



THE ROUND HILL REPORTER

Facebook: Round Hill Community Noticeboard Website: www.roundhill.org.uk

Email: roundhillsociety@gmail.com

BHCC FOOD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE AND THE VEOLIA WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Round Hill residents are concerned about the council's new food waste collection service which is being introduced later this year. Residents living in kerbside areas will receive kitchen and outdoor caddies allowing them to separate their food waste. The collected food waste will first be taken to Veolia's Waste Transfer Station in Hollingdean, and tipped into sealed containers before being transported for onward processing at its In-Vessel Composting facility near Uckfield.



Residents have raised further concerns about the additional noise generated by the new food waste collection service, as well as the general suitability of the site. In addition, the Hollingdean Waste Transfer Station (WTS) is located in a densely-populated residential area. Following a series of fires at the site, in November 2019 the council's Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee called for a report into its general suitability as a location for refuse services. This report has never materialised.

Councillor Tim Rowkins, the cabinet member responsible for food waste, has sought to reassure concerned residents about the new service, he said, "Veolia has experience of handling food waste in this manner inside the transfer hall at Newhaven ERF, where food waste from Lewes District Council was tipped into similar types of containers. We are confident that a similar arrangement will work well at Hollingdean. As we will be rolling out food waste in stages, we will be able to identify any issues as we go and address them accordingly."

The Round Hill Society (RHS) Committee has requested a meeting with Cllr Rowkins in February to discuss residents' ongoing concerns. Updates will appear in future editions of the Reporter and on the Facebook Round Hill Community Noticeboard.

By Dominic Furlong

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BHCC FOOD WASTE CONTINUED

Here is an update from your local councillor Cllr Pete West.

‘Despite the best efforts of Veolia to ameliorate smells at the WTS, which the EA is saying is not-fit-for-purpose, it has proved impossible to find a technical solution to the smell. I have called on the Labour administration to assess the suitability of the Veolia Hollingdean site, particularly in light of the new food waste collection. This is beginning later on this year and will be processed in the Hollingdean site.

The Labour Environment Lead replied to my concerns to say that they were not considering moving the site as it ‘operates in full compliance with the site’s planning consent and environmental permit, which includes an odour management plan.’ This is particularly disappointing as the Environment Agency have previously said the plant is not fit-for-purpose, and a council report was promised in November 2019 to look into options for moving the site but never materialised. We will keep pushing for a report as the stench is unacceptable.”

For a more in-depth background and analysis of this issue, please go to the excellent resource created by Ted Power on the Round Hill Society website (www.roundhill.org) and search for “food waste” and “Veolia”.
https://roundhill.org.uk/main?sec=planning&p=Food_Waste_Collections

Recycling

By Vivienne Liades

I was very sad to learn that Magpie Recycling has gone out of business and is no longer collecting our recycling. I’ve lived in Round Hill for over 30 years, and used their services for most of that time, which considerably reduced the amount of general rubbish I used to leave out for the bin collections.

It seems very important now to reiterate what you can recycle and where, because if enough of the ‘wrong’ items are included in the Council’s recycling then the whole collection will go into the general rubbish and all our efforts to recycle will be in vain.

If the message is ‘Don’t recycle’ then – you’ve guessed it – don’t recycle it.

Let’s all pull together to do our bit for the environment. Hopefully, in future, our food will be packaged in a more planet-friendly ways.

For more information on how and what household items to recycle <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-streets>

Tips on where to recycle non household recycling waste;

The Council will **not** take tetra packs or batteries. There is a collection point for tetra packs near the small café at the end of the Level and Co-op Lewes Road, they must be clean and squashed flat.

There are collection points for batteries in most supermarkets, our nearest being Sainsbury’s. Vape batteries should be returned to the supplier. They can easily cause a fire, so don’t put them in your general rubbish.

Soft plastic – carrier bags and wrapping that has the message – ‘Don’t recycle at home’ – can be taken to supermarkets.

Boots have started collecting empty toothpaste tubes – there are collection points in the main store near the clock tower. The optician there also has a collection point for plastic contact lens packs.

NEWS FROM RHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE FULL AGM MINUTES ARE ON THE WEBSITE



Thank you to all that attended the RHS Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November. The Friends of RHS re-elected the committee, with Julia Valentine taking over as chairperson from Eva Wendler.

The Committee thanks Eva for all her support over the last five years.

The latest draft of the Round Hill Character Statement is now available on our website. This important document will guide future development and enhancements in our conservation area. Please take a moment to review it.

>> Green community ACTION needed! Support weeding on our doorstep and pavements to avoid glyphosate treatments. Volunteer with GoodGym & BH Tidy Up Team. Monitor amphibians on the Cat's Creep.

>> Marshalls needed for street play events!

- New "Slow Down" signs have been installed on Princes and Wakefield Roads to replace those missing and/or damaged
- Please get in touch if you'd like to be one of the six volunteers to get Speed Gun training
- There was a report into speeding in our area but it was deemed by the council not as severe as others
- Thanks to GoodGym volunteers for clearing graffiti in the area and for planning two more sessions this year

Get involved today! Email: roundhillsociety@gmail.com



Shakti Stores
Your local premier retailer

Open 7am-10pm daily
Your local convenience store

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

OFF LICENCE - great selection of good quality wines

Celebrating 41 years in Round Hill

102 Ditchling Road
Established December 1983

THE ROUND HILL REPORTER TURNS 25 THIS YEAR

Saturday, 19th July 2 - 6pm:

Round Hill Summer Picnic Street Party

We are putting the annual water fight on hold this year as we celebrate 25 years of the Round Hill Residents' Association with what promises to be an unforgettable Summer Street Party.

- Live Music & DJ Mixes: Dance and groove to a mix of tunes.
- Bring Your Own Picnic: Pack food, drinks, chairs, blankets, and enjoy the summer sunshine with friends and neighbours.

If you would like to have a stall on the day please email roundhillsociety@gmail.com

CRIME UPDATE AND OTHER NEWS



ROUND HILL CRIME UPDATE

By Christopher Paul

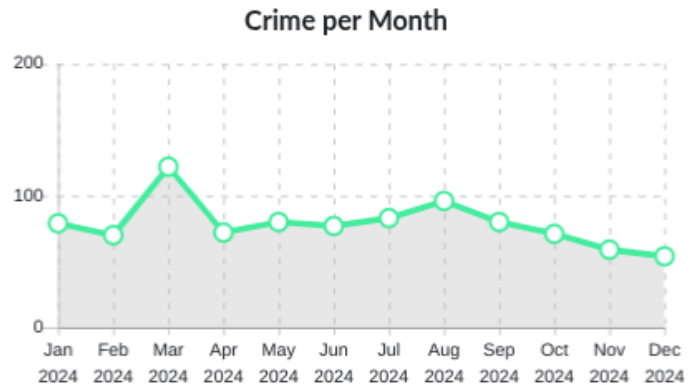
Overview from January 2024 to December 2024.

The Police reports are always two months behind and include the slightly larger Viaduct area.

Crime remains low in Round Hill. There was an unexplained rise in crime in March 2024, but this has fallen again as of November 2024.

Most commonly reported crimes in Viaduct area during Dec 2024:

- Violence and sexual offences: 14
- Anti-social behaviour: 11
- Other theft: 6
- Public order: 6



ROUND HILL BUS STOP POCKET PARK TO BE INSTALLED EARLY SPRING 2025

By Dominic Furlong

Early this spring will see the installation of the long-awaited Round Hill Bus Stop Pocket Park. The pocket park, consisting of four wooden planters with a mixture of suitable perennial plants and bulbs, will be situated alongside the southbound bus stop at the junction of Ditchling Road and Prince's Crescent.

Planning permission was obtained from the council in summer 2023 and funding secured from a range of sources – most notably the UK Shared Prosperity Fund - in Autumn 2024.

The planters are being built and installed by the Wood Store Brighton. The pocket park will also eventually include a new community noticeboard and a "Welcome to Round Hill" sign



Illustration By Peter Gates

Volunteers will be needed to help fill the planters with soil. We would also like to set up a regular volunteer group to maintain the planters as a social activity. If interested, please email Dominic Furlong at dominicfurlong@gmail.com. Keep your eyes peeled for further announcements about pocket park dates and volunteer activities on the Round Hill Community Noticeboard on Facebook.

THE NATURE PAGE



A PERSONAL ROUND HILL NATURE COLUMN

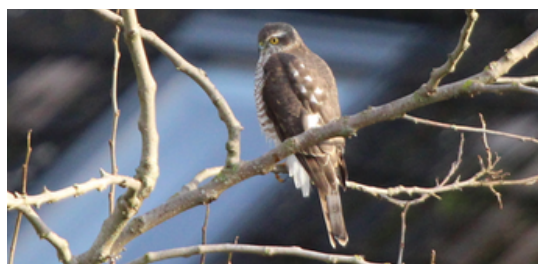
By Paulo Oprandi

I have been in the Round Hill area since 2005 where I got increasingly interested in nature. My bird feeder didn't attract one bird but a neighbour's feeder used to attract Goldfinch, which I spied with much envy. I did go for a couple of walks with Sussex Wildlife Trust during that period where I learnt a little about birds in Sussex. There is hardly a UK bird I haven't seen from my window, from Fieldfare to Redstart, and I've since become an avid wildlife and nature recorder.



A Goldfinch taken by Paulo Oprandi

The birdlife has changed massively and not for the better, this year there are still birds, but the diversity is much less. This winter I have mainly been entertained by the armies of Blue Tit, some Great Tit, Robin, House Sparrow, Wood Pigeon, Wren and a Sparrowhawk, I was even frequented one November afternoon by a Ring Ouzel - a mountain blackbird, which is a very rare garden sighting indeed!



A Sparrowhawk taken by Paulo Oprandi

However, it is none of these things that I have become known for in the Round Hill community.

We have always had Toads in the front and back of the house, as well as a few Frogs, and in 2019 a Roundhill Toad Patrol was set up by Kate Walthemstow, a local ecologist. The patrol monitors amphibian numbers on Cats' Creep where they congregate during their breeding season. We count the number of amphibians through the late Winter/ early Spring nights and in our best years we have counted over 400 toads and over 50 in a night.

Despite joining the group late, I have become known as the Roundhill Toad Patrol Officer, a badge I carry with great pride. This year the count will continue, but in-line with much of our garden fauna, we have been seeing a steady decline in numbers. We are hoping 2025 will buck the trend.

Round Hill wildlife has helped inspire my love of nature, and I encourage you all to spend a few minutes every day looking at any green space you can see from your home. You too might find things that intrigue and delight you.

Roundhill Gardens



Making gardens beautiful

Local RHS qualified gardener

- Lawn and hedge cutting
- Weeding, Pruning and Planting
- Vegetables and raised beds
- Wildlife areas and habitats
- Design of beds & borders

Regular bookings, or one-off seasonal sessions
(hourly or daily rates available)

Contact Stephanie - 07817 209515
stephanie1303@btinternet.com



ROUND HILL CAROL SINGING 2024

By Julia Valentine

In the week before Christmas, Round Hill was treated to two carol singing events in one week! I had the pleasure of attending both events. The first was at the Park Crescent Pub, organised by Brighton Pub Carols, of which Andrew Partington is the conductor. The second was organised by Steve Bustin in the streets of Round Hill.

The first event completely packed out the pub, with carol singers spilling outside into the street. The atmosphere could only be described as jolly. My personal highlight was the Welsh solo performance of Silent Night. Andrew did a great job of leading the crowd - and whoever was on violin (I couldn't see above all the heads) was excellent.

They raised £1,110 at the Park Crescent that night, for the Clock Tower Sanctuary.

You can find the Brighton Pub Carols on Facebook.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF THE ADVENT WINDOWS!

Thanks to Heidi Green for organising the lovely Round Hill Advent Windows competition again in 2024. The RHS Committee voted for window number 20 - congratulations! Please contact roundhillsociety@gmail.com to receive your prize.

Andrew also musically led the more Victorian-style carol singing in our local streets with his beautiful accordion playing. A couple of local singers showed up who impressively sang some harmonies, including the descant in O Come All Ye Faithful.

It was lovely to see a couple of small children join the group. A few children watched from their doorways with parents before their bedtime, as it was the first time they'd seen carol singers.

Locals were very generous in their donations to the Stanley Road food bank, donating £400. Andrew mentioned that someone kindly donated the day after the carol singing too.

Thanks to Andrew and Steve for running these lovely annual events and raising so much money for charity. Watch out for the winter edition of the Round Hill Reporter to find out about this year's events.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND 'WHAT'S ON'



COMMUNITY BUZZ ALERT: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

Get ready to celebrate community spirit, creativity, and fun at this year's Round Hill Community Street Play Events! Subject to getting the residents signatures and Council approval, we have a packed schedule of activities planned across the year. There's something for everyone – from gardening and picnics to Halloween festivities. **Mark your calendars** and join your neighbours for these fantastic gatherings.

Tuesday 15th April 6:15pm: Street Clean up and Clearing Graffiti

Join the GoodGym runners to get some exercise and do some good painting over the graffiti. To join the run meet at 6.15pm at the Queen Victoria statue, or meet at the junction of St Paul's street and Upper Lewes Road at around 6.40pm. Everyone is welcome. Contact stefania.rosso@gmail.com.

Sunday 25th May 2 - 4pm: Plant Sale, Kids' Street Play, and Makers Market

At the junction of Richmond and Mayo Roads, the road will be closed for a special play zone, the Annual Round Hill Green Spaces Plant Sale and Makers Market. Donate your spare seedlings and plants, or find some affordable treasures to spruce up your garden.

- Proceeds: All funds raised by the plant sale will go toward bulbs and plants for the community planters.
- Donations: Drop off seedlings on the day or contact Dominic Furlong at dominicfurlong@gmail.com to donate seedlings in advance.
- Support local makers and discover handmade goods at this creative market running alongside the plant sale.

Sunday, 26th October 2 - 4pm: Halloween Special

Round Hill's Halloween celebration Autumn Street Play promises spooky fun for all ages!

- Fancy Dress Parade: Dress to impress in your spookiest, funniest, or most creative Halloween outfits.
- Annual Doughnut-Eating Competition: A messy, hilarious tradition – everyone's a winner if they manage to eat their doughnut without it falling on the ground.
- Mulled Wine & Bake Sale: Sip on mulled wine and indulge in delicious baked goods while soaking in the festive atmosphere.

Join the fun! Whether you're a plant lover, a picnic enthusiast, or a Halloween fanatic, these Roundhill Community events are your chance to connect, celebrate, and enjoy everything our neighborhood has to offer.

We're always looking for safety marshals and help with organising. Contact Laura-Kate Roe at laura-kate.roe@outlook.com to offer your support.

USEFUL CONTACTS AND COMMITTEE DETAILS



LOCAL CONTACTS

VEOLIA WASTE PLANT SMELL, NOISE, DUST
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY- [0800 807060](tel:0800807060)

ILLEGAL PARKING IN THE CPZ
REPORT IT ON - [0345 603 5469](tel:03456035469)

ROUND HILL PCSO
SOPHIE.POWELL@SUSSEX.POLICE.UK

NON-EMERGENCY POLICE REPORTING
[CALL 101](tel:101) FOR NON-URGENT ISSUES

TO REPORT A CRIME OR INCIDENT
WWW.SUSSEX.POLICE.UK/RO/REPORT

REPORT FLY-TIPPING OR OVERFLOWING BINS:
WWW.BRIGHTONHOVE.GOV.UK/REPORT/PROBLEM-AND-REQUEST-CLEAN

ROUNDHILL COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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POLICE LIAISON - CHRISTOPHERPAUL@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

EVENTS - LAURA-KATE.ROE@OUTLOOK.COM

GREENING PROJECTS - DOMINIC.FURLONG@GMAIL.COM

THERE ARE VACANT ROLES FOR FUNDRAISING AND TOWN PLANNING, PLEASE
EMAIL ROUNDHILLSOCIETY@GMAIL.COM IF YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED.

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS, ARTICLES AND
ADVERTISING REQUESTS TO THE COMMITTEE AT
ROUNDHILLSOCIETY@GMAIL.COM**

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