



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 88
June 2022

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Mayo Road Street Play is back

Sundays 2-4pm July 24th, Aug 28th & Oct 30th

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Street Play event on the 1st May.

Despite it being a Bank Holiday with a few dark clouds looming we had a great turn out. It was lovely to see friends of all ages reunited after such a grim couple of years.

The toy swap was a success with many kids going home with a new game, puzzle or book. Most of the parents were delighted to shift some unwanted items too. The surplus will go to our local play centre at Fiveways. The Tuck Shop completely sold out of biscuits and due to the generosity of the customers actually turned a profit. These funds will be reinvested and used towards more chalks and balls for the next session.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers for marshalling the event, and the support and patience of the Mayo Road residents who made the event possible.

Dates for your diary:

24th July – Schools out for Summer water fight special.

28th August – more Street Play.

Summer Street Party

Royalists and Republicans welcome

In February this year we saw her Majesty the Queen become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

The whole country will celebrate with a long weekend of events, and coming to Mayo Road on the 5th June is the Roundhill Jubilee Lunch! We are encouraging our community to come together in the spirit of fun and friendship. If you are interested in being part of the planning team, or are a musician interested in performing, then please email laura-kate.roe@outlook.com.



Children at the first Street Play event of 2022.

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Celebrating a National First here on Round Hill

Blue plaque unveiling

It was exciting to witness the unveiling of a blue plaque in Round Hill, commemorating the first hospital in England for women suffering from mental illness. Following introductions from the Mayor and the Chairman of the Commemorative Plaque Panel, we heard speeches from five important women. Long-time local resident, Vivien Eliades, read out a speech from Caroline Lucas MP, who voiced her support for the plaque's cause (see picture). Then Dr Helen Boyle, the founder of the 1912 hospital, gave a speech! Actually it was an actor impersonating Dr Boyle. She was quoting from the play 'Clean', which will show at The Grove Theatre, Eastbourne in September. Finally there were representatives from three organisations whose work was influenced by the work Dr Boyle supported. They were:

- Rachael Kenny, Director of Mental Health Services at BHT Sussex, a local homeless charity
- Anna McDevitt of MIND, a U.K.- wide mental health charity that was co- founded by Dr Boyle
- Angelika Wydra of Healthwatch Brighton & Hove, an organisation supporting social care services

The speakers suitably marked the importance of the occasion and we all celebrated afterwards at the Martha Gunn pub. We will all be touched by the consequences of poor mental health in our lives. The Roundhill community should be proud that mental illness was recognised here as a treatable disease over 100 years ago.

Julia Valentine

Special mention should also be made of Julia Panton, a Co-op Member Pioneer, who arranged the food for the event to be supplied by Brighton Co-operative – who by amazing coincidence happen to have MIND as their charity of the year. Julia also managed to find a youth club keen to have all the left over food, and got it there within an hour! Special thanks to Tiago and Ania at the Martha Gunn for letting us use their premises, and for providing all the cups, plates and biscuits. Finally the residents and joint owners of 101 Round Hill Crescent, and the Commemorative Plaque Panel of Brighton and Hove Council - without their support the plaque could never have been placed.

Rob Stephenson



Toad migration-watch

The Cat Creep (stepped alleyway linking Round Hill Crescent with Richmond/Wakefield Roads) is visited by notable numbers of toads during the early spring, when they (and other amphibians) emerge from winter hibernation and head towards their breeding ponds.

A team of local enthusiasts count them on a nightly basis during their spring migration, and since 2020 have been submitting the data to leading amphibian & reptile conservation charity Froglife, as part of their Toads on Roads campaign, through which the Cat Creep is registered as an official Toad Crossing site (more at: froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads).

Toad counting in 2022 went well; between us we managed to get out and carry out checks on pretty much every consecutive night of the season, which this year we believe commenced around the 7th Feb (although we had some *very* early sightings on a couple of mild days in mid-January this year!) and was over by about the 20th March.

It's always a pleasure to chat to passers-by, and heartening to report that most folks encountered during our 'patrols' were already using torches to prevent casualties underfoot. A highlight for me this year was an exchange with a neighbour who 'quite likes frogs, so these are alright' but for whom 'toads are disgusting!' She came to learn that the 'quite likeable' and 'alright' *frogs* she thought she was observing were in fact our not-so-disgusting-or-terrifying after all *toads*!

Total toads, frogs and newts across this year's count:
298 toads – 420 in 2020
3 frogs – 6 in 2020
6 newts – 140 in 2020

It's perhaps too early to read too much into the data, but numbers sadly appear to be on a downward trend...

The gang met up at the Park Crescent recently for a tippie & a chin-wag and to gather some thoughts for next year - which include perhaps sourcing a garish trophy to be awarded and passed on each year to the season's 'best amphibian spotter'! This year's 'winner' was Paolo, who counted 37 toads just before midnight under the Valentine's full-moon on 16th Feb!

If you'd like to get involved we'd love to hear from you. Kate & the team: Annie & John Harper, Paolo Oprandi, Eva & Pia Wendler, Angie Van Dyck - and all who've counted and submitted data this year!
Thank you!!

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Garden Picnic in Jan Curry's lovely garden *For the Friends of Round Hill**

Hope for good weather in late June. Jan Curry is inviting all of the registered Friends of Round Hill to bring a picnic to her garden, and sit, explore, chat and generally enjoy this peaceful space and each other's company.



A 2013 gathering in Jan's garden

*If you do not read the Reporter carefully enough you may be unaware of the Friends of Round Hill. It is an email group for residents who want to be kept aware of Round Hill activities. We have not really made the most of it, but this is an attempt to boost its membership, and hopefully make more use of it in the future. Details of getting onto the list are on the back page. Members will be given the details by group email nearer the time – so join today.



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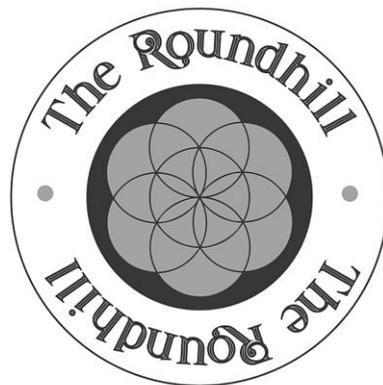
102 Ditchling Road
Established December 1983

Long Wall Mural has started *Might even be complete now*

This picture was taken on 4th May, so the mural could be complete when you read this. The Council budget for the work provided anti-graffiti paint for the most important bits of art, but not all of it, so we can protect it better if we had another couple of hundred pounds. All donations gratefully received by our Treasurer. Bank transfer or cheques (remember those?) preferred – email Gary for transfer details.



A fox, a murmuration of starlings and the Round Hill windmill are all promised as the seven or more artists get their turns.



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

www.theroundhill.co.uk

for details

Open 11am-10pm

Thank you for all your support

Gory goings on in the Garden

introducing Bombylius major



This wee fly, pretending to be a bee, is of course a bee fly. About 12mm long plus another 8mm for the long proboscis (used for feeding on nectar, absolutely not a sting) this female was seen searching the bare earth in my garden one sunny May morning. After some minutes

she landed and started rubbing her back end in the dusty ground before flying way.

Later I found her (I assume the same one, but maybe not, there were lots about) hovering in front of a hole in the stonework riser of a garden step, jerking her rear end towards the hole.

I went to the search engine of my choice and soon discovered her. Whilst the adult sips on nectar and eats pollen, the young prefer to eat pollen collected by solitary bees. These bees pack holes with pollen and then lay their eggs in the same hole, hoping that the hatched egg will thrive on the pollen store. Not if *Bombylius major* finds the hole. She flicks her now dusty and therefore camouflaged eggs into the hole. When they hatch they eat the pollen store, and then have a quick metamorphosis to get the equipment needed to eat the bee grubs as well!

Rob Stephenson

History Corner

This old flint house stood on the Upper Lewes Road at the west end of Round Hill Crescent – it was replaced with a sort of Round Hill Crescent extension, fitting a lot more accommodation into new flats.



Beal Plaque Mural Vandalised *but it's coming back*

The Blue Plaque to 2nd Lieutenant Ernest Frederick Beal VC suffered some early tagging, not on the plaque itself but the recess in which it is placed. After frequent painting out of recurring tags it was agreed to design a mural to place around the plaque. This was designed and ultimately painted by Sandy Moon in August last year (see below).



Sadly the design was painted over by decorators working on the property (the side wall of Mojo's Café on the Lewes Road).

Fortunately the mural had been protected with an anti-tagging clear coat, so most of the masonry paint could be removed. Sandy set up a crowdfunding appeal to raise enough money to restore the mural fully, and this has now been achieved, so soon it will be pristine again.



Detail showing damaged surface & needing repair.

Poetry Corner *an anonymous contribution*

Winter Promenade.

The milky sea surrounds the fragmenting West Pier
threatening to float away.

Brilliant red traffic lights transform into
gaudy Christmas decorations.

Scavenging blue-black pigeons
scour sterile paving
for hidden treats.

Skeins of stranded seaweed
helpless on pebbles
drying out beyond redemption.

A pattern of pockmarked rusting metal
decorates the lofty lamp standard.

The horizon adorned
with a misty shadowland.

A formless woman pushes
her baby snug under
its hand crocheted blanket.

A toddler liberated in a safe open space
its speed unhindered
by thick clothing.

Women pass shrouded in black
expressionless as though
attending a funeral.

Other dark silhouetted shapes
loom against the pale skies.

A plump female decked in yellow Day-Glo
trundles her dustcart
her wispy hair a thin
pony-tail trailing to her waist.

Disembodied heads bob at lower beach level
making their way
along the shore's edge.

Poetry Corner Corrected!

It's only fair

In the last issue your exiting editor made a typo in the last line of Alf's poem 'Gait', which ruined the otherwise rantingly delightful ending – sorry Alf, here it is, correctly.

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 your homo erectus gait.

What happened to the Café on the Level?

closed for replacing the leaking green roof in 2020

The café was a £1m pound part of the £2.2m Heritage Lottery funded Level redevelopment. It first opened in 2013. The green roof membrane failed in 7 years, still in warranty apparently, but the Council paid £77,000 to replace it in 2020. Covid got in the way of re-opening, but after the Covid restrictions were lifted the café failed to open.

The Council say that there is a fresh water leak under the building which they cannot fix the location of. The attached toilets are still in use. Surely plans reveal the pipe runs under the site? A few inspection pits might help.

Does the Heritage Lottery fund care where its money has gone? Does the builder have no responsibility less than 10 years after completing the building?

The café was a key part of the level revamp, and provided free overseeing of the surroundings. It should have been a great evening venue as well as daytime. Now it's a redundant shell.

Rob Stephenson



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Recycling Reminder Number 425 *of an infinite and random list*

The Council funded recycling box scheme and communal recycling big bins accept plastic bottles. That is the **only** plastic they accept – putting other plastic items in the recycling boxes contaminates the load, a few too many wrong items means that the whole load will be sent for incineration. It's your choice, there are no recycling police. But if you recycle because it's the right thing to do, then go all the way and recycle just the plastics which the contract accepts – plastic BOTTLES.

And please flatten the bottles before depositing them. Plastic bottles can be very strong, and if the top is left on they may not be crushed in the collection lorry. This reduces the amount of stuff which can fit in the lorry leading to more lorry miles, polluting more air and wasting more fuel.

**Only plastic bottles in the Council recycling scheme –
and flattened before depositing please.**



Round Hill Reporter
85 Princes Road and
47 Richmond Road
www.roundhill.org.uk

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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.

Report flytipping/ overflowing bins : brighton-hove.gov.uk/report-problem-and-request-clean.

Councillors Give £1000 to Round Hill Greening from Ward Budgets

Two of our councillors, Pete West and Sue Shanks, have each given £500 from their ward budgets towards the ongoing work by Round Hill Green Spaces. These contributions follow a successful site visit in January where we hosted councillors and senior council officers on a walking visit to discuss transport and greening improvements to the area. We have Council permission to install planters by the bus stop where Princes Cres meets Ditchling Rd, and are in the process of finalising the design and obtaining planning approval. Round Hill Green Spaces will be hosting its annual plant sale to raise funds to re-fresh plants and bulbs for local planters on Sunday 29 May, 11am to 1pm.

Round Hill Green Spaces (we are Dominic Furlong, Jane Power and Kate Rice)

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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 editors at the addresses shown above.
Deadline for the October 2022 edition 15th Sept.

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