



The Round Hill Reporter

Summer 2023 Issue 91

See all issues of *The Reporter* and much more on www.roundhill.org.uk. Contact RHS Committee: roundhillsociety@gmail.com

TOAD WATCH



Cats' Creep is a narrow lane ("twitten", in Sussex slang) with steps that run up from Roundhill Crescent to the top of Wakefield Road. In February and March, toads and other amphibians migrate from hibernation sites to their ancestral ponds that many of our Round Hill gardens host. Along the way, toads in particular search for a mate, pairing up specifically on the twitten before heading to a breeding pond.

In 2020, Round Hill residents formed a toad patrol to monitor amphibian numbers on the twitten and notify residents to watch out for toads on the steps. We're lucky that our urban environment can host this natural spectacle. But the story of toads, newts and frogs in this area is not a simple one, and their future here is at risk.

Continued on page 2

You're invited to three

ROUND HILL SUMMER PARTIES!

30 July 2023

Sylvan Hall BBQ: 1pm onwards

Richmond Road Street Party: 2-4pm

Roundhill Pub Community Party:
4:30pm onwards

To volunteer, email Laura-Kate:
laura-kate.roe@outlook.com

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by



GRAFFITI UPDATE



Round Hill is one of the safest areas of Brighton, with very little crime reported. However, no area is safe from the anti-social act of illegal graffiti - especially 'tags': similar to a signature, and often ugly! One successful method of preventing this act is to paint murals. We've seen how well this works in practice with the Wakefield Road mural. **Continued on page 2**

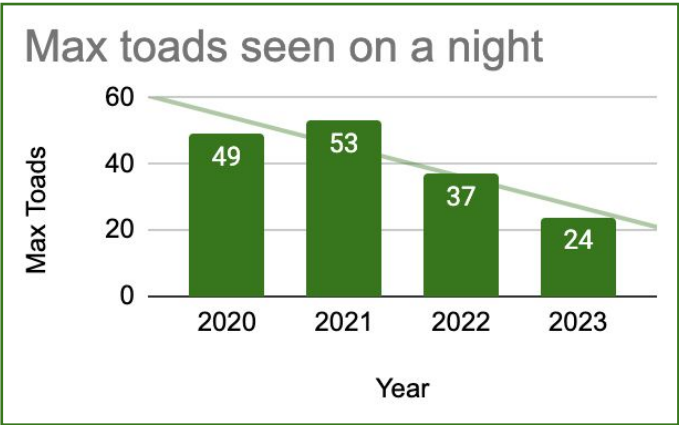


TOAD WATCH



Continued from page 1

In the first three years of the toad patrol, we recorded toads on the steps in mid-February, but in 2023 they did not arrive till March. We think that this is because the start of the year was too dry and cold for them. Thank goodness for the warmer rains in the second half of March returning our climate to some normality.



This year, our highest count on a given night was 24 toads - less than half of 2021, when one night we counted 50 (in previous years, there have been up to 85 seen in a night). The total number of toads counted over the entire season this year was 240. That's only a little over half of the number in our first year of counting.

Newts, like toads, return from their winter hibernation sites to suitable breeding ponds that many of our Round Hill gardens host. On Cats' Creep, the newts can be seen congregating in the cracks and the crevices of the twitten's walls and in the foliage along the edge, enjoying the darkness and the damp.

This year we saw eight newts on one night and 54 over the whole season. The numbers were better than those recorded in both 2021 and 2022, but still much below our counts in 2020, when we counted 139, with 36 in one night.

Frogs have a different story altogether. Frog populations have suffered in the last few decades from the disease *ranavirus*. But this year, the number of frogs on the twitten increased dramatically. When the warmer rains began in March, the frogs quickly jumped into action and on one night we saw 10 frogs! We saw a total of 18 frogs over the whole season. This is higher than any previous year. We hope this indicates a wider recovery of frog populations from the effects of *ranavirus*.

Paolo Oprandi
paolo.oprandi@gmail.com

GRAFFITI UPDATE



Continued from page 1

Sandy Moon, orchestrator of the Wakefield Road mural, told us, "Mural designs created by kids or the community usually put off graffiti taggers, as even taggers start to feel more part of the community". And painting over this with anti-graffiti paint, as was done on the Wakefield Road mural, helps keep murals tag-free for longer.

Another tactic is to use more detailed designs, where a tag would be hard to see over the top. An example of this is Sandy's ivy mural on the pump house by the Level (near Pelicano's cafe). This remained almost tag-free for three years after painting the mural.

If you see a tagger in action, Sandy recommends being brave and talking to them. Tell them Round Hill is a strong community that is proud of its beautiful surroundings. Let's keep it that way!

RECYCLING TOP TIPS



Ever get confused about what you can and can't recycle in your black recycling boxes?

What goes in together in your black box

- Tins and cans - empty and rinsed
- Aerosols - empty with lids removed
- Cardboard - flattened and fit into the box
- Paper (includes directories and windowed envelopes)
- Plastic bottles - rinsed and squashed, with lids replaced
- Lids from glass bottles & jars

What goes in a separate black box

- Unbroken glass items, e.g. bottles and jars - remove the lids and put in other box

Where to recycle other items

- Tetra Park - flattened with lid replaced: communal bins on Upper Lewes Road or The Level
- Clothes & shoes - in a bag: bins by the Level or charity shops
- Batteries: most supermarkets
- Light bulbs: B&Q
- Plastics, coffee packaging, sachets, e.g. baby or pet food: Lewes Road Sainsbury's

SOUTH EAST CLIMATE ALLIANCE



The new Round Hill ward voted in two Green Party councillors in May: Pete West and Raphael Hill. Both candidates pledged to support the South East Climate Alliance's pledges during their campaign. Raphael sent us more information:

"As Green candidates, we were proud to support the South East Climate Alliance's pledge to **Accelerate action, Boost partnerships, Communicate, and Divest from fossil fuels.**

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www.unit4brighton.co.uk

Summer 2023 Issue 91

"Greens will hold the new Labour administration to the 2030 net zero goals that the council has agreed upon.

"One area to be considered is our use of plastics. We need to transition away from a plastics-based society and towards a circular economy based on using sustainable materials that do not leave microplastics. These not only harm our environment, but also can be found within many people's lung tissue and blood.

"Recent reports have shown that recycling plastics creates a large amount of microplastic discharge. That's why moving away from plastic use must be a key part of our transition goals. More new alternatives to plastic are being made from materials such as seaweed, which we can use to replace single use plastic containers."

Raphael Hill

Councillor for Round Hill Ward

raphael.hill@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Read more about the South East Climate Alliance:
<https://seclimatealliance.uk/>

LOCAL CRIME UPDATE



According to the Sussex Police website, the Round Hill Conservation Area does not suffer historically from crime. Reported crimes tend to be either vehicle crime or theft.

Anti-social behaviour, such as speeding, illegal parking, graffiti or leaving dog mess are much more common in the area. You can report these using the contact details on the back of *The Reporter*. Thank you to Eva Wendler for organising anti dog poo stencils on the streets to remind people to pick up their dogs' mess.

Earlier this year, the council monitored certain streets in Round Hill for pedestrian safety. They will publicise their observations in September under the Safer, Better Streets Infrastructure Framework. RHS Committee is looking into more speed limit signage.

In May, the bus shelter by the Roundhill pub was damaged and tagged. These crimes have been reported.

Christopher Paul
christopherpaul@hotmail.co.uk

GOODGYM IN ROUND HILL



GoodGym is a charity that helps people get fit by doing good. It's a group of runners, walkers, and cyclists who combine regular exercise with helping our communities.

Recently, the GoodGymers stepped up to deliver 150 copies of *The Round Hill Reporter*, as there was a last-minute shortage of deliverers. It's especially important to get the newsletter out to those who either can't or prefer not to be online, so they still feel part of the community.



Summer 2023 Issue 91

The team hopped up and down the Cat's Creep, carefully avoiding the toads, as it was still during the toad migration. They used head torches and phones as they sprinted up the many steep steps!

The second Tuesday of the month is Brighton GoodGym's social night, so after delivering the *Reporter*, the team took some well-deserved time out to enjoy a quiz at the Jolly Brewer pub.

The GoodGym's next Round Hill adventure will be to clean up the Cat's Creep in July. This will be in collaboration of Brighton & Hove's Council Tidy Up Team.

If you'd like to give GoodGym a try, visit their website: www.goodgym.org/

Stefania Rosso
stefania.rosso@gmail.com



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RCACS UPDATE



The Round Hill Conservation Area's Character Statement (RCACS) protects our local area's special characteristics from change or development. Local town planner, Michael Doyle, kindly volunteered to update the RCACS in his spare time. He told us a bit more about it for the *RH Reporter*:

"A developer recently applied to build new housing in the area, ahead of which, the landowner felled some large old trees to make way for the proposed development. It was within the owner's rights to fell these trees, as they were not protected in the RCACS. The developer lost their appeal but it was too late for the trees.

"When guidelines for an area aren't frequently updated, developers are more likely to get permission from the council to build there. The Round Hill conservation area is on the list to have its statement updated by the council, but with tight resources and development schemes to prioritise, it might take years to see them take this action.

Summer 2023 Issue 91

"Having a statement written by the community, which is then sent to the council as a recommendation, is much better than having it created by the council. It saves the council time and money, and it also means the local community can give their preferences first-hand.

"As a town planner in Notting Hill and Hampstead, I understand how community-led initiatives like these can lift the quality of an area over time. In the 50s, those parts of London I now work with were run down - hard to imagine when you visit these prestigious areas today. Their success was a result of focused local effort into making a higher quality neighbourhood."

Michael Doyle



HAVE YOUR SAY! Would you like to be a part of the steering group to make the final decisions on the character statement?

Email roundhillsociety@gmail.com with your full name and first line of your home address. You must be a current active resident in the area to participate in the decision-making process.

NEW APPROACH FOR ROUND HILL COMMUNITY EVENTS



Round Hill’s Halloween event has been approved by the council! It will take place on Sunday 29th October, 2-4pm in Mayo Road. There’ll be fancy dress and games, such as the highly popular doughnut eating contest. Thanks to our success at ‘BrightonSoup’, we now have our own hot water urn, so we’ll have hot drinks and home-made cakes on sale. We welcome adults and children!

I’m also planning two additional events on 30th July and 10th September, which we’ll trial holding on Richmond Road - and we may look at an event at Belton Road in the future. So far the response from residents has been fantastic!

We want to get enough support to use the whole upper part of the road due to its gradient, and to spread out the activities. The owners of Richmond House are supportive, and we hope to use their car park as overflow for impacted residents.

If you have questions or want to support as a volunteer, please let me know!

Laura-Kate Roe
laura-kate.roe@outlook.com

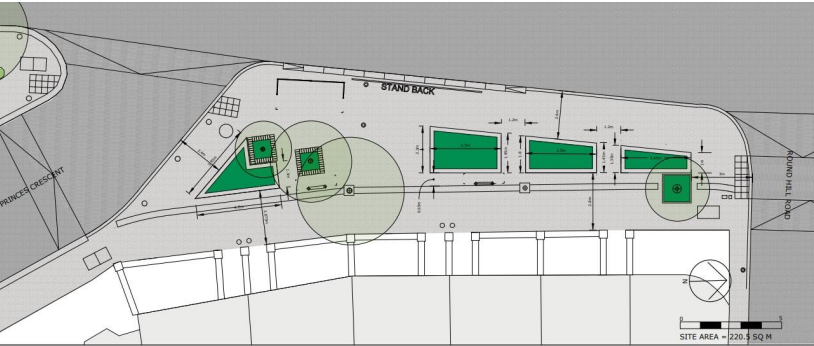
ROUND HILL GREEN SPACES



Our pocket park alongside the bus stop at the junction of Prince’s Crescent and Ditchling Road is inching towards becoming a reality!

Round Hill Green Spaces secured ‘permission in principle’ and a pavement license for a pocket park from the council’s Transport Team last year but were then told we also needed planning permission.

After much back and forth, we submitted a set of drawings to the Planning Team in May (see below).



Comments on the application remain open until 26 June (planning reference BH2022/03635). Please show your support for the plan to transform this tired strip of tarmac into a welcoming green space for the Round Hill community to enjoy!

PLANT SALE NEWS

The Round Hill Green Spaces Annual Plant Sale on 21 May was our most successful yet. We raised £335, which will go towards the upkeep of our community planters. Many thanks to all those who came along and those who donated.

Dominic Furlong
dominicfurlong@gmail.com



MESSAGE FROM A FOREVER ROUNDHILLER!



This year, Jan Curry, a well-known and beloved Round Hill resident, moved away to Lewes, having lived here most of her life. She passed on her thanks to well-wishers and an update on how she's doing:

"Dear friends and neighbours, thank you so much for all your cards, book of Round Hill photographs and the lovely picture of a scene in my garden, which was so beautifully painted by local artist, Zara Slattery. I treasure it and always will.

"There was always something special about walking round Round Hill, which I did for 66 years... so many people to stop and talk to, so many flowers in front gardens and window boxes to look at.

"It is not easy to leave somewhere with so many memories, to a place that has none at all (I'm hoping to make some as soon as possible!). It's not all bad here though - family just down the road, bus stop nearby, antique shops and cafes everywhere!

"You're all welcome to visit, and I send my love to all - especially to the new inhabitants in my old house."

Jan Curry
jancurryrichmond@gmail.com



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Summer 2023 Issue 91

DEFIBRILLATOR NEWS

Applications for two defibrillators for Round Hill were submitted to Sussex Heart Trust in May. If the applications are successful (we have to meet certain criteria and contribute £900 per defibrillator and cabinet), the defibrillators will be located on external walls of the Roundhill and Park Crescent pubs, and accessible to the public 24/7.

Many thanks to Nathan Mosey and Adam Smith at the Roundhill and Dafydd Beacon at the Park Crescent for agreeing to do this. Getting the agreement from suitable locations to host our defibrillators has been the most challenging part of the project. Given the Round Hill community has already raised £2,000 towards a defibrillator, applying to the Sussex Heart Trust is an opportunity to get 'more bang for our buck' and serve both sides of the Round Hill area. The remaining £200 will be put towards the costs of wiring the cabinets into the electricity supply.

Dominic Furlong
dominicfurlong@gmail.com

HANDY LOCAL CONTACTS

Veolia waste plant smell, noise, dust:
Environment Agency, 0800 807060

Illegal parking in the CPZ:
Report it on 0345 603 5469

Student liaison officers:
Sussex - 01273 678220 or
housing@sussex.ac.uk
Brighton - Andrew Keefe,
A.W.B.Keefe@brighton.ac.uk

Non-emergency police reporting:
Call 101 for non-urgent issues. Alternatively,
report a crime or incident online:
www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report

Report fly-tipping or overflowing bins:
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/report-problem-and-request-clean

Request to join the Round Hill Community Noticeboard UK on Facebook to stay updated on everything going on in the area, share local news, swap goods, and more!



Like what you've read in *The Round Hill Reporter*? Think it could be improved?

**Become the new Editor of
The Round Hill Reporter!**

Register your interest or find out more...

Contact: Julia Valentine
roundhillsociety@gmail.com
07772962030

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH RHS

Online: www.roundhill.org.uk
Twitter: @RoundhillSoc
Request to join the Friends of RHS mailing list or write for/advertise in the *RH Reporter*:
roundhillsociety@gmail.com

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Summer 2023 Issue 91

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Want to get involved? Join our next meeting on 12th July, 7:30pm. Contact Julia Valentine for more information.