



The Round Hill Reporter

Winter 2023 Issue 92

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

TOAD PATROL



In February and March, our local Round Hill toads, frogs and newts come out of hibernation and make their way to their breeding ponds. The migration via the Cat's Creep is an annual phenomenon, with the steps officially recognised as a toad crossing.

As this is such an important event, Round Hill amphibian fans count the toads, newts and frogs on the Cat's Creep during the migration to monitor numbers.

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COME COMMUNITY CAROLING!



It's almost time to deck those halls, jingle those bells and hark those heralds as Round Hill residents come out and sing carols around our neighbourhood to raise some festive cheer and some much needed money for charity.

Monday 18th December is the date for your diary. We'll meet at 6pm outside the Roundhill Pub and follow a route along Princes Road, Mayo Road, Richmond Road, Princes Crescent, Belton Road and Round Hill Road/Street.

Everyone is welcome - if you don't want to sing, we'll need volunteers to carry the buckets and knock on doors to take donations. This year we'll be collecting for the local food bank.

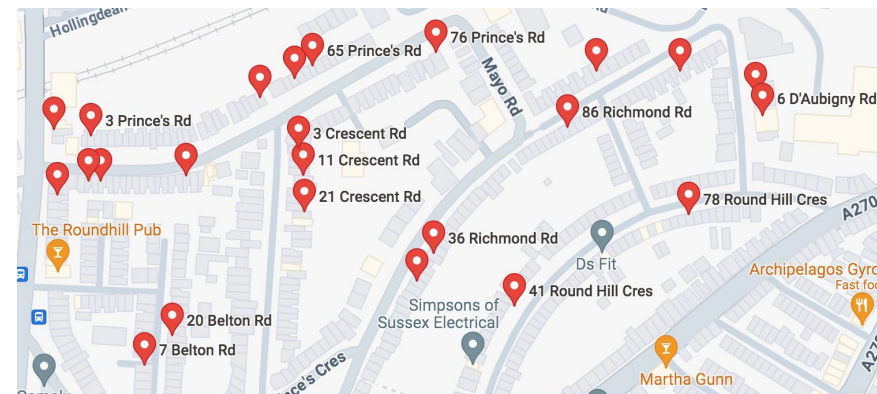
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ADVENT WINDOWS



Round Hill residents have been busy putting up their Advent windows. This event brings Christmas cheer to Round Hill and is such a lovely sight to see! See the map with participating house numbers below or at this web address: <https://bit.ly/adventwindows2023>

The best window will be awarded a prize!



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Round Hill Society
by



TOAD PATROL



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Every year the Round Hillers identify fluctuations and trends in the amphibians' behaviours and populations. For example, last year frog numbers leapt up but toad numbers went down. We do not yet know the reason for this but will keep monitoring to see if the trend continues.

In addition to recording amphibian numbers, we report on the significance of ambient and environmental changes, such as rainfall and temperature. We send all the information we gather to national databases.

Would you like to learn more about amphibian behaviour? Or just join a local community-run project? Join the Cat's Creep 'toad patrol' with your neighbours! It involves no more than 20 minutes of patrolling on any night(s) you're available across February and March.

If you'd like to join us, simply email Paolo Oprandi to register your interest and find out more.

Paolo Oprandi
paolo.oprandi@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING



Continued from page 1

If you hear us singing, please do come out to give us a wave and put some money in the buckets - we're hoping to have a card reader with us if you have no cash!



Singers should wear warm clothes and feel free to bring torches, lanterns, fairy lights... and lots of festive spirit! Carol books will be provided. If the weather looks iffy, check the Round Hill Community Noticeboard group on Facebook for updates.

Steve Bustin
steve@stevebustin.com

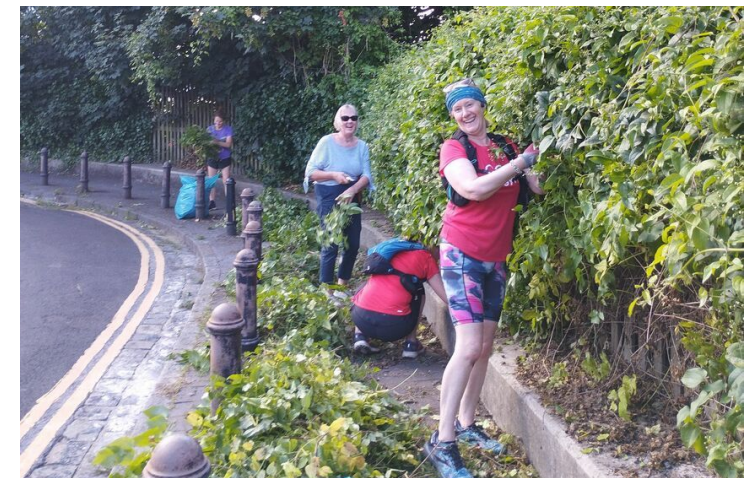
GOODGYM CLEANS UP



As avid *Reporter* readers will know, the GoodGym is a charity that helps people get fit by combining exercise with helping communities. Recently, GoodGymers supported community volunteers across Brighton in the Big Clean Up.

In Round Hill, we cleared overgrown bushes, tackled graffiti tagging, removed carpets of ivy from Mayo Road, and revamped electrical boxes to their original colours. It was great to have Councillor Pete West join us, who did a great job with the hedge trimmer we borrowed from the Library of Things.

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GOODGYM CLEANS UP



Continued from page 2

When will Round Hill residents next see GoodGym Brighton running around the area? Well, we have already been invited to help the Round Hill Green Spaces Project once the work gets started. We'll also likely run (pun intended) another clean up in the Round Hill area in spring, once the clocks go back and we have more light in the evenings again.

If you'd like to join the GoodGym, visit our website to sign up: www.goodgym.org/

Stefania Rosso
stefania.rosso@gmail.com



NEW BLUE PLAQUE



A new plaque has been unveiled on Ravilious House, the new student housing block on the corner of Caledonian and Lewes roads. It commemorates those killed by enemy bombs on 20th September, 1940, during World War II.



Five people died in the bombing of the Lewes Road Inn, including the pub's landlord and his wife, Ernest and Rosina Sully, Sgt James Frew (who was due to rejoin the Sussex Regiment the following day), John Watson who was cleaning the windows, and Violet Pullen.

A further 13 people died in Caledonian Road. The pub site remained derelict until the current one opened in September 1957.

During the war, 476 bombs fell on Brighton & Hove in 83 separate air raids, killing 227 people and seriously injuring a further 410. Bombs destroyed 280 properties and seriously damaged 1028.

Rob Stephenson
rob.stephenson51@googlemail.com

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kay.yoga@btinternet.com / 07791 570919

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LOCAL CRIME UPDATE



According to local residents, there was a spate of plant thefts from outside people's houses across the last few months. There were also car break-ins for theft only, where perpetrators bypassed the electronic locking systems. Several residents reported witnessing drug use and dealing in a few hotspots, such as the Esso garage, the Cat's Creep and Mayo Road.

Our local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), Benjamin Drewswood, has said the police were unaware of many of these crimes, as they had not been widely reported until more recently. He encourages local residents to keep reporting all incidents they witness to the police, as then they can send officers to patrol certain areas more regularly, including plain clothes police officers to prevent drug use in public and drug dealing.

At the Round Hill Society Annual Community Meeting, PCSO Drewswood was otherwise pleased to confirm that the Round Hill area is one of the safest areas of Brighton & Hove, with little crime.

Christopher Paul
christopherpaul@hotmail.co.uk

PERFECT PUMPKINS



Well done and thank you to all the Round Hill residents who took part in decorating the area for Hallowe'en. And, of course, thanks to all those who kindly gave out lots of sweets! We saw some fantastic carvings and magnificent pumpkins decorating the doorways. Thanks to Eva Wendler for her top pumpkin pics below!



MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS



You may have heard about the recent CityClean controversy. We encourage Round Hill residents to read the Aileen McColgan KC report on CityClean, which you can find in the news section of the City Council website. Pending sensitive investigations, we will soon hear recommendations on solutions. We offer our support to those bravely speaking out about their experiences.

Cllr Pete West and I, along with other Green councillors, have called for this issue to be openly discussed by all councillors on December 14th. We must make sure the completely unacceptable behaviour that is demonstrated in the report stops now. Resolving this will be vital to the wellbeing of those working in this service and to the efficacy of CityClean services. We encourage the council to provide ongoing support to anyone affected by the issues raised.

Councillor Raphael Hill
raphael.hill@brighton-hove.gov.uk



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ROUND HILL HISTORY



As a Round Hill resident, you are lucky to live in a vibrant social, historical and architectural area of Brighton; a wonderful community built on strong local working-class roots.

Initially, Round Hill was planned to appeal to monied visitors to Brighton and was designed to be viewed from Race Course Hill. However, many of the people living in Round Hill provided food, washing and other vital services to Brighton. Every street has its own special story to tell, whether it be its architecture, interesting people who lived there or the work that employed local residents.

Round Hill was designated a Conservation Area in 1977. A 'Character Statement', created by the Council, supports our Conservation Status and is used to inform new plans for our area. Best practice is to update Character Statements every five years but major cuts to local authorities mean this has not been done since 2005. So to protect our lovely community from inappropriate future developments, a group of local residents are writing our own updated 'Statement' to submit to the Council for adoption.

Ideally, every street in Round Hill would have its own history written up and informed by those who live there, including everything they can find out from local archeology, architecture or social history. From these 'street gazetteers', an overarching 'Round Hill Conservation Statement' will be written. When adopted by the Council, this will inform all future planning applications in Round Hill. And everyone in Round Hill can be part of finding out about their local history!

Interested in participating? We can provide you with a draft history of your street for you to add to. Email Annie at amccabebrighton@gmail.com with your name and address and any suggestions by the end of January 2024.

Test your local knowledge in this Round Hill quiz!
Answers on back page.

1. What was on the site of Richmond House until the 1950s?
2. Why is there a horizontal metal bar close to the top of some of the cast iron lamp posts in Round Hill?
3. What is the history of the clock on the front of the Lewes Road Sainsbury's?

Advertisement



FIVEWAYS FITNESS CLASSES

I'm Matthew Black, your neighbour and the owner of a fitness club. I offer accessible fitness classes at Stanford Avenue Methodist Church, designed to be safe and fun.

Having taught fitness all over Brighton & Hove for more than a decade, the sense of community in Fiveways and Round Hill stood out to me.

My business doesn't look like a typical gym. No mirrors, so you can move freely, and the church hall's theatrical lighting creates a touch of magic.

One of the foundations of fitness theory is that the body needs to be challenged by change. You need new stimuli both physically and mentally to develop and grow. By offering a variety of classes, can choose one fitting your energy and interests.

CLASSES TAILORED FOR YOU

- **Circuits:** 45-minutes of cardiovascular and strength-building exercises. Improve your body composition, metabolic function and sleep!
- **Dance Fitness:** Dance yourself happy to a mix of your favourite beats, and improve cardiovascular fitness. Your body will produce mood-changing hormones to make you smile.
- **Pilates:** Move your body freely through a transformative approach to mat-based pilates. Extend your range of motion and strengthen your body while relieving physical tension and mental stress.
- **Yoga:** Connect with your body through slow-flowing movement, promoting both physical and mental well-being.

GET STARTED TODAY!

Being healthy doesn't mean the same thing as it used to. We all understand that jumping around in a gym isn't the only way of 'keeping fit'.

It has always been important to me that my classes are based in the community, as feeling strong connections and building social bonds is fundamental to living a happy and healthy life.

Ready to try a class? Check out my timetable and join my newsletter at www.matthewblack.fitness to get a free trial class at Stanford Avenue Methodist Church.

CONNECT, MOVE, THRIVE!

Matthew Black
matt@matthewblack.fitness

MATTHEW BLACK

FITNESS

ROUND HILL CHRISTMAS CARDS



Want to send that perfect Christmas card this year? Look no further... We have beautiful local Christmas cards for sale, featuring Round Hill Crescent and seagulls in the snow!

Buy a beautiful card for just £1 and support the Round Hill Society. Your money funds activities for kids, murals, street parties and more.

Limited stock available so get your order in today! Email roundhillsociety@gmail.com today to order - remember to include your name, contact details, quantity of cards you'd like to order.



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EVENTS



Street Plays are where we close off the road to make it safe for kids to play in the street and for adults to mingle. This year we moved Street Plays to Richmond Road from Mayo Road, as it is easier to close off and safer. The three events we held were a great success, so we aim to run another three next year. We'll do this in conjunction with the annual plant sale and our first ever Round Hill maker's market.

Our biggest challenge when it comes to running street events is finding marshalls. It just involves standing for half an hour in a high vis jacket at one end of the road to turn away any cars that might come along.

Please contact Laura-Kate if you'd like to volunteer your time to be a street marshall. Dates for the next Street Plays will be announced in the spring Round Hill Reporter, the RH Facebook group, and the community notice boards on Princes Road and Ashdown Road.

Laura-Kate Roe
lk.roe@icloud.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

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!

Stay up-to-date with Round Hill Society
online: www.roundhill.org.uk

Request to **join the Friends of RHS mailing list** or write for/advertise in *The Reporter*:
roundhillsociety@gmail.com

Annual Community Meeting



In November we enjoyed getting together with our local neighbours, councillors and police officers to discuss what's going on in the Round Hill Conservation Area.

Highlights: we can be proud that our area is safe but please keep reporting crime when you see it. We will soon get a new pocket park but we need more funding and volunteers to maintain it (email dominicfurlong@gmail.com if interested). We need stories to build a history on each road in the area for our Character Statement (see page 5).

Review the minutes from the meeting on the Round Hill website (www.roundhill.org.uk).

How well do you know Round Hill's history? Here are the answers to the quiz on page 5.

1. Lewes Rd Railway station was originally on the site of Richmond House, until it was demolished in 1950s.
2. All the cast iron lampposts in Round Hill were originally gas lights and the bar was for the gas lighter to rest his ladder when he climbed up each evening to light it.
3. The clock on the front of Sainsbury's was rescued from the facade of Cox's Pill Factory when it was demolished in 1980s for Sainsbury's and the Vogue Gyratory to be built.

ROUND HILL QUIZ ANSWERS

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Want to get involved? Join the next RHS Committee meeting on 9th January. Email roundhillsociety@gmail.com to find out more.