



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 82
December 2020

Report of Our first Zoom Annual Meeting – page 2

Advent Windows are Now!

Give us more to enjoy on our daily exercise walks.

The lists may have closed to register your own window decoration and be included on the Facebook map of houses displaying advent window designs but it is never too late to decorate your window and join in the fun.

By the time you read this there will be 30+ homes getting their designs sorted. Help make our Round Hill more interesting, festive and fun. This one is from 33 Richmond Rd in 2016.



2021 Toad Patrol

Counting on the Catcreek

The toads hopped out of hibernation and began showing up on the steps on the 1st Feb this year – so just a quick note from Kate Wolstenholme to give her a shout if you'd like to help with the 'official' Toad Crossing monitoring in 2021, and to please get in touch as soon as you spot any amphibians!

She's had a few volunteers already and will get back to you shortly – here's **hopping** she'll get a few more! Contact details on back page.

Round Hill Christmas Cards

Yes, we still have lots!

You may not visit all those friends and relatives this Christmas, but you can show them what a great place you live in by sending them Round Hill cards. They are just £2.50 for a set of four full colour A5 cards and envelopes. Contact Rob Stephenson to arrange collection or delivery – please have right cash. Bank Transfer possible.



Rising drug visibility **page 4** • Gingerbread House **page 5**
Downs Junior needs you **page 7** • Big Bins coming? **page 8**

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Round Hill Society
by



THE MARTHA GUNN

Your local entertainment hub

We will be opening again as soon as the law allows, when once again we will be offering beers, wines spirits and food in a comfortable indoor setting, as well as a pool table and heated outdoor sheltered seating.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

We are at 100 Upper Lewes Road where a warm welcome is guaranteed if we are permitted to open.
01273 681671.

RHS 2020 Zoom Annual Meeting.

The Round Hill Society's 2020 AGM was held on 10th November at 7.30 pm on Zoom. The meeting was very ably chaired by Kate Wolstenholme who gave clear instructions on how to use the features on Zoom e.g. for voting purposes, chat, etc. It lasted just over 90 minutes.

There were 25 participants including our local Councillor Pete West, plus 8 members of the committee.

Our Treasurer, Andrew Partington, described the financial activity during the year, the main items being £1000 in for the Green Spaces project from Chalk Hill Trust and £290 coming in from Reporter adverts; £315 spent on 4 issues of the Reporter, £250 spent on the new wooden planter at the Richmond/Mayo road junction; and Seasonal Singing raising £167 for the food charity FareShare. We ended the year with £6482 (£5685 last year) of which £1750 is earmarked for the Green Spaces Project and £530 for the Blue Plaque on 101 Round Hill Crescent.

Andrew also reported on the slow progress on planning and developing a simple to use website for the committee to use to publicise events and activities on Round Hill. A plea was made for any suitably tech-savvy folk to step up and help make it real. This site will run alongside the existing

website, roundhill.org.uk.

Dominic Furlong reported on actions taken by Round Hill Green Spaces to install and maintain planters and to make progress with sites identified for greening, making pavement space safer and more pleasant for pedestrians.

There was also a presentation from reps of Brighton & Hove Mutual Aid (Channy and Emma) which is running initiatives across 34 neighbourhoods of our city, one being Round Hill and the Triangle (this being those roads between Upper Lewes and Lewes Roads). Mutual Aid operates as a non-hierarchical group of individuals helping each other during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can request and/or offer support.

You can find out more about Brighton Mutual Aid, the volunteer help they need and the assistance they can give on the next page.

Kate Rice gave a concise round up of Round Hill Society events and initiatives since the 2019 AGM, including 2019 Advent Windows, Seasonal Singing, Clean It Up Dog Stencils, renewing the 20mph signs on the Upper Lewes Road tarmac. But she also noted that Covid19 has stopped many events this year, though Halloween windows happened and Advent windows is happening. She also mentioned catering outlets which have been helpful during these difficult times including the Solitary Bee mobile coffee shop, the Creperie and Ice Cream vans as well as Anna's Bakery, Shakti Stores (supporting food banks and delivering groceries) and the Roundhill pub (providing take away food and drink).

Kate Wolstenholme mentioned the Nature 2020 spring equinox themed windows. Rob Stephenson described the initiative involving the naming of pavement plants as well as the Round Hill Society Heritage Open Door history trail. Rob also gained approval for The Round Hill Society to sponsor his membership of The Blue Plaque committee and renewed us as a group member of Brighton and Hove Heritage Commission.

Cllr Pete West appealed for volunteers to help with the School Streets Schemes involving

Downs Infant and Junior Schools. These schemes temporarily restrict motor vehicle access to streets near school entrances during school opening and closing times. See the article on page 7 for more details.

The Round Hill Society Committee for 2020-21 was voted in. Rosi & Max of the Roundhill pub have stepped down. Other existing members were reconfirmed in their posts and 3 new committee members were elected - Summer Dean, Gary Jenkins and Ingrid Mary Ramirez. Ingrid is The Round Hill Society's first student representative. Their details can be found on the back page of this Reporter.

A Message from Brighton Mutual Aid

Dear Roundhill Residents,

Thank you all for the feedback and comments at the recent Round Hill AGM. It is heart-warming to continue to see more of us coming together, in a spirit of solidarity, through these difficult times - whether it is through material support (shopping and food provision, prescription pickups), emotional support (befriending and chat on the phone), or signposting for more complex services, we are here for each other. If you would like to learn more about 'mutual aid' and its principles, you can visit:

<https://brightonmutualaid.co.uk>
phone number 07872 023446

From the website you will be able to offer help and/or seek assistance for yourself or someone else, you can also find **The London Road, Preston Circus and Round Hill Mutual Aid Facebook** page, and you can donate.

We have also created a local neighbourhood community with a corresponding Whatsapp group to improve coordination on a local level, decrease traffic and provide a safer and more localised forum to share more information. To join your local neighbourhood group, the **Roundhill and the Triangle Whatsapp group**, contact the rep, Jo Taylor - jo@solidarityeconomy.coop.



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The Roundhill Pub

New! Lower prices— see website for details

Brighton Cooking Club is seeking more cooks to prepare meals for local people in need. Volunteers cook an extra meal at home and deliver to a neighbour in need – all costs can be reimbursed. The Club can also supply meals if you are struggling to cope. Contact them via their Facebook page:
[Facebook.com/BrightonCookingClub/](https://www.facebook.com/BrightonCookingClub/)



Growing visibility of drug sale and use on our streets

The Labour Councillors of Brighton and Hove* have recently written to the Police & Crime Commissioner making observations we in Round Hill are getting more concerned about.

They say that every week they hear from residents about drug activity, needles and drug related Anti-social behaviour in their streets. Residents feel unsafe and drug use can bring misery to the users.

Residents have reported a lack of clarity regarding what constitutes good evidence, and what information is wanted.

We offer some advice and clarity in the piece alongside.

* Other political parties are available



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OFF LICENCE – great selection of good quality wines

Celebrating 37 years on Round Hill

102 Ditchling Road
Established December 1983

County Lines

criminal gangs using young and/or vulnerable people to move drugs.

Even though Brighton and Hove is no longer the “death capital” per heroin/ crack user in the UK, a title happily shaken since 2013, drugs remain all around us. I want to raise everyone’s awareness of the ongoing threat of organised drug crime and with it the increase of knife related attacks. County lines prey on our younger ones, grooming vulnerable adolescents. Adults with learning difficulties and mental health needs are frequently targeted too. Once befriended or involved in romantic relationships, the victims flat is taken over to use as a base to store drugs and deal from. This practice is known as “cuckooing”. Violence and threats often intimidate the resident not to seek support but you may notice enhanced activities of people entering/ exiting flats, so be observant and report.

In the past and increasingly recently many residents have seen drug taking and dealing within Round Hill. Several recent sightings have been mentioned on our Round Hill Facebook, and discussion there has emphasised the importance of reporting all sightings.

We can just empathise that the more we open our eyes and report the actions we don’t want to see, the more pressure is put by enforcement agents to address the issues of drug related crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB).

If we don’t report they don’t think it’s happening! What you are seeing might just be that “final piece of the jigsaw” that could enable action to be taken. By making reports you are not wasting Police time – Police assess reports to ascertain what priority level of response they should receive, and even reports that are not attended help the Police build up an intelligence picture. May we also ask residents near the catcreek to listen and report any concerns promptly as our stairs are currently none-surveilled and we don’t want them to become a place of drug consumption and crime.

All reports should contain as much information as possible about what is happening, who is involved (descriptions if you do not know who they are), its impact on you or others and how you have been harmed by the behaviour, concerns about the vulnerability of anyone involved. If you are reporting ASB, as opposed to welfare concerns relating to someone's mental health or similar, make sure that you express this clearly in your report.

Seeking help:

Urgent : If an offence is taking place there and then, or if you or someone else is in danger report this via 999, inclusive of witnessing Open drug use (injecting).

Non-emergency Police reports can be made by calling 101 or e-mailing 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk – the most straightforward way to log reports of what you have reported and you can copy the rounhillsociety@gmail.com so we can be alerted to your concerns.

You should be given/ sent a reference number for each police report you make. Keep a record of the reference for any reports made as this will make any follow-up that might be required, more straightforward.

Details of ASB and hate incidents can be forwarded to the Community Safety Casework Team (CSCT) by emailing communitysafety@brighton-hove.gov.uk or calling 01273 292735 (currently a voicemail-only service).

www.changegrowlive.org is the local addiction recovery and advice service charity. Contact them at Brighton@cgl.org.uk or 01273731900.

Get further information about County lines at <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-is-county-lines>.

Gingerbread house building *a seasonal lockdown activity*

We did this last year and wondered who else may be inspired to make an edible replica of their home.

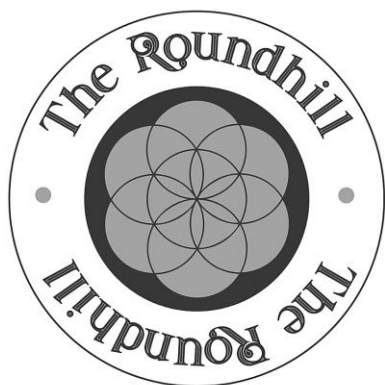
Dear Residents - get baking and send me your photographs by Thursday 17th December (if you can't join the Christmas Gingerbread House Zoom on Saturday the 19th December at 18.00 to share your beautiful creations. Don't forget to mail me if you want to be invited to join Zoom event, even if you just feel like a social and have not baked.

Recipes:

There are many on the internet so just look one up for your dietary needs and budget. After our BBC Mary Berry one failed miserably (it needed leaving overnight and on the day of baking the dough was crumbly and hard) I did not hesitate to go back to my German roots and seek the ultimate Hexenhaus. Drop me an email and I will share the translated version.

The recipe made a huge amount but extra may be needed to remake some parts, should they break in the construction phase. Ours ended up being a giant, measuring approx. 40x 20x12cms, and we had leftovers to make gingerbread Hearts for friends as presents which they loved as the mixture is delicious.

We were eating our house well into late January. Spice mixture: make your own using cinnamon, , ground ginger being used in double the amounts



Who knows what will happen?

If all goes well we will be open for business in December, offering our 100% plant-based food and drink menu.

We can't wait to welcome you back!

www.theroundhill.co.uk



to ground cloves, star anise, ground cardamom, a little nutmeg. Five spice mixture is also easy as it contains most of above ingredients just add more of dominant spices.

What you need:

- Recipe of your choice plus ingredients baking utensils, rolling pin, scales, the lot.
- Parchment paper, scissors, pencil, ruler and paper to draw and calculate on.
- Piping bag makes it easier to get icing placed and for decorating, but not essential.
- Hard boiled sweets (like Fox's, found in Poundland) for those who want windows. Simply place the sweets in cut out area of your element onto parchment paper no need to crush them as they melt during bake. For bigger windows place numerous sweets to reach most areas. Let fully cool down before carefully removing paper. (Boiled sweets works well for Christmas tree decor when making hangable biscuits with bonbon window centres.)
- LED candle; Tea or fairy lights if you want to light up house.
- Nuts, sweets and chocolates for decoration.
- For railings we used 'choco writers' in tubes that simply sat in hot water until they were squeezable. We tubed fence, gate and railings thickly onto parchment and carefully peeled same off. This part is most delicate and breakages are most likely - yummm.

Tips: take time/ days for various stages this can't be rushed. If you decided to cut shapes post baking, gingerbread needs to be still soft to allow cutting. We did cut out pre baking to avoid waste. Don't rush drying during assembly to let icing fully set between elements to avoid frustrating collapses. Props may be needed otherwise to hold roofs from caving in etc. Toothpicks make a great supporting rescue structure.

- Measure, measure, measure. The assembly will be easy (providing your icing is thick and paste like) as long as you ensure you have thought about the thickness of walls / roof and given some pieces extra length to allow adjacent wall/ roof to sit on /align. Use a card board replica if easier to visualise this process.

- Number the parchment paper so later you can easily match the baked pieces to the draft.
- Ensure you have a board big enough to assemble the house on. We found a wooden one in skip then covered it in brown paper. This provided our foundation as we left the bottom and rear of house off. During project and after we did not move the gingerbread house from this Platform. Stop motion link: See how we did it and have fun with your families, flatmates or solo. We can't wait to see your creations.

Eva [wendler.eva@gmail.com] and Pia.



East-Sussex-Counselling BACP registered counsellor

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Contact me on contact@east-sussex-counselling.co.uk for more details.

Downs Junior School seeks Marshals to ensure safe gatherings

The Council has launched a scheme to make school streets safer during school opening and closing times. At *Downs Junior School* we restrict motor vehicle access to the top section of Grantham Road. We are looking for more volunteers to make this great initiative a success. Could you please help by donating 45 minutes of your time? We meet at 8.15am and 2.30pm. Can't commit to a weekly shift? How about once a fortnight or once a month? Come with a friend and marshal together! Please contact us at marshal4downs@gmail.com or call the school office on 01273 558422.

Here is what our volunteer marshals' say:

"It feels good doing something to help keep children safe. It's easy, friendly and a good start to my day." (Max)

"It's fun and easy to help out with school streets. I love it that the whole community benefits, not just the children of our school. People seem to enjoy crossing the road without worrying about traffic." (Heike)



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It's not nice!

There have been quite a few comments on Facebook recently about the unpleasant and anti-social practice of some people letting their dogs poo on the pavement and failing to clean it up. In an effort to encourage dog-walkers to think twice, fellow committee member Eva Wendler organised the purchase of stencils and aerosol paint (in aesthetically pleasing colours, we hope!) and the two of us walked round the whole neighbourhood a few weeks ago, stencilling 'Clean it up!' signs as we went. Several neighbours have also commented that bagging poo and putting it in household bins, while apparently an improvement on leaving it on the street, is in fact not much better. The refuse collectors may refuse to empty them as it's deemed hazardous. Also, a lot of bins are not attached to the lorries to be emptied. Instead, the collectors simply pull out the black bags and if there are loose poo bags in there they fall to the bottom and get squashed, which is pretty disgusting for whoever's bin it is.

Here is a list of where the dog poo bins are situated in Round Hill:

Ditchling Road (near bus stop)

Bottom of Wakefield Road

D'Aubigny Road (north end)

Prince's Crescent (opposite Crescent Rd)

Bottom of Richmond Road (near Richmond House)

Bottom of Round Hill Crescent (Sainsbury's end)

Members of the Round Hill Society Committee have written to the Council requesting a new poo bin at the junction of Mayo and Prince's Roads and it was suggested at the AGM that we could leave bags by the bins too, for people who have forgotten to bring them. Any other ideas gratefully received!

Jo Alexander



Round Hill Reporter

51 Upper Lewes Road
Brighton BN2 3FH

www.roundhill.org.uk

We Tweet :

Follow us at: @RoundhillSoc

On Facebook at:

Round Hill Community
Noticeboard

If you want to keep current,
check the Facebook page.
And you can register with
the **Friends of Round Hill**
group-email for email
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
	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
	Gary Jenkins	40 Crescent Rd garyjenkins@phonecoop.coop	01273 239546
	Ingrid Ramirez	ingridmram@gmail.com	
	Summer Dean	53 Richmond Rd contact@summerdean.co.uk	07933 507337

Veolia Waste Plant issues :

Smell, noise and dust problems – Environment Agency 0800 807060

Illegal parking in the CPZ

Report it on 0345 603 5469 and select option 3 for a traffic warden.

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.

Communal Refuse Bins for Round Hill?

The Council wants to extend
big-bins to more of the city
because it is quicker (and
therefore cheaper) to service
them several times a week
rather than to collect from
every household once a week.

A consultation has been
promised for several areas,
including most of Round Hill,
early in the New Year.

Advent window designs can be simple, and even curmudgeonly!



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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