



# The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 87  
March 2022

Playsafe returns to Round Hill – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2 – 4pm (see page 7 for more)

## Hospital Blue Plaque unveiling outside 101 Round Hill Crescent *Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 11.30 for noon.*

Why commemorate a short-lived 10 bed hospital in Round Hill Crescent?

Because, although it was small, it was a first step on the long road to learning that 'early nervous disorder' or 'borderline insanity' are real medical conditions deserving of treatment. In the late 19th century and early 20th these conditions were not recognised in England, if you wanted medical support you had to be willing to have a doctor declare you insane - only then was the publically funded lunatic asylum available to you (unless you had money and could be placed in a home or privately run 'madhouse').

As a newly qualified doctor working in an Essex asylum and a clinic in East London Dr Helen Boyle saw that poor housing and diet, combined with stresses of overwork, multiple childbirth and frequent physical ailments could lead to nervous disorders and ultimately insanity.

She was a vigorous proponent of non-asylum treatment with outpatient facilities, which was the antithesis of the care generally available in England at the time because of the strict lunacy laws. From 1904 Dr Boyle travelled to Glasgow, Germany, France and Austria to explore their voluntary admission systems and clinics for mental health care. It was no accident then, cont. on page 2

## Advent Windows Reprise

December saw a great display of colourful and creative window designs, here's one to remind you:



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A Library of Things **page 2** • News in Brief **page 3**  
Poetry Corner **page 4** • Green Spaces update **page 6**

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that she opened a small hospital right here in 1905 offering comprehensive residential health care. The hospital proved so successful that, in 1912, it moved to bigger premises in Hove.

Many of Helen Boyle's ideas and principles are still valued in today's community care, perinatal psychiatry, and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

Rob Stephenson



### Roundhill recognised with a blue plaque

When you first move to an area these days, it's likely you'll search online to find out a bit about it. Try searching for Roundhill and you'll find a great Wikipedia article on the area.

When I did this, what caught my eye, as a feminist, was the story of local hero, Dr Helen Boyle. If you search online again for her name, there's a wealth of information out there.

Dr Boyle was Irish and she moved to Hove in 1897. She became the first female GP in Brighton & Hove and she set up the Lewes Road Hospital in Roundhill Crescent. I can imagine that women at the turn of the century would have been relieved to be treated by a female doctor, although maybe some women would not have trusted her judgement. Dr Boyle would have faced a lot of adversity within her profession and was brave to lead the way for future women to become doctors.

The building later became a hospital for the treatment of mental illness, and this was eventually moved to a building in Hove. At a time when mental illness was often treated with isolation or torture, Dr Boyle's hospital must have improved many lives.

Once you know it's there, it's hard to walk past 101 Roundhill Crescent without considering the people who lived there before. I was thrilled to find out that a blue plaque will be installed on the building to commemorate such an important piece of history - and an inspirational woman.

Julia Valentine

## A Library of Things

### *A proposal whose time has come?*

Have you ever reflected on how we all own things we rarely use, but which we might just need one day? It might be the hedge trimmer hiding in the shed, a cupboard full of camping gear last used in 2008, or a cooking pot big enough to cater for all of Roundhill - whatever yours is, wouldn't it be great if somebody else could be getting good use out of it in the meantime, with it still being available for you to use when we all knock on your door demanding soup?

A new project, initiated by several neighbours in the Sylvan Hall Estate, aims to tackle this problem - and several others - by establishing a community "library of things". This would be a collection of good quality, well-maintained items - from carpet cleaners and hedge trimmers to children's toys and stand-up paddle boards - which people can use whenever they need. The goal is for borrowing to be free or for a small donation to keep the scheme going, and to be run by volunteers.

Not only will this clear out our cupboards, but will give those of us on low incomes access to good quality things that we otherwise cannot afford. Given the current sky-rocketing cost of living, schemes like this are increasingly important in allowing us to do what we need and want to do.

The project also hopes to have an environmental impact. A commonly-cited "fact" - I don't know the veracity of it, but it fits my own experience - is that the average electric drill is used for thirteen minutes in its lifetime, before becoming landfill. This is made worse by the fact that people, knowing this to be the case, often buy cheap, low-quality products that don't even do a good job. A library of things solves both problems: we can together buy one or two good quality drills - or steam cleaners, or sewing machines, or whatever - that work well for everyone who uses them, and will be well-maintained and used often, getting full use out of the materials and energy that went into their production.

Our current biggest challenge is to find somewhere to house the library. If you know of any space that would be suitable, would like to get involved or to donate an item, please get in touch at

**[brightonlibraryofthings@gmail.com](mailto:brightonlibraryofthings@gmail.com)**

Chris Ferguson  
Canterbury Drive

## News in Brief

### *Updates and new stuff*

**Toad watch:** they have started to appear, especially on damp warm evenings. They need protection, use a torch or phone to light the way. If you want to help count please email Kate Wolstenholme (back page) for access to a simple easy to use online record sheet.

**Gazebo for garden parties:** the Round Hill gazebo gets little use, stays in storage most of the year. You can rent it for just £10 a time (two days). 3m by 3m area, removable side walls. Contact Jamie Aitchison (back page).

**Long Wall update:** Daryl and Sandy, the 2 lead artists, have recruited several more, and are planning how the wall will be shared. The overall theme will be Sussex wildlife, with a repeating theme of painted trees and ivy to complement the living vegetation. Each artist will get a panel within this theme to put up their take on the theme. They hope to start early or mid-March. Updates should appear on The Long Wall Facebook page.

**Abandoned Bikes:** so many dead bikes chained to racks and posts. The Council's team have been round twice and labelled a selection of the most derelict. At least two disappeared as a result. Rob Stephenson is (tactfully) urging greater efforts, but you could join in too. Just Google Brighton Council abandoned bike.

**Dogshit on the pavements:** has been getting bad. Maybe it's the cover of darkness offering anonymity, or bad weather encouraging haste over consideration. Renewed efforts with new stencilling and 25 full colour posters seem to have resulted in some improvement.

**A Call to Action:** The committee has climbed up to nine folk, but we can have more, and would welcome them. Meetings are still mainly on Zoom, so it's easy to sample one – just contact a handy committee person and say you'd like to attend one.



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## Poetry Corner

### Gait

you people  
with your rules and regulations  
you decision makers  
running everyone's minds  
exploding our innocent little lives  
giving some  
taking some.

you set yourselves the earth  
without even asking  
without even knowing  
you measure up the place  
dish out the space  
expect us all to scrape  
like inferior apes  
to you homo erectus gait.

### Swop.

i've got an idea  
let's all look away  
pretend we're not here  
no one will ever know  
we can all be someone else  
and they can be us

i know it sounds odd  
but how else do we find  
what others truly think  
you take my head  
i'll take yours

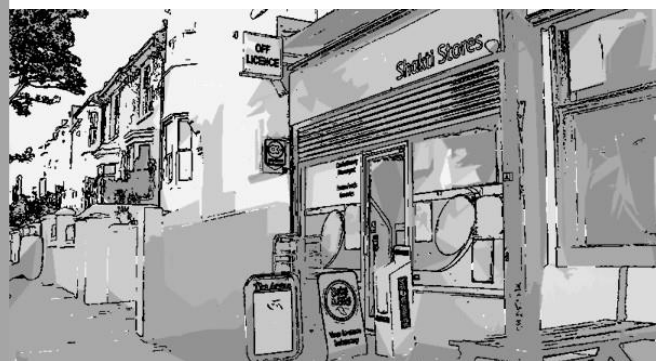
when an inside is out  
secrets are released  
and sometimes we freak  
but afterwards we often float  
short memories in tiny minds  
don't be so hard on the person next to you.

### The price of bacon when pigs fly

there's swine in the sky  
said one man suddenly  
we all looked up  
and there they were  
up high  
no wings  
but somehow flying  
gliding clouds  
swooping tops of tall trees  
i think they're smiling.

the next day  
butchers were fuming  
how dare they learn to fly  
this could ruin us  
selfish pigs  
no thought for others.

it has been mooted  
pigs are intelligent creatures  
but this  
it's unheard of.



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**Celebrating 38 years on Round Hill**

102 Ditchling Road  
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Three poems from  
'Stalactites for the  
Home' by Alf Wiltshire,  
a Round Hill resident.



Events are back at  
**The Roundhill Pub**  
Live music, Workshops, Monthly Quiz and more.  
Check out

**[www.theroundhill.co.uk](http://www.theroundhill.co.uk)**

for details

Open 11am-10pm

Thank you for all your support



The RHS recently donated £100 to FareShare, the charity which tackles food waste and food poverty by redistributing surplus food and donations from businesses and individuals, to those in need. It is a national charity, divided into regional centres. FareShare Sussex is based in Moulsecoomb and collects, sorts and delivers food to 162 projects in Brighton and Hove, Sussex and Surrey.

FareShare was championed by Marcus Rashford as part of the Covid response and also his campaign to ensure that all children have enough to eat both at home and at school.

In 2021, 150 volunteers at FareShare Sussex helped to save approximately 3.6 million meals from going to waste. They provided enough food for 10 000 meals for vulnerable people every day, redistributing over 1500 tonnes of food.

Some sobering statistics:

Every year in the UK we throw away 9.5 million tonnes of food, of which 70% is from households and 4.5 million tonnes is edible.

Jo Alexander



## CALLING ALL BAKERS!

### HELP US SPREAD JOY WITH HOMEMADE CAKES

The Sussex Bake Down are on a mission to provide a homemade treat for all people receiving food parcels from their local food bank.

If you enjoy baking and would like to help, please volunteer to bake a cake a week for us, popular choices are banana bread, lemon drizzle, or a batch of smaller bakes e.g. flapjacks, brownies, muffins, cookies.

To get started, please contact Jane Smith via email address [sussexbakedown@gmail.com](mailto:sussexbakedown@gmail.com) or on the social media below.

[f @sussexbakedown](#) [@sussexbakedown@gmail.com](#)

The Sussex Bake Down is still going strong with over 15 bakers in Roundhill alone who are baking each week, donating approx. 50 packets of home baked goods each week to Whitehawk Food Bank. There are hubs across the City and the initiative has been running for over a year so it would be great if we could recruit new bakers to augment our ranks!

Julia Gallagher



This photo originally went with a planning application to site an advertising panel. In the foreground the Upper Lewes Rd meets the Lewes Rd, the shop on the right is still trading. Through the arch is the entrance to Woodvale cemetery and the side of the Gladstone pub. The size of the viaduct is clear if you find the telephone box to the right of the advert position. Courtesy of Royal Pavilion and Museum Trust, Brighton & Hove.

## Round Hill Green Spaces News

*The man from the council he said "Yes" (but...)!*



Illustration: Peter Gates

In the December issue we reported on the slowly turning wheels of our project to make Round Hill a little greener and more pedestrian-friendly, with the first step being a "pocket park" at the southbound bus stop in Ditchling Road. But now we have lots of good news to greet the Spring.

On 20 January we hosted a visit from Mark Prior, the Assistant Director of Transport and two other senior members of the transport team. Two of our councillors, Pete West and Sue Shanks, came along to lend us support, as did another councillor, Steve Davis, who co-chairs the council's Environment committee. You might have seen this crocodile of officialdom, and the three of us, wending our way from the bus stop to the bollards at the Richmond/Mayo junction.

**And the outcome? We're delighted to say that Mark gave his agreement to our pocket park plans for the bus stop.**

Of course, it's not as simple as that and there are now lots of questions and actions needed before we can go ahead – liaising with other teams such as Arboriculture; confirming if we need planning permission; and getting a license to define the location and what we're allowed to do. But essentially this is "Go" and everyone we've encountered has been very supportive. Let's hope it

doesn't take too long.

We're excited that Brighton Buses and Clear Channel are also on-side with the idea of incorporating a bus shelter with a living, bee-friendly roof and Brighton Buses will give us £1,500 towards our costs.

Our councillors Pete and Sue have each pledged £500 from their ward funding and we may be able to get some council funding that's specifically for pocket parks. We're also now going to get on and fundraise from other sources.

### **"Liveable Neighbourhood"**

We also discussed with our visitors our next objective - to get Round Hill included in the roll-out of "Liveable Neighbourhoods". You may remember that this is being piloted in Hanover & Turner and the central aim is to make residential areas safer for those on foot and reduce through traffic (i.e. rat runs). This might include changes to road layouts, such as use of bollards or narrowing dangerous junctions. We were recommended to take a formal deputation requesting Round Hill's inclusion to the next Environment committee on 15 March and our councillor Pete West will present that for us.

For all these issues we will of course be arranging opportunities to fully share with you our plans and we hope that you support our vision for a greener more pedestrian-friendly Round Hill.

### **And finally would you like to help reduce cars speeding on the Princes Crescent/Wakefield Rd rat run?**

We're joining the police's Community Speedwatch scheme, a national initiative where active members of local communities join with the support of the Police, to monitor speeds of vehicles with speed detection devices. Do you fancy donning a yellow jacket and zapping speeding cars? If so contact Jane on Messenger, by email [jhwhitehouse@hotmail.com](mailto:jhwhitehouse@hotmail.com), or you can put a note through our door at 55 Princes Rd.

Thanks to Peter Gates for his lovely illustration.

### **Round Hill Green Spaces**

We are Jane Power, Dominic Furlong and Kate Rice.

## Playsafe returns to Mayo Road and a street party too!



I would like to introduce myself; I am Laura-Kate (friends call me LK). I moved to Richmond Road, spring 2016. I can honestly say that this is the friendliest and most welcoming community that I have ever lived in. It is everything I hoped for as a place to bring up my daughter, who is now 5. I have met so many wonderful people, made lots of friends and received so much support here... so I decided I wanted to give something back.

Kate (Rice) with the help of other local parents organised popular Street Play community events for many years. As Kate's kids are now teenagers, I was delighted for the opportunity to take on this task. Unfortunately, then Covid hit, and it was deemed too risky to try and organise any community events. However, as rules are more relaxed, I'm excited to announce they are coming back. *If Boris can party, then so can we!* With the support of Mayo Road residents, I have applied for four Street Play sessions throughout the year; as well as a Street Party to celebrate the Queens Jubilee (Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June).

Thank you to all those who signed to say they are happy for us to temporarily close the street. If you have concerns or questions, please do feel free to contact me. These events cannot happen without **YOU**. If you are interested in being part of the Jubilee Party Events team or would like to offer your services as a marshal for our events please do get in touch – [laura-kate.roe@outlook.com](mailto:laura-kate.roe@outlook.com).

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Roundhill Community events. It doesn't matter if you don't have children as we hope to incorporate other activities at the Street Play sessions such as book swaps, a dog show and plants sale.

For more info please follow our Facebook Group '**Round Hill Community Noticeboard UK**' or see the society website '[roundhill.org.uk](http://roundhill.org.uk)'

Dates for your Diary:

Street Play (2 hours) 2 to 4pm - April 24<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>, Aug 28<sup>th</sup> and Oct 30<sup>th</sup>

Jubilee Party (street closed all day) Exact time TBD - June 5<sup>th</sup>



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## Recycling Reminder Number 432 of an infinite and random list

More retail is conducted online, and more cardboard is being bought with it. Many people seem to know it can be recycled, but seem not to know how to do it.

The recycling centre has a conveyor belt, about 2 feet wide. Big bits of cardboard overlap the conveyor and catch on adjacent machinery causing jams and spillage of all sorts of stuff from the line. The process has to stop and people get involved in inefficient cleaning up, reducing the already marginal economics of the process, and often resulting in lots of stuff which could be recycled being relegated to refuse to save time and money. The solution is to follow the advice on the Council's website and cut the boxes up into 'magazine sized pieces'. In this way the bins and lorries do not overflow so quickly and the conveyor does its job efficiently, and more stuff gets recycled.

**Big Boxes Bad – Small Sheets Superior.  
Recycle Right.**



## Round Hill Reporter

51 Upper Lewes Road  
Brighton BN2 3FH

[www.roundhill.org.uk](http://www.roundhill.org.uk)

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Noticeboard

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check the Facebook page.

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group-email for email  
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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	Gary Jenkins	40 Crescent Road garyjenkins@phonecoop.coop	01273 239546
	Jamie Aitchison	47 Richmond Road Jamieaitchison71@gmail.com	07866 424890
	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
	Summer Dean	53 Richmond Rd contact@summerdean.co.uk	07933 507337
	Julia Valentine	85 Princes Crescent Julzenthfirst@hotmail.com	

### Veolia Waste Plant issues :

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### Illegal parking in the CPZ

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### Student liaison officers :

Sussex- 01273 678220 or housing@sussex.ac.uk

Brighton- Andrew Keeffe communityrelations@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](http://www.sussex.police.uk/reportonline).

**Report flytipping/ overflowing bins :** [brighton-hove.gov.uk/report-problem-and-request-clean](http://brighton-hove.gov.uk/report-problem-and-request-clean).

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## The Round Hill Reporter

*New editor needed*

If you have enjoyed or found any of the content of  
this Reporter interesting, then perhaps you can help  
to ensure it remains available. The current editor  
intends to step down after the June 2022 issue.

Apart from finding and laying out the copy, the job or  
jobs also requires finding advertising to cover the  
production cost, getting the issue printed (Maslen's  
does this for us at the moment) and then distributed  
to the team of volunteer deliverers.

There is an alternative view, that we no longer need  
paper newsletters – which may offer a simpler  
solution. Currently copies are on the website.

20-26 Round Hill Street, Brighton BN2 3RG [www.unit4brighton.co.uk](http://www.unit4brighton.co.uk)

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 here are not necessarily shared by all.

Letters or ideas for articles are welcome – please  
contact the editor at the address shown above.

**Deadline for the June 2022 edition** 15<sup>th</sup> May.

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