



THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

RHS Newsletter Editor
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The Round Hill Society was formed at a public meeting on 15 November 1999. It came from recognition that although this is a Conservation Area, there was no Civic Society or similar organisation to represent the views of the residents of the area. The Council is keen to have this kind of representation in all Conservation Areas. It was also felt that such a society could help to engender a better sense of community and help local residents to feel proud of the place in which they live and organise events to celebrate life in the Round Hill area.

Since inauguration, the Society has produced the newsletter, secured various grants for start-up costs, office equipment, planters and street parties in 2000 and 2002. We have negotiated with the Council for a solution to the perceived rat-running problem. The very active and popular History Group has been formed, a members' garden party was held last year and is planned for 2002, as well as the street parties and an annual Carols & Candles procession at winter solstice.

The Society is affiliated to various other Brighton and Hove groups and has representatives on the Neighbourhood Network and the Conservation Area Advisory Group (CAAG).

An AGM is held in November of each year and is open to ALL residents of the Round Hill area, whether or not they are members.

Residents are welcome to contact any member of the committee about local issues. To join the Society, please contact Vivien Powell.



ROUND HILL REPORTER

Issue 9
August 2002

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

Chair	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road	673511
Treasurer	Marian Gerrett	77 Princes Crescent	688009
Secretary	Vivien Powell	66 Richmond Road	276386
Vice chair	Suzie Sharp	67 Princes Road	882240
Membership Secretary	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	601320
Minutes Secretary	Colette Blackett	8 Round Hill Crescent	694811
Member without Portfolio	Amanda Evans	8 Belton Road	278646
Member without Portfolio	Denise Elliott	60 Richmond Road	888216
Member without Portfolio	Pam Blackman	75 Princes Road	685478
Member without Portfolio	Post vacant		

The Reporter is published by the Round Hill Society to keep residents in the area in touch with local news, events and each other. Every effort is made to present a fair and balanced view, while aiming to accept any material from Round Hill residents. The opinions expressed in The Reporter are not necessarily those of the Round Hill Society.

NEW FORMAT REPORTER

Welcome to the new issue of the Round Hill Reporter!

We have changed the format so that we can fit more articles in so let's have them for the next issue.

This issue features a write-up of the street party, an interesting article on the history of the area and various other updates on what is going on in the

Round Hill area.

If you are keen to get actively involved you can join the newsletter group and help with the design and production of the next issue.

We need help on:

- Writing interesting articles
- Interviews and local interest stories

- Kids section
- Creative content such as short stories, poems, cartoons, etc.

- Graphic design

• Advertising sales
Please contact the editor if you can help on any aspects of the newsletter. (see back page).

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YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS

Your contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. We will print your news, interesting stories, poems and articles on local history. Please write to the Editor (see address above).

Ideas for topics:

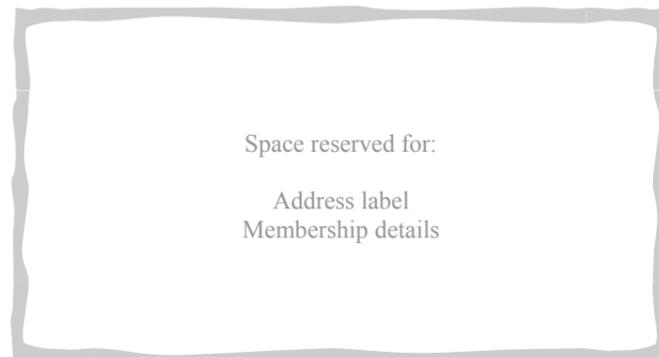
- First impressions of the area
- A local event you attended or are planning
- Wildlife report
- Problems with local red tape
- Environmental concerns
- Topical cartoons
- New arrivals
- Seen and heard
- Local ghost sightings!
- Your letters
- Etc.

HOTLINE



- Too much litter?
- Rubbish not collected?
- Abandoned vehicles?

Call the Council Hotline on 292300



RESEARCH FOR THE SOCIETY'S BOOK ABOUT THE HISTORY OF ROUND HILL CONTINUES - by Andrew Partington

Those who came to the street party may have seen the history group's stand (conveniently sited right outside the New Vic) with a range of old photographs.

As a result the group will be making contact with several of you who came forward with memories and the offer of lending pictures for possible use in the book.

The group's thanks go to those who looked after the stand during the afternoon, and especially to Rosemary Fittock who researched and led the guided history walk which was one of the attractions of the day.

As our research goes on we are getting fascinating glimpses of life in Round

Hill. We have heard about the bakery with ovens under the Lewes Road: when it rained the hot pavements steamed ...

When the tramrails were laid the old wooden tar-covered road blocks were used as firewood; the fire brigade were kept busy putting out the resulting chimney fires ...

When the branch line to Kemp Town was closed the old Lewes Road railway station became a pickle factory ...

And we have more information gleaned from the old documents and deeds in the society's possession.

For example, several people

have told us about the old orchard that lay between the Cat's Creep and Upper Lewes Road.

We now know that this orchard was a single, right-angled, piece of land that was used as a market garden and nursery in Victorian times. We have a plan of the land sold at auction in 1901. The auction leaflet refers to various glass frames, greenhouses and a chicken house included in the sale.

We think that the Upper Lewes Rd end of this land became the Verbana Nursery - but as yet we do not have proof of the link.

See a plan of the orchard in the Picture Gallery.

Help needed with:

- Writing interesting articles
- Interviews and local interest stories
- Creative content such as short stories, poems, cartoons, etc.
- Kids section
- Graphic design
- Advertising sales



STREET PARTY A SUCCESS - by Rob Stephenson

After months of planning, the day dawned fine as a team of 6 struggled to erect the musicians' gazebo whilst others tied down bouncy castles, carried and set up barbeque kit, tables for face painting, raffle, candyfloss, lucky dip and more.

This year the Harveys in the Vic lasted all day which was a big plus, as was the sale of all the cakes baked by local residents, and the continuous stream of customers for candyfloss. In fact there was no need to buy it, just standing downwind of the machine ensured a thick coating of sugary strands. After coating the musicians, their microphones and instruments we moved the machine across the road to give the drinkers outside the pub their share.

The Fire Brigade also arrived, to allow children (and a few adults) to explore their fire engine. Sadly they had to leave to attend an emergency before everyone had exhausted the novelty of the experience.

Meanwhile, at the other end of Mayo Road our juggler and unicyclist entertained a steady flow of younger people, and offered them a chance to try juggling and unicycling (separately, not together) for themselves.

The local history walk folk led away, like the Pied Piper, most of our relief helpers for 100 minutes, placing our carefully crafted staffing rotas into the category of fiction.

Back at the pub-end of the road Bodger and Badger kept the audience hugely entertained, flung about huge

quantities of partially reconstituted dried potato, and even managed to control the continuously forward-creeping masses of small children. Bodger (Andy in everyday life) said he'd have to leave after his offering, but it was noticed that he stayed to listen to music, drink beer and, later, cheer and applaud our magician - The Great Velcro (and his gripping magic - geddit eh?).

The combination of harsh sunshine, glowing charcoal and short cooking implements made working the BarBQ challenging, if not downright unpleasant, but it was popular, taking over £200. Particular thanks are due to Barry for service beyond the call of duty at the firey hearth.

The raffle (drawn by Bodger and Badger) went on, and on, thanks to a

large number of prizes, between an acapella band and the big musical finish, with the audience just getting relaxed enough to dance when it came to an end. When we do it again we must keep some of the music for after all the work is done.

The last act was 'Velcro' (someone said, "all ages were mesmerised by the magician", and it was true - magical prestidigitation, language lessons, audience participation and some classic heckler control).

Like last time, one of the most pleasing things was to see the way local children made use of the car-free street after all the kit was cleared away but before we removed the 'street closed' signs. Football, skateboards and scooters had more safe playspace than Mayo Road offers at any other time.



Photo: Peter Powell

Audience participation with The Great Velcro

OFF TO UNIVERSITY AND OUR NEW GRADUATES!

If you are a student or parent, by the time the newsletter reaches you the A-level results will have been out and you will hopefully be busy making plans for the future and looking forward to an exciting new phase in your life.

Let us have your good news for

inclusion in the next issue.

We would also like to hear from graduates who have successfully completed their courses and are now looking for jobs.

Why not put a notice in the newsletter of your skills and experience. You may find a job this way!



September 2002

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
					Garden Party	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

November 2002

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			AGM provisional			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

NOTICEBOARD

WANTED

Contact the editor for an entry in the next issue.

FOR SALE

Contact the editor for an entry in the next issue.

SERVICES

- **EXPERIENCED BABYSITTER** 17, basic First Aid trained, experienced with babies, phone: 688009 - Vanessa.

Contact the editor for an entry in the next issue.



Advertising rates:

Quarter page..... £10
3 inch single column box..... £5

Members only:

Noticeboard (up to 30 words)... £1

Schedule of Events

- **Sept 7** - Members' Garden Party at 58 Richmond Rd
- **Nov 7** - Provisional date for the AGM
- **Dec 19** - Carols & candles event

ADVERTISE HERE FOR £5!

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- THERE ARE OVER 900 HOMES IN THE ROUND HILL AREA.
- THERE ARE AROUND 150 MEMBERS OF THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY.
- WITH AN ISSUE OUT EVERY QUARTER YOUR ADVERT IS SEEN FOR OVER THREE MONTHS.

LOST AND FOUND (free)

Contact the editor for a free entry in the next issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (free)

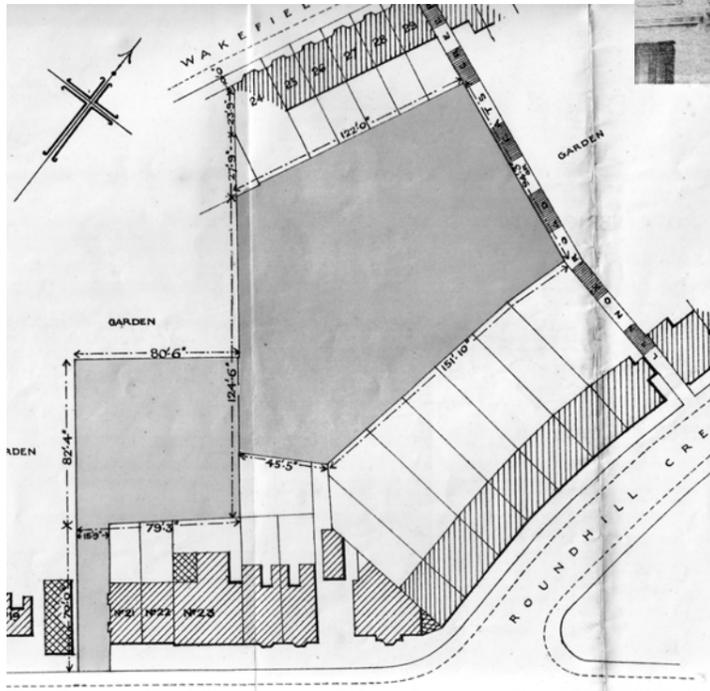
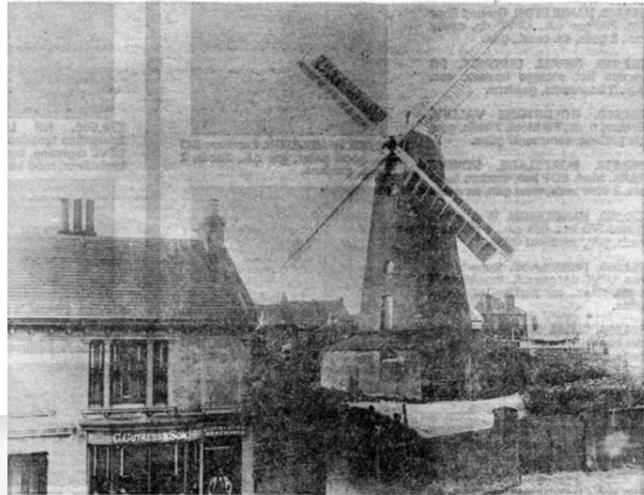
- **Congratulations** to all students on their exam results!

Contact the editor for a free entry in the next issue.



PICTURE GALLERY

This picture of the Belton Rd Windmill is from a newspaper cutting sent to us by Mr H Ansell of Ditchling Road. It shows the mill in 1888.



Here's the orchard that lay between the Cat's Creep and Upper Lewes Road.

In 1901, when the land was auctioned, this whole area was let to a Mr David Booker. The orchard was bought by John George Blaker, of Stamford Avenue.

The road at the bottom of the plan is Upper Lewes Rd. Wakefield Rd runs across the top and the Cat's Creep (or Lennox Road as it used to be called) links Wakefield Road with Round Hill Crescent.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



The membership details are now on an 'Access' database, and while Jan's learning how to use it, Vivien will continue to handle membership, so if you'd like to join, please contact her (see back page). It's great value at £5 per household (up to two people at the same address).

You're welcome to put a cheque or a fiver, together with your name, address, phone number, e-mail address etc. through the letterbox at 66 Richmond Road.

It's also helpful to know of any skills you have to offer the Society, or if you're prepared to help in any way and any topics you would like to see discussed or implemented in the area.

You'll also be able to come to the Members' Garden Party on 7 September (see page 5).



PLANNING DECISIONS AND FRONT ROOFLIGHTS/ REAR DORMERS – TWO CONTRASTING CASES - by Rob Stephenson

In the planning committee papers of 24th July there were two apparently similar proposals, for rear dormer and front rooflight, in Princes Road. The one at number 9 was given permission, and the one opposite, at 18 was refused. I went to Hove Town Hall to see the paperwork, and this is what I found:

Rear dormers.

Number 18 was for a large dormer, replacing most of the roof (just like the one on my house – but I'm not in the Conservation Area), whereas the one at number 9 was narrow, taking up about a quarter of the width of the roof, with sides and top in lead, and (most interestingly) set back into the roof so that the pair of French doors-style windows could open out onto a tiny balcony. The smaller dormer had an impact on the layout of stairs to the room in the roof, in that the stairs had to end near the ridgeline of the roof, and so took the form of two short flights with winding steps linking them.

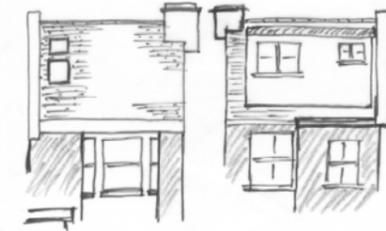
Summing up – the rejected style was large and ugly (as is mine) whereas the other was compact and well thought out. It was interesting to see that the accepted design was not the original submission, but a later alteration; it would be good to hear that this change was negotiated with Council Officers.

Front rooflights.

At number 18 the rejected rooflights – one above the other, both in the roof above the front door – were described as 'rooflights', not 'conservation style rooflights', and no mention was made to them being in the plane of the roof, or projecting above it, or anything else. The planning papers stated that they were not related to the windows on the front facade of the house.

Meanwhile, at number 9, the acceptable rooflight was specifically described as 'conservation style' and to be installed 'in the plane of the roof'. In addition the rooflight was to be set in line with the centre line of the bay window below, all of this being 'in the interest of visual amenity'. I cannot tell if both applicants were given advice as to what would be acceptable, it would be interesting to know. Number 9 had an additional advantage. There was an existing

front rooflight (Velux, projecting above roof slope) which the planners did not like, so they may have been more inclined to approve the change, though this does not form part of the reasons given for approval, so it should not stop others seeking front rooflights on the same terms as 9 Princes Road.



Number 18: complete with big tiled hung dormer and two rooflights unrelated to existing fenestration



Number 9: a small leaded rear dormer with its french windows opening onto small hidden balcony space; and front conservation style rooflight on same centreline as bay below.

ROUND HILL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES TO DATE

Since inauguration, the Society:

- Produced the newsletter.
- Formed a History Group which is currently working on a book about the area.
- Secured a grant of £1,700 from Millennium "Awards for All" for start-up costs and office equipment.
- Organised two street parties one in 2000 and one in July this year.
- Have an annual winter solstice Carols & Candles procession.

- Secured a grant from B & H Council "Small grants" for the Street Party this year and in 2000
- Secured a grant from "The Place to Be" for the 2000 Street Party.
- Negotiated a grant from Shell "Better Britain" to make planters for street enhancement.
- Ongoing correspondence with the Council concerning traffic issues.
- Held a members' garden party in 2001 with another planned for 2002.

- Held a Local Wildlife activity day in 2001.

Affiliated to other Brighton and Hove groups:

- Community and Voluntary Sector Forum.
- Environment Forum.
- South Downs National Park Campaign.

Representatives on:

- Neighbourhood Network.
- Conservation Area Advisory group (CAAG).



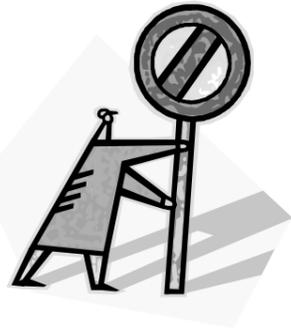
ROAD CLOSURE - THE WAIT GOES ON!

by Vivien Powell

After numerous delays, changes of personnel in the Council's traffic department and several e-mails from me, the day we'd been waiting for finally arrived – a big envelope from the Council dropped through my door, containing the draft plans for the proposed experimental road closure. My heart immediately dropped on opening the envelope and viewing the drawing. The design was so big that that we would have lost several parking places, and we all know what a hot potato the parking issue is. I've now received a revised plan, which is much smaller and retains the amount of parking space currently available. Part of the installation will be temporary, until the scheme is approved, when it will become permanent, or not approved, when the whole thing will be removed. There will be a planter on the side

opposite the pub, bollards in the middle which will be removable to allow access to emergency vehicles and plenty of space for cyclists and pedestrians.

Apparently, once the design has been approved, it then has to go to yet



A new no entry sign on the way?

another committee in September for final approval, so I can't say when the work will go ahead, but I'm staying on the case.

To those of you who are opposed to the scheme, please rest assured that it is an experimental closure and you will have six months after installation in which to put your objections to the Council. If there are still objections outstanding at the end of the 18 month experimental period, the scheme will have to go to another committee for consideration. Please do not address your objections to members of the Round Hill Society.

Parking seems to be the next problem we need to tackle. Ideas, anyone?

ROUND HILL STREET HEALTH CENTRE

As you are probably aware, a natural health centre has opened in Round Hill Street, above the carpentry and car mechanic's workshops. Whilst the practitioners there are keen to attract new business, they are nevertheless aware of the extra burden put upon the local area by visitors in their cars. People are usually at the centre for no

more than 2 hours, and it is probably the evening appointments that cause the most problems – we all know how difficult it is to find a parking space after 7pm! The practitioners and

teachers at the centre are aware that the centre is in a residential area and are keen to keep disturbance to a minimum.

"If you are affected please contact Vivien Powell on 01273 276386 and your comments will be passed on"

All users of the centre, whether patients or practitioners, are encouraged to use public transport or to find somewhere to park away from the immediate area of Round Hill Street, but if anyone is experiencing problems as a direct result of the users of this centre, please contact **Vivien Powell** on **276386** and your comments will be passed on.

BELTON ROAD PLANNING APPLICATION

The planning application for housing units on the land to the rear of Belton Road, Prince's Crescent and Round Hill Road was revised down to 6 units comprising :

2 x one-bedroom flats and
4 x two-bedroom houses,
with a total of 5 parking spaces.

In spite of the fact that the Council received 60 letters of objection and a petition with 136 signatures, the

application has been approved by 10 votes to 1. The Round Hill Society objected, as it was felt to be an unsuitable development for this small space in a conservation area, especially in light of the potential problems relating to parking and traffic turning into and out of the narrow entrance drive from Belton Road.

The residents whose houses back onto the site did a tremendous job in organising the petition and attending

the planning meeting and must be extremely disappointed at the outcome.



MEMBERS' GARDEN PARTY ON 7 SEPTEMBER

If you came to our members' garden party last year, you'll remember what a gorgeous garden Jan and Rusty have at the back of their house (see 'Wild About the Place' below) and what a good time was had by all one sunny summer's day last June, with bubbly and strawberries and Rusty serenading us on the accordion.

It was a good opportunity to meet and get to know other Round Hill residents, and we've decided to repeat the occasion this year, on 7 September.



Rusty and his accordion

There won't be strawberries at that time of year, so we're organising a barbeque with wine and beer to wash it down. So make a note in your diary to come to 58 Richmond Road at about 3 o'clock.

If anyone would like to help on the day, please contact Jan (see back page). If you're not a member yet, you've still got time to join before 7 September. Contact Vivien to do so. Look forward to seeing you there.

WILD ABOUT THE PLACE - by Jan Curry (Richmond Road)

We have been gardening part of a strip of land running behind Richmond Road and Round Hill Crescent for nearly twenty years. It was just a patch of bare earth to begin with, but slowly we created a garden. The first thing we grew was a lawn surrounded by rather sad, scrawny roses and some even sadder bedding plants - they never really looked right, somehow.

Then one weekend, we dug a series of ponds, and just three days later, we saw a dragon fly and a couple of frogs. We were hooked, out went the poisons and pesticides and in came the books on wildlife gardening.

It sounds quite simple and I have lost count of the number of times people have said to me, "Well that must be easy, you just let the weeds grow, don't you?" I admit I do grow some weeds such as nettles (for butterflies) and valerian (for bees) but I wanted the garden to be attractive to humans too, so many of the plants are native nectar flowers such as honeysuckles and foxgloves, evening primroses (for moths) and meadow cranesbill. A wide

variety of shrubs provide nesting and hiding places for the birds and trees carry fruit or winter berries, for food. Dry stone walls are home to lizards, slow worms and a huge variety of in-

sects, countless frogs and toads. It is a fine line between jungle and wild life gardening, the challenge is achieving the fine line. Fascinating yes, simple no!

I have always enjoyed gardening, but nowadays bird and creature watching brings me much pleasure. I still find it hard to believe that so much wildlife abounds in an urban city garden but I'm glad it does.

Thank you to all my neighbours, who also feed the birds and who do not chuck pesticides around. I am thrilled to represent Sussex in the National Wildlife Garden of the Year competition (results in October) but know my success is due to all of us who one way or another are making this into an even "greener" area.

Dragonflies, lizards, slowworms, frogs, toads, butterflies, a huge variety of insects and many different birds are to be found in Jan and Rusty's garden.

POST BOX

There will be space for your letters in the next newsletter so if you want to share your thoughts and concerns please drop us a line.

We may have to edit letters to fit the available space.

The editor will have the last word on the inclusion of any letter where the content is deemed unsuitable for the broad spectrum of our readership.

Please address your letters to:

RHS Newsletter Editor
66 Richmond Road
Brighton
BN2 3RN

Email: news@roundhill.org.uk

