



THE ROUND HILL REPORTER

Facebook: [Round Hill Community Noticeboard](#) Website: roundhill.org.uk

Email: roundhillsociety@gmail.com

COME ALONG TO THE FIRST ROUND HILL STREET PLAY AND COMMUNITY SOCIAL OF 2026

By Robyn Summers-Emler

Join your neighbours on 31st May from 2–4pm for the Round Hill Spring Social. We'll gather along the stretch from the top of Ashdown Road down to the Richmond Road planters; the street will be closed so everyone can relax and children can play safely!

Look forward to:

- Plant Sale: Donate seedlings to support our community planters, or pick up affordable plants for your own garden. All funds raised will go toward bulbs and plants for the community planters and Pocket Park.
- Street-play Fun: Chalk art, bubble station, hula-hoop and skipping contest, and face painting.
- Spring Clean Sale & Donate: Bring along books, clothes, and bric-a-brac to swap or sell - everything left will be donated to the local Free Shop
- Bake sale: Delicious home-baked treats, made by members of the Round Hill community.

Seedling Donations: You can drop off seedlings on the day or contact Dominic Furlong at dominicfurlong@gmail.com to donate seedlings in advance.

We're always looking for safety marshals and help with organising. Contact Robyn Summers-Emler at rsummersemle@gmail.com or on +447549363968 to offer your support.

Photo of 2025 street play revellers by Dominic Furlong



CAROL SINGING SUCCESS

By Rachel Griffith-Boyes

Back in December, residents came together for a festive evening of carol singing, raising over £300 for Brighton Food Bank! The Food Bank is a vital resource for many, supporting individuals and families in crisis by providing essential food and toiletries.

With a great turnout, the event was full of good cheer and community spirit. Carolers were ably accompanied by Andrew Partington on the melodeon, whose music helped keep everyone in fine voice. The evening ended on a high note at the Roundhill pub, where the singers were given a warm welcome and enjoyed a well-earned drink.

A big thank you to everyone who sang, collected, donated, and supported the event — see you next year!

Photo of carolers by Dominic Furlong



GIVING WILDLIFE A HELPING HAND

By Rob Stephenson

A goodly handful of people will have taken part in the toad, newt and frog count on the cat creep this year, and many more might take the opportunity to improve our wildlife corridor mainly on Richmond Road this gardening year, but what about the rest of us?

The amphibians crossing the Cat's Creep are found all over Round Hill, and we can all help them move more freely by making sure our walls and fences have holes they can pass through. Ponds are easy to make, even a butler sink set into the soil will help.

A good pile of cut wood from hedge and tree management may be easier to create - in a quiet corner for least disturbance - many creatures including amphibians will value such a refuge.

Birds, bats and flying insects can all be helped with shelter, food and breeding places. If you plan to use bought or home-made boxes, be sure to keep them out of direct sun, and clean them once a year. But a dense hedge, ivy covered wall or tree trunk, bare earth or woodpile all offer opportunities. Why not look at your space and identify a simple change to help wildlife to recover and spread?

VEOLIA HOLLINGDEAN SITE: COUNCIL FINALLY MOVES TO PRODUCE LONG-PROMISED REPORT

By Dominic Furlong

After more than six years of delay, Brighton & Hove City Council has confirmed that officers are now preparing a report into the suitability of the Veolia Waste Transfer Station (WTS) in Hollingdean. This follows sustained pressure from Round Hill residents and intervention by local MP Siân Berry.

The report was originally requested by the council's Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee in November 2019 after residents raised serious concerns about odour, noise, and fire risk at the site. Councillors agreed that the review should be carried out independently to assess the suitability of the Veolia WTS site, given its location close to residential homes and schools.

In July 2025, Councillor Raphael Hill asked the council whether the report had ever been completed. Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services, Councillor Tim Rowkins, confirmed that it had not. He later acknowledged:

“Clearly the root of the problem here is that the report requested by the committee never materialised, and that is not an acceptable situation... I have asked officers to look back at what was requested... and I'll make sure you get a response soon.”

Despite this acknowledgement, until a formal complaint and a meeting with Siân Berry MP, who raised the issue directly with the council's Chief Executive, the council confirmed that work is now underway.

In a letter dated 10 February 2026, Satti Sidhu, Acting Head of Strategy and Service Improvement, Environmental Services, stated:

“I'm disappointed that the report was not produced at the time... Officers are now preparing a report that sets out an assessment of the suitability of the Hollingdean Waste Transfer Station... This work will draw on information from partner agencies and relevant technical specialists.”

No completion date has yet been given, but the council has committed to progressing the work and meeting with residents once it is finished.

Media coverage by Brighton & Hove News and The Argus highlighted both residents' concerns and the council's failure to produce the promised review. Residents continue to report odour, noise, and safety issues at the site.

This recent progress demonstrates the importance of sustained community action. The Round Hill Society Committee will continue pressing the council to complete and publish the independent review and will keep residents informed.

ROUND HILL GARDEN TRAIL SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

By Jane Power

I'm delighted that at least 12 gardens will be "open" for local residents and their friends to explore, between 10.30am-4pm on the 7th June. We'll have "Donations" boxes – contributions towards greening/supporting wildlife in Round Hill would be wonderful.

Gardens involved so far are in Upper Lewes, d'Aubigny, Ashdown, Richmond, Princes and Ditchling Roads, and Princes Crescent. The Round Hill Community Pocket Park at Ditchling Road bus stop will join in with an "open day". Later, there'll be more info on each garden and a map, on Facebook (Round Hill Community Noticeboard UK) and the website (roundhill.org.uk). We will also locate info in a few house windows and on lamp-posts.

Come and see our gardens large and small: some with unexpected twists and turns, secret corners, and unusual plants. Our theme is "how we use our gardens" and here are a few lines from participants describing theirs.

"Not beautiful, probably not even pretty but it is (we hope) interesting and valuable for wildlife."

"Primarily designed as a wildlife garden, but also used for growing fruit and vegetables."

"The view, palm tree and the kitchen sink!"

"An uphill jungle, this garden is full of exotic plants."

"Large wildlife family garden. Ponds, wild flowers, roses galore and mature trees."

"I aim for a pollinator paradise and raspberries for breakfast."

"A terraced back garden featuring entirely container planting."

"Colour and scent at the front; 3 distinct levels and styles at the back."

"Less about the plants, more about creating a space that whisks me away into relaxed holiday vibes."

Enjoy your visits!

Photo of residents luxuriating by Julia Valentine



AN INTERVIEW WITH JIG AGNIHOTRI OWNER OF SHAKTI STORES

By Emmanuel Valentine

Shakti is a shop known to all of the residents of Round Hill, having stood since 1983. We sat down with owner Jig Agnihotri to talk about Shakti's history and the experience of serving this community for so long.

Roundhill Reporter: Thank you so much for agreeing to talk to us!

Jig Agnihotri: It's no problem, we've been around since the 80s, so I have a lot of history to share.

RR: Can you tell us a bit more about Shakti's history?

JA: We've been here 43 years. My mother, Jyostna, bought the shop when the ITT factory closed and set it up. She was a familiar face to everyone who came by; you could often see a queue out of the door because she chatted so much with everyone who came in. You could very well walk in and have music blaring out while she practiced yoga behind the till! She passed away in 2021, and it was important for us to stick to the spirit of what she did, down to the fresh samosas that are so popular on the till.

We've employed people in the community throughout the years. When people move away and come back, they are surprised that Shakti is still here. It speaks to the staying power of our business and our connection to the community. Shakti means strength, as does the diamond in the logo. We always use local talent and businesses as well – Nik the Brush painted our sign.

RR: What changes have you seen in Round Hill over the years?

JA: The area has gentrified a lot. Back in the days of cash tills, we were robbed a few times. Mum was even held up! We've seen local businesses come and go, as well as change hands. We've seen the impact of technology. We used to run a paper round, then we got electronic tills before the supermarkets. Even though the area has developed, there is still a strong sense of community. I do wish there were more spaces to congregate in the area. We have so many ideas that are just too expensive to run because there isn't easy access to spaces.

Continued...

RR: You get lots of interesting new items in the shop all the time. How do you stay on top of the latest trends?

JA: I'm really passionate about our stock. I've been keeping the shop stocked properly since we started. We strive to maintain a balance between stocking lower-cost staples, meeting residents' dietary needs, and keeping things interesting and pushing boundaries. I keep an eye out for what people are looking for, and we listen to our customers and what they ask for.

RR: Thank you so much for speaking to us. Is there anything else you would like to share?

JA: It's no problem. We work very hard to keep innovating and keep our customers happy, and we appreciate the positivity we get back from the community.

We're so grateful to Jig for taking the time to talk to us. You can follow Shakti Store on Instagram by searching "Shakti Brighton", or use the QR code on this page.



@SHAKTI.BRIGHTON



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 42 years in Round Hill

102 Ditchling Road
Established December 1983

ROUND HILL NATURE PROJECT GAINS STRONG SUPPORT IN CITY FUND

By Dominic Furlong

The Round Hill Society's community-led proposal, Improving Green Infrastructure in the Round Hill Conservation Area, has attracted strong early support in the council's Better Brighton & Hove Fund competition. It received the fourth highest number of positive public comments among the ideas submitted on the council's Your Voice platform.

This highlights the strong level of support for the project, which in turn informs funding decisions at the ward level. Final voting for vetted proposals is expected to open on the Your Voice platform in mid-February.

The project would deliver significant environmental improvements in one of Brighton's most densely built neighbourhoods. Plans include planting six new trees along Richmond Road, which lies within a designated Nature Improvement Area, and replacing a lost tree in the Pocket Park. It also includes installing bird and bat boxes and distributing native wildflowers to residents to support pollinators and urban wildlife.

These improvements would help strengthen a recognised wildlife corridor identified in city policy as important for habitat recovery and ecological connectivity.



Round Hill has almost no public green space, making street trees and small-scale habitat measures especially valuable. Scientific records confirm the presence of protected bat species and more than 180 bird species in the surrounding area, underlining the importance of protecting and enhancing local habitats.

The proposal builds on the Round Hill Society's long track record of environmental projects. The project has now passed the initial stage and will move to a public vote. Because decisions are made at ward level, local participation in the Your Voice vote will play a key role in determining whether the project gets funded by the council.

UPDATES ON LOCAL AMPHIBIANS

By Amy Nicole Miller

The yearly spring toad migration is already in full swing this March and counts from the Cat's Creep are looking promising so far! Since the patrol began counting in 2020 however, the local toad population has dropped by 64%. As a postgrad ecology and conservation student at the University of Brighton and lifelong toad enthusiast, I'm hoping to find out why.

I'll be analysing the data collected by the patrol to help improve our knowledge of migration patterns. I am also planning to distribute a short garden biodiversity survey to Round Hill residents to explore how amphibian-friendly the neighbourhood is and provide advice on how to improve your garden for wildlife.

Please look forward to receiving informational leaflets with a QR code link to the survey this spring, probably around March or April. If anyone has any questions or comments please feel free to get in touch!

Photo of a local frog, taken by Amy Nicole Miller



USEFUL 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)

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

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