.com/money/2006/sep/08/personaleffects.

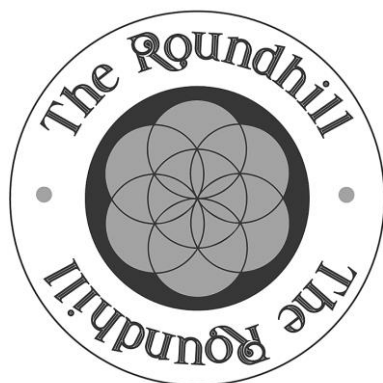
I guess if enough Round Hill residents want to use the Car Club, we can get our dedicated space reinstated. Think about it!

Vivien Eliades

Wildlife on Round Hill

toads on steps, foxes on roofs, swifts in decline and any hedgehogs at all

Our committee member and professional ecologist Kate Wolstenholme has registered the Cat Creep, via Froglife, on the Department of Transport's Register of Amphibian Migratory Crossings. It seems to be the sole toad crossing site registered in the city of Brighton and Hove, and you can see it at <https://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads/tormap>



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The photo of clasping toads is from the Roundhill Community Facebook page, and was taken by Martin Scolding in early March this year, on the Cat Creep.

Meanwhile, a resident of Belton Road recently observed a fox wandering calmly along the roofs of houses in Princes Crescent. Whilst this demonstrates the agility of the beasts it might also sound a warning about leaving upper windows open.



Here is a less adventurous fox on a shed roof.

Swifts are only here for 3 months, they fly from sub-Saharan Africa, over 3000 miles in as little as 5 days, and the only time they land is to breed. Sadly modern buildings tend not to have the roof gaps they seek, and pesticides have reduced the number of insects they need (the days of scraping bugs off the windscreen are nearly over). I saw 4 over Round Hill on the 17th May, but was away before that, and the only local nesting hole I recall has been repaired for some years. The RSPB is running a survey in the city and is keen to know of any nest sites.

Finally – has anyone seen a hedgehog on the hill? They used to be here. If anyone has seen one please let us know. It might be worth making some holes in our flint garden walls and solid fences so that the hogs can roam more widely for feeding and breeding.

Rob Stephenson

Beware of another doorstep scam

If you don't know them, don't let them in

Though we may not see her around as much, Bonnie Scovell is still our Police Community Support Officer and she recently contacted the Reporter to warn us of a new criminal scam which has appeared locally:

"A male knocked on a door and stated he saw a seagull trapped in their chimney whilst working on a house down the road (which was not true).

He asked to go into the loft to see if he could see anything. The male sent his apprentice into the loft to check and the apprentice stated that the seagull had gone however there was a leak and it needed an emergency repair. The apprentice brought down a piece of wood which appeared to be rotten and crumbling.

The male was very persuasive and persistent. Unfortunately the male was given a sum of money because he said the work needed doing as soon as possible and he needed to get special tools to undertake the work. The male was driving a white van with ladders on top. The male has not returned."

I guess that this sort of thing is likely to work with older persons living alone – so it beholds us all to keep an eye out for our neighbours. Know your neighbours.

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Crime on Round Hill

Latest statistics

Here are the latest figures for the Round Hill area, including Sylvan Hall, bounded by the Ditchling Road, the railway line, the gyratory and the Upper Lewes Road.

Crime	January	February	March
Anti-social behaviour	3	2	3
Bike theft	0	0	0
Burglary	0	0	1
Criminal damage	2	0	2
Other theft	8	4	5
Shoplifting	8	5	2
Violence and sexual offences	5	3	8
Other	8	4	3
TOTAL	34	18	24

January's large 'other' category included 2 drugs, 2 public order, 1 possession of weapons, 2 vehicle crime and 1 theft from a person. A total of 14 crimes were reported at the gyratory petrol station, including most of the shoplifting.

In February all the shoplifting was at Sainsbury's, where public order, violence and possession of weapons crimes were also reported. Incidents of anti-social behaviour were reported at the gyratory and on Round Hill Crescent.

In March 4 crimes of violence were reported on or near Wakefield Road as well as an act of criminal damage. The burglary was on or near the Upper Lewes Road.

Any hogs on the Hill? See page 5.



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DAVID MALLON ESTATE AGENTS

Downs School Air Raid Shelters *plans to improve access*

The air raid shelter under the Downs Juniors playground was built in 1939 and it provided necessary shelter for pupils and staff alike during the Second World War. After the war it was sealed and forgotten until 1983 when it was rediscovered during a drain inspection. It was made safe to visit in 2016 and has welcomed more than 3000 visitors since then.

But access is still by a vertical ladder – and not everybody can cope with that. The school is hoping to raise £35,000 through a crowdfunding appeal to have access changed to proper stairs so that many more people will be able to experience this unique Brighton feature.

September marks the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the last war and the school hopes to be able to use improved access to the shelter to bring people of all ages together to remember Brighton's wartime history.

The shelter is already home to an underground museum of photographs, wartime scenes and film and sound clips, including a realistic simulation of a short air raid complete with vibrations as the bombs drop nearby.

If you might like to help their plans become reality please visit the Crowdfunder page at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/help-us-make-our-ww2-air-raid-shelter-accessible>. The appeal closes on 6th June, but it may still be possible to offer help direct to the school after that date.



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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
and

Round Hill Society Brighton UK

The Round Hill Society Committee

Chair	Annie Rimington	8 D'Aubigny Road amccabebrighton@gmail.com	01273 609086
Secretary/editor	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road rob.stephenson51@gmail.com	01273 673511
Treasurer	Barbara Harris	14 Mayo Road	01273 677610
	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
	Miriam Stephens	31 Richmond Road miriamstephens@hotmail.co.uk	07739 795740
	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
	Vivien Eliades	66 Richmond Road vivien@eliades.org	01273 276386

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- 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.



Swifts – but fewer than in the past, see page 5



Brighton – Greencycle Sussex is the ideal way to give away things you don't need any more, and to find things you want, for free. Items must be legal, appropriate for all age groups and given away for free. Check out the website to see what kind of stuff comes up – you may be amazed at what people want and will offer.

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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