



THE ROUND HILL REPORTER

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

Email: roundhillsociety@gmail.com

CELEBRATE THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY TURNING 25 THIS YEAR PICNIC AND STREET PARTY: SATURDAY, 12TH JULY 2 – 6 PM



Join us on Saturday 12th July at 2pm on Richmond Road for a very special picnic and street party celebrating 25 years of the Round Hill Society, our residents' association. The road will be closed off to traffic for lots of activities:

- The bottom half of the road will be the street play area for our younger neighbours
- The top half will be a picnic area: bring whatever you want to eat, drink and sit on!
- The Roundhill Pub will be providing a bar and a sound system for live music

Those who want to keep going past 6pm can head to the Roundhill Pub where the music will continue.

There'll be a maker's market on the day, and bring along any items to swap in our community swap shop too.

Thank you to everyone helping to make this party a reality. It shows how much can be achieved by a team of kind and motivated people! We look forward to a big turnout to celebrate our community here in Round Hill.

If you'd like to volunteer, provide food or home-made items to sell, please email roundhillsociety@gmail.com.



Special thanks to the Roundhill Pub for their support with this event.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE, STREET PLAY AND MAKERS MARKET

By Dominic Furlong



The Round Hill Annual Plant Sale was held on Sunday, 25 May. It raised £150 towards the maintenance of the Round Hill community planters, of which there are now 10! Many thanks to Laura-Kate Roe for organising the Street Play, Chris Furlong-Jones and Amanda Villa-Lobos for baking cakes and savoury snacks, and all the volunteers who marshalled the road closure.

Special thanks to local makers Vicki Sharp Measor (Instagram: [@vic_star.jewelleryaccessories](https://www.instagram.com/vic_star.jewelleryaccessories)) for the jewellery and accessories, and to Lizzie Innemee (Website: studioinnemee.com) for showcasing her architectural design business.



Volunteers at the May Plant sale and Makers Market

COMMUNITY ACTION DAY WAS A BIG SUCCESS

By Stefania Rosso

This year nature charity WWF and GoodGym are collaborating on hundreds of events involving a Workout for Nature. In Round Hill we saw an impressive fifteen GoodGymers take part, who painted over graffiti tags on the Cat's Creep stairway, getting rid of stubborn weeds on Wakefield Road, clearing ivy, and litter picking across the area.



Volunteers at the last action day

The day finished under the swiftly darkening sky with packing up tools, which Andrew Partington kindly stored. GoodGym area activator and Round Hill resident Stefania handed out ciabatta and delicious doughnuts sourced via the Olio app, which helps prevent good food from going to waste.

As a reward for the successful community tidy-up action, Brighton & Hove City Clean has lent our community some tools, including hoes, gloves, brooms and shovels. Thank you to Change Grow Live at Richmond House for storing these.

Thank you also to volunteers from the Round Hill Society, including Dominic, Annette, and local councillor Raphael for a great clean up.

If you would like to get involved with the next action day on 16th September, please email stefania.rosso@gmail.com.

THREE YEARS ON AND STILL LOOKING GOOD



By Rob Stephenson

The June 2021 issue of this Reporter spoke of a proposed mural on the wall at the bottom of Wakefield Road, as the wall was repeatedly tagged every time volunteers re-painted it. Mural artists Sandy Moon and Daryl (aka Sinna1) helped the Round Hill Society committee plan the mural.

By December, the committee had secured Council money to pay for materials and artists to redecorate the Council-owned wall, and residents of Round Hill and those living opposite the wall had all been asked for their views. They reached a consensus on the theme of 'wildlife and nature'.

Daryl and Sandy talked to a youth group and other artists to widen the style and type of work the wall.

By May of 2022, several artists had started on the wall. Early on, it was damaged by two taggers, but they left after residents spoke to them. The damage was repaired, and since then, we have retained one of the biggest pieces of street art in Brighton relatively unharmed. Long may it continue.



CHANGES TO LOCAL RECYCLING REGULATIONS

By Julia Valentine

Did you know that from 30th June, Round Hill residents can leave more plastics in their recycling box to be taken away? Please make sure to read the [advice about the new recycling disposal](#) on the council website.

Remember to clean any items you put into open recycling boxes to deter seagulls and foxes. Contaminated items or non-recyclable items mixed with recyclable can result in the council sending all of it to the incinerator, defeating the purpose of recycling.

Towards the end of the year we will be able to dispose of food waste separately too, due to a UK-wide government mandate.

Dominic Furlong has kindly spent his time pushing the council to deliver a report into the safety and suitability of the Hollingdean Waste Transfer Station, which they promised to release in 2019. An evaluation of the safety and suitability of the site is long overdue, with three fires occurring at the site, as well as the foul smell and noise. Six years on and the council has still not delivered the report they promised.

Cllrs Raphael Hill and Pete West have been challenging the council to make our views heard. They encourage Round Hill residents to join full council meetings to increase pressure. Learn [how to join full council meetings](#) on the council website.

AMPHIBIAN ACTIVITY PLUMMETS IN OUR DRIEST EARLY SPRING

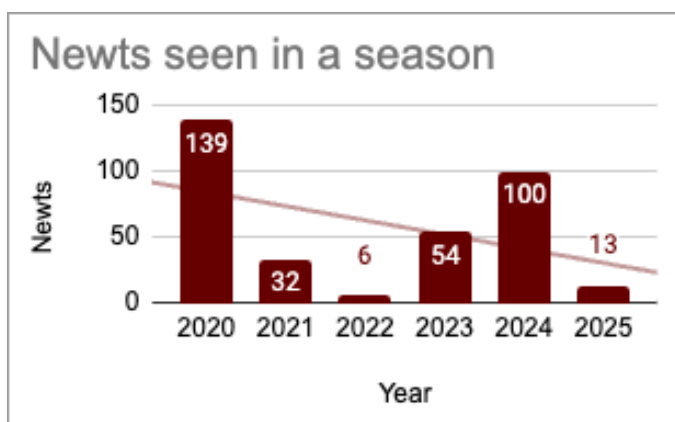
By Paolo Oprandi

The Round Hill area has always been a special place in Brighton for amphibians. We are the only area in the City with its own active Toad Patrol!

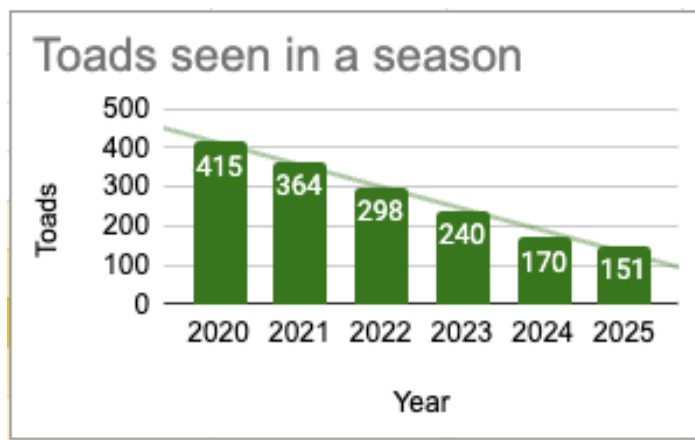
Amphibians traditionally hibernate on the Downs during non-breeding season and then go to lower ground to breed in marshes and ponds. In this area we believe, historically, they used to visit a pond at the bottom of Sylvian Hall to breed.

Despite our victory in stopping the Council spraying our pavements and streets with glyphosate weed killer, we have not been shielded from this era of rapid biodiversity collapse. A year marked by record-breaking dryness and unseasonal warmth, the Round Hill Patrollers in Brighton have observed another year of decline in amphibian activity during February and March 2025.

Since 2020, there has been a 64% drop in toad sightings. While natural fluctuations are expected, the consistency of this downward trend is alarming.



Newt numbers have also steeply declined



The steady decline in toad numbers

This year's counts are the lowest since records began, and the cause appears to be clear: the weather. Toads, frogs, and newts rely on moist conditions to migrate safely to their breeding grounds. In 2025, patrollers frequently noted dry, clear nights with no amphibians in sight.

Amphibians reflect broader shifts in climate patterns and habitat loss. Consider whether you have seen fewer slow worms and birds in your own garden. So the next question is, what can we do?

Local conservationists are urging residents to:

- Create wildlife and amphibian-friendly habitats like garden ponds
- Create wild areas in your garden with plenty of cover
- Avoid using pesticides and herbicides
- Support citizen science efforts like the Round Hill patrols

ROUND HILL CRIME UPDATE

By Christopher Paul

The total number of crimes in the Round Hill area within the greater Viaduct area for the year is 2,779, or 156 per 1,000 people, which is considered "very low in the UK".

This makes the Round Hill area "the safest place to live in Brighton and Hove", according to the Police's "livability" assessment. Many streets in Round Hill have no reported crimes at all.

However, a resident has recently reported that his car was broken into and possessions from his car were stolen. Please report any more such incidents to the police.

Most crime in the greater Viaduct area was reported outside of Round Hill, but in the area itself, the following were reported:

- 9 crimes in Wakefield Road
- 6 in Ashdown Road
- 8 in Daubigny Road
- 4 in Richmond Road
- 4 in Round Hill Crescent

ROUND HILL GETS A NEW COMMUNITY POCKET PARK

By Dominic Furlong

The pocket park consists of four large wooden planters, made and installed by a team from the Brighton Wood Store. It is situated on the wide tarmacked walkway alongside the southbound bus stop at the junction of Ditchling Road and Prince's Crescent. The site was chosen to provide a welcoming public green and social space, as well as to deter pavement parking.



One of the four planters

From the initial idea to installation took five and a half years, starting with consulting the local community and council officers from various departments in October 2019. A highways license for the pocket park was agreed in January 2021, and after several attempts, planning permission was obtained in July 2023. Funding was in place by August 2024 and came from a range of sources – the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Chalk Cliff Trust, Brighton & Hove Buses, the ward funds of our councillors, the Round Hill Society, and annual plant sales.

We hope the Round Hill Community Pocket Park will bring joy to the residents and passersby, and strengthen feelings of local belonging. They are being maintained by local volunteers. Please email dominicfurlong@gmail.com to get involved.

IT IS WORTH TAKING ACTION! BUT YOU WILL NEED STAYING POWER.



By Annie McCabe

Late last year, we noticed a continual high-pitched and unpleasant whining noise in our back garden and in the rooms at the back of our house in D'Aubigny Road. It took a while, but eventually we realised that the source was the cooling units located on the roof of Holden Court (the large student accommodation block finished last year on Hollingdean Rd). They look innocuous enough.

We explored the BHCC Planning website but couldn't find any relevant noise readings, but we did see that the Council had limitations on any increase in noise. So with Cllr Raphael Hill's support, we requested that the Council's Planning Enforcement Team take action.



Image of the units from a back garden.

When, after some delays, sound measurements were taken by the Planning Enforcement Team, their comment was that:

“Our assessment has initially indicated that remedial action will be required, and that the business should seek the services of an acoustic consultant to establish the best course of action to resolve and mitigate. As the request to investigate came via our colleagues in Planning as a potential breach of a planning condition, the appropriate mechanism for resolution and action will be through the Planning enforcement team rather than through statutory nuisance legislation.”

So, the Council has told the building operators that they need to get Acousticians in to resolve the problem. This is not resolved yet, but it's looking more hopeful that it will be eventually. We hope to have updates in the next Reporter.

In the meantime, our thanks to the Council's Planning Enforcement Team and Cllr Raphael Hill.

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.

Saturday 12th July 2 - 6pm: 25th Anniversary of the Round Hill Society

See front page of The Reporter to get more information. Please email roundhillsociety@gmail.com to get involved, whether it's volunteering, baking, selling or making music.

Tuesday 16th September 6 - 8pm: GoodGym cleans Round Hill

Tick off three activities in one go with this activity: exercise, meeting people and doing good for your community. Anyone can join - you don't need to be a GoodGym member. Email stefania.rosso@gmail.com or go to the [GoodGym website](#) to learn more.

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.

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.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Laura-Kate Roe for all her hard work over the years putting street plays and parties together for the Round Hill community.

Laura-Kate has announced she's stepping down after the October event so please email roundhillsociety@gmail.com if you'd like to join the events organising team. All help is welcome, from regular volunteers to organising street plays.

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

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

Thank you to Sam Sheils for editing *The Round Hill Reporter* for the last few editions and being a valued member of the Committee. We wish you the best of luck with your house move!

Read through 25 years of previous
editions of *The Round Hill Reporter* on
the [Round Hill website](http://www.theroundhillsociety.co.uk)