



CLOSURE OF RICHMOND ROAD - WILL IT WORK?

By the time you read this, the work to close Richmond Road to through traffic will have taken place, together with erection of the appropriate signs. This closure is the result of a long and protracted effort to do something about the amount of traffic using the Round Hill area as a short cut and to make our streets safer and hopefully more peaceful for all of us.

This road closure is experimental for 6 months. It will take a bit of getting used to for everyone, but hopefully will have the desired effect. Please remember not to park your car in the middle of the road block, as access may be required for emergency vehicles.

Please let the council know your views - whether you like it or loathe it. The closure will go or stay depending on the community's opinions.

The address to write to is:

**Team Leader
Traffic Management
Environment Dept
Brighton & Hove Council
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove
BN3 3BQ**

ROUND HILL CONSERVATION AREA PLANNING RESTRICTIONS

There have recently been problems experienced by local residents who have changed their windows being told that they are in breach of planning rules. Since May 2001, the Round Hill Area has been subject to an article 4(2) direction in an attempt to maintain the character of properties in the area. This has meant tighter controls on changes we make to our homes, particularly to the front façade.

The following was sent to us by Roger Dowty of the Council's conservation dept. We reproduce it here so that people in the area know what they are/are not permitted to do to their homes:

Residents in conservation areas generally anticipate that there will be additional planning controls over and above those that may apply outside conservation areas. These additional national controls have increased over the years. Now in any conservation area, an owner has not only to obtain the council's consent before pruning or felling a tree, or carrying out demolition works, but also requires planning permission before building roof extensions or roof dormers, or applying stone, timber or tile cladding to any façade. Planning permission is also required to erect a satellite dish on a chimney or on the front façade or roof slope. Greater restrictions also apply to the size of rear extensions that a house owner may build without planning permission.

Until now however, windows, doors and roofs, which are the key architectural elements of any house, could be changed without the need for planning permission and the appearance of the conservation area has suffered as a consequence. Moreover the stricter planning controls that applied to flats and commercial premises meant that in some instances neighbouring properties could not be treated evenly or fairly.

So what has changed?

The council now directs that house frontages that face a highway or public open space (but not rear façade) within the Round Hill Conservation Area should be subject to the same restrictions that apply to commercial premises or residential flats. This means that owners can no longer alter windows and doors, roof coverings or chimney stacks or add roof lights without first obtaining planning permission.

So what does not require planning permission?

Planning permission is not required to carry out repairs to a property (unless a listed building) or to replace features 'like for like' e.g. recovering a concrete tiled roof with concrete tiles or replacing timber sliding sash windows with matching sliding sash windows. There remain no restrictions over the painting of properties or choice of colour (unless it is a listed building).

In the case of single dwelling houses, roof lights that do not alter the shape of the roof can be fitted within rear roof slopes without the need for planning permission. Windows and doors to the rear can also still be changed without the need for planning permission, and a satellite dish up to 70cm in diameter can be fixed to the rear façade. Gardens can be paved over

and sheds within specified size limits can be erected in rear gardens.

The above details provide a summary only. For further clarification you are advised to contact the council's planning team for your area on 292509 or 292510. For conservation advice contact the council's conservation and design team on 292271.

This article 4(2) direction was confirmed on 29 May 2001 and applies to all single dwelling houses within the Round Hill Conservation Area. *In the next issue, we'll be looking at the history of conservation in the Round Hill area.*

Things you DO require planning permission for:

- Pruning or felling trees.
- Demolition works
- Roof extensions.
- Roof dormers.
- Application of stone, timber or tile cladding.
- Satellite dish on front façade, roof slope or chimney.
- Alterations to front windows and/or doors.
- Alterations to roof coverings/ chimneys.
- Addition of roof lights on front façade.



PLANNING A CAR PARK BETWEEN ROUND HILL CRESCENT AND UPPER LEWES ROAD

A resident in Round Hill Crescent drew my attention to a planning application to demolish a large garage structure behind 54 Round Hill Crescent, and convert a fairly large but hidden piece of land (stretching behind Round Hill Crescent from number 38 to 62, and behind numbers 44 to 53 Upper Lewes Road) into car parking for 10 vehicles.

The planning application number is BH2003/00267/FP. It is an interesting issue - such a change of use will create desirable off-street car parking which may become available for rent to local residents, at the same time it raises issues of noise, air pollution, loss of green space and poorer security for immediate neighbours.

Rob Stephenson

FESTIVAL 'OPEN HOUSES' IN ROUND HILL

As usual, the many and varied artistic talents of people in Brighton and particularly in Round Hill, will be on display in various houses in the area. It's a

great afternoon out, with some houses offering refreshments. The Beyond the Level Group has six houses showing a variety of work in the Round Hill area. These are:

- 51 Upper Lewes Road
- 67 Upper Lewes Road
- 65 Round Hill Crescent
- 57 Richmond Road
- 70 Richmond Road
- 22 Belton Road

So if you just want to look at some good work or are after some art work to grace your home, cut out the middle man and visit an open house. They're open from 12 till 6 on Saturdays and Sundays during the Festival in May.

DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE

Your editors are getting married in June, so we want to get the summer issue out early for a change! Please send your articles, pictures, stories, children's pictures, events, announcements etc to the address on the back page by **SATURDAY 31 MAY 2003**. Thank you.

Vivien Powell MTI, ITEC, MIGHT (AAP)
Advanced Aromatherapy and Holistic Massage



The Albion Clinic
1 Albion Street, Brighton
Tel: 01273 628221
And
Unit 4 Natural Health Centre
20-26 Round Hill St, Brighton

Tel: 07801 784240
E-mail: vivien@vivienpowell.com

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YOUR NEW NATIONAL LOTTERY



AGENT



POST BOX

Dear Editor

On Thursday 9 January, we were the unfortunate victims of burglars in the night. Luckily, not much was taken, but the shock of having someone uninvited in your house (whilst you are asleep) has affected the whole family. We have lived here for three years, and though we haven't managed to be a part of the Round Hill Society as yet (due to work and family overload), have made many friends and felt this to be a lovely community street to live in.

Our opinions have not changed on this, and so I would not like anyone else to experience the shock we have felt over the last few days. Could you include in the next Round Hill newsletter some sort of warning to others, maybe even include some precautions to take.

We feel very sad that we did not provide adequate security for ourselves and would like all our neighbours to ensure they are safe from this.

Val Gates
Address supplied

Editor's note: See articles on safer homes and community policing on pages 4 and 5

Dear Editor

I was interested in the article in the last issue of the Round Hill Reporter on graffiti in the local area, and was delighted that the services of The Youth Offending Team's work with local young people had been recognised. The area that we have concentrated on is the top section of Lennox Road (The Cat Creep). The article highlights the problem of graffiti on lamp posts and other street furniture. We have been working with the council and have been trained in the Health and Safety of removing graffiti from metal surfaces using chemicals provided by the council. If members of the Round Hill Society have an area of graffiti they would like to see removed by young people doing community reparation, they can e-mail or write to me at the address below and we will add it to our list.

Yours sincerely,

Angela Owen
Restorative Justice Coordinator
Brighton & Hove Youth Offending Team
22 Ship Street
Brighton
East Sussex BN1 1AD

e-mail:
Angela.owen@brighton-hove.gov.uk

See Pam Blackman's article on the Cat Creep on page 3 of this issue.

Dear Round Hill Society

Thank you for your kind donation of £50 in favour of the St Patrick's Trust in respect of your Carols and Candles event.

Your support is vital in enabling the Trust to continue supporting the most vulnerable people in the community; it is through donations such as yours that we are able to continue to fund our skills centre, night shelter and hostel with the necessary resources to provide activities such as cooking, budgeting, music and other confidence building skills.

If you would like any further information about the work of the Trust or if you would like to visit the St Patrick's project, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are also available to talk to any groups or organisations.

Again thank you for your support that has in part enabled us to achieve so much.

Yours sincerely

Brenda Barber
St Patrick's Trust
3 Cambridge Road
Hove
BN3 1DE



NEW READING GROUP FOR ROUND HILL

The Round Hill Reading Group is now up and running. So far, the group comprises all women and nearly all Round Hill residents. There are currently seven of us which is probably enough as we will be meeting in our own homes. However, nothing is cast in stone, except our first two book choices.

Our first book was *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier which we are scheduled to discuss on Feb 13th. Our second book is *Atonement* by Ian McEwan and this will have been discussed on March 10th. If anyone is keen to join us, please contact Pam Blackman for more details.
Phone: 685478
Email: pab10@bton.ac.uk



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THE ROUND HILL CAT CREEP

Many residents may not be aware that Round Hill has one of the most impressive Cat Creeps in a town which numbers several. At this year's Winter Solstice carol singing event we all met at the bottom of this Cat Creep (the Round Hill Crescent end). For some residents this was the first time they had heard that such a place existed and I wonder whether the reality was something of a disappointment; the term Cat Creep sounds both more exotic, and more sinister, than 'flight of steps' which is how it is described in other parts of the country.

Cat Creeps are usually found in hilly areas and connect two roads at different levels on a hillside and it is therefore no surprise that we have a particularly steep one. The Round Hill Cat Creep runs from where Richmond Road becomes Wakefield Road, down to Round Hill Crescent. You should count the number of steps yourself: one report states the Cat Creep as having eight flights of fifteen steps each flight, but like many locals, although I know of the Cat Creep I have only used it a few times, and

each time lost count during climb or descent.

The term Cat Creep, like Twitten (another local term), describes a route which whilst officially a public right of way, is more often a secret space shared by a few residents who may use it as a shortcut or remember playing there as children. For those of us who like to poke around the byways of the area, it offers fascinating glimpses of back gardens and, in particular, the orchard still occupying part of the 'green' area between Richmond Road and Round Hill Crescent

Is it dirtier and more unsavory now than people remember? Ron Burleton recalls that 'the Cat Creep was frequented by an eccentric called Charlie - a harmless itinerant - who would recite Shakespeare to the children'. Mrs Clarke (aged 93 when interviewed in 2001) remembers daily using the steps both as a shortcut from her home in Belton Road down to Round Hill Crescent where most of her friends lived, and also later on her journey between her work and her home

where (as was common then) she returned each lunch time for a midday meal. Quite a trek from Wellington Road where she worked, but certainly a shortcut, and quicker than using the tram which went up Ditchling Road.

Unlike some of the other Cat Creeps in Brighton, this one was not originally intended merely as a shortcut for the local residents. It was initially wider and named Lennox Road in readiness for houses to be built along it. However this plan was eventually abandoned: Lennox Road was just too steep for coaches to negotiate!

Read more about this interesting landmark as well as other fascinating memories from former and present residents in the forthcoming book to be published by Brighton Books. A suitable title has not yet been chosen and any ideas will be gratefully received. If you wish to make suggestions or to contribute your own memories of the area to the database collection already established, please write in the first instance to the editor of the Newsletter.

Pam Blackman
(Round Hill History Group)

SOCIAL GATHERINGS FOR ROUND HILL - WHAT DO YOU WANT?

We've not had a social event for some time and we'd like some input from you as to what you'd like to do. For newcomers to the area, since we started in November 1999, we've held 2 successful street parties, 2 garden parties and 3 'Carols and Candles' Christmas events. The latter is now an annual event, but we're lacking something to entertain us in the spring to autumn months.

Some ideas put forward at our last committee meeting were:

- ◇ Stool ball and picnic in Stanmer Park



A walk in the country?

- ◇ A cricket match
- ◇ Boules on the beach
- ◇ A summer walk
- ◇ A quiz night
- ◇ A tug-o'-war
- ◇ A rounders match
- ◇ A wildlife walk

Let us know what you think - new ideas welcome. We would also need a team of people to plan and help with any activities.



COMMUNITY POLICING IN ROUND HILL

Criminal activity in our area seems to be on the increase. We've experienced muggings, numerous car crimes (many of us saw the burnt-out car in Mayo Road last summer), several burglaries and an armed robbery at Shakti Stores in Ditchling Road.

Because of our concerns over this and the fact we rarely see a policeman around here, I recently contacted the police to find out what was being done about policing the Round Hill area. I was visited by Sgt Richard Hamlin, the Neighbourhood Police Team Co-ordinator, who explained that the whole system of policing was in the process of change to a new style of policing that was introduced in January this year.

The Round Hill area is now part of the central Pavilion area, albeit on the borders (area 9 on the map below). There is a recruitment drive in progress and by summer, the police hope to have a full complement of 9 officers on the beat in the Pavilion area at all times and they will answer all calls, of whatever nature. They operate in three shifts - day, late and night. This should mean that if there is a problem in Round Hill, the response time will be better and Sgt Hamlin was hopeful that there would be a greater police presence here.

The fact that we are on the border of the Pavilion area is not in our favour, as we are on the same beat patrol as the Level, Lewes Road and London Road, where there is a higher level of crime. However, we are in a better position than we used to be when we were on the border of the area that reached as far out as Patcham and Sgt Hamlin pointed out that it was a function of his role to ensure that oversights do not occur and has undertaken that officers will be directed to take in the location as part of their routine patrols, whether on foot, cycle or in a vehicle.

At the beginning of April, 5 Community Wardens are also being appointed for the Brighton area.

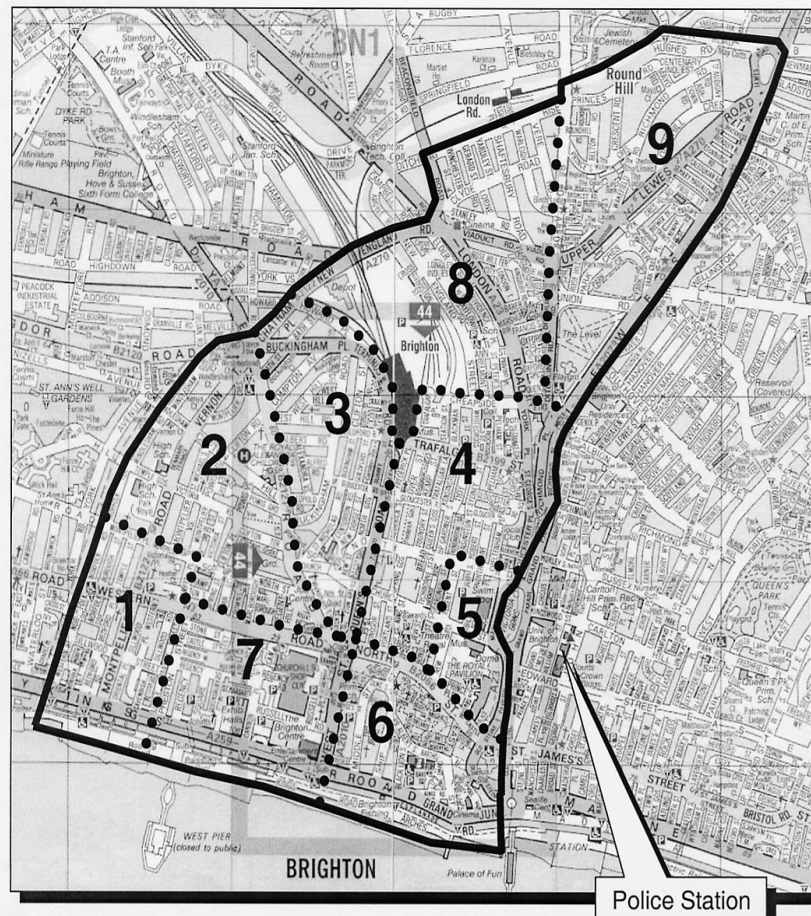
As far as burglaries are concerned, there is much we can do to protect our homes. On the next page you will see guidelines to help you.

If you experience a 'non-urgent' (ie non 999) problem, you can phone the Central Neighbourhood Policing Team on 01273 665806. The enquiry officers are Eve Attrell and John Griffiths and the co-ordinators are Sgt Richard Hamlin and PC Louise Hays.

Vivien Powell



Pavilion Neighbourhood Police Team



SAFER HOMES - ARE WE DOING ENOUGH TO PROTECT OUR HOMES?

Nationally, crime and the fear of crime is one of the biggest issues of concern for residents in urban areas. We know that a number of local residents have experienced crimes such as house burglaries and car break-ins. There are probably some residents that fear to go out at night, especially the elderly.

When new housing is built, the Police provide advice early on in the design stage to ensure that the new houses and the surrounding environment is safe and secure. It is useful to compare the Round Hill housing area with this advice and also to see if there are any tips which can be applied to improve the existing housing and the surrounding area. Such advice includes the following:

- **Dwelling Mix and Overlooking**
Ensuring that there is a mix of dwelling types 'as the potential for homes to be occupied throughout the day gives increased opportunity for natural surveillance, community interaction and environmental control.' Also 'dwellings should be positioned to allow unobstructed views of neighbouring properties.' It is comforting to note that in general, the Victorian housing in the Round Hill area satisfies these two criteria.

- **Landscaping**
The use of spiny or thorny landscaping can help prevent graffiti and loitering and create or enhance perimeter security, although it must not impede the opportunity for natural surveillance, nor create hiding places. The location of walls and hedges should not obscure doors and windows and the position of trees that may become climbing aids. Perhaps there are areas in Round Hill where the above could apply? However, because this is a Conservation Area you may need planning permission for certain alterations and if you want to fell a tree, you need to let the Planning Department know well in advance.

- **Dwelling Identification**
Clear naming and numbering of properties is essential to assist both residents and the attendance of emergency services. Are our house numbers clear?

- **Dwelling Boundaries**
It is important that appropriate demarcation between public and private areas is clearly identified. Vulnerable areas such as side and rear gardens need more defensible barriers with walls and fencing.

Where the risk is increased with gardens adjoining open land, footpaths or railway property, additional deterrent features such as trellis top or thorny shrubs must be considered. Boundary walls, bins and fuel stores, low flat roofs or balconies should be designed so as not to provide climbing aids to gain access into the property. Useful advice here, but because Round Hill is a Conservation Area, many structures such as walls and boundary features may need planning permission, so check with the Planning Department first.

- **Doors and Windows**
These should be designed to be secure and the police can provide advice on these. However, planning permission is now required for such replacements in the Conservation Area and again, it is essential to contact the Planning Department at an early stage.

If anyone needs further information on making their dwellings and the residential environment safer, contact the address below:

ACPO Crime Prevention Initiatives Ltd
25 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0EX
Tel: 0207 227 3423
Fax: 0207 227 3400/01
E-mail: acpocpi@acpo.pnn.police.uk

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST - Rob Stephenson reports on the loss of another elm

One of the last five elm trees on the Upper Lewes Road has succumbed to honey fungus, and as a result has been removed by Council contractors. Back in 1983 there were 13 elm trees along the road, but gradually they have been removed, sometimes victim of Dutch Elm disease, sometimes because of loud protests by immediate residents (loss of light and damage to garden walls being cited, as well as making the pavement uneven and leaves in gutters).

When it came to removing the hollow stump the tree fought back. Some ancient lump of metal or stone in the stump blunted the chain saw, and startled the guy using it. But the stump was no match for the mobile stump grinder shown at work here. Bob Greenland, one of the Council's arboriculturalists, has

previously said that the variety of elm planted here is fairly short-lived, and most are near the end of their healthy lifespan - the shame is that the Council will not replace the lost trees, apparently the road is too busy for new tree planting.

