



COMMITTEE WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Two of our committee members, Colette Blackett and Suzie Sharp, have moved away from the area, leaving two vacancies. One of these has now been filled by Peter Meakins of Round Hill Street and we'd like to welcome him onto the committee. With thanks to Colette and Suzie for their help and support in the past and good wishes for their futures.

THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

RHS Newsletter Editor
66 Richmond Road
Brighton

Phone: 01273 276386
Email: news@roundhill.org.uk

A TALE OF TWO LAMP-POSTS

Following the extraordinary national news story this month about the banning of flower baskets from lamp-posts in Bury St Edmonds, as part of their Britain in Bloom campaign, we now have our own Round Hill lamp-post tale to tell.

One morning last October, contractors arrived at the bottom end of Richmond Road to remove a working cast iron 100-year-old Victorian lamp-post and replace it with a "mock" replica, for safety reasons, they said. As they departed with the original in the back of the truck, they quipped that it would most likely end up 'in a pub garden somewhere'.

Residents were left, stunned, with a modern steel replica, much higher than the original and as dusk fell, discovered there was no working street light either; the contractors, in their haste to get away, had forgotten to switch the power on. This institutional vandalism in a conservation area angered local residents, as the Council had not given any notice. We all know the tight conservation regulations, information and public notices required from residents by the Council for any building changes we want to make. Are we living in a one-way street on lamp-post conservation and changes in the Round Hill area?

Two months later in December, all was still in darkness with no working lamp-post and no explanation as to why it had been replaced. The conservation

officer promised to look into its disappearance and then seemed to find it difficult to identify a City policy on lamp-post maintenance and conservation. The story and the darkness rolled on, Christmas came and went; finally, early in the New Year, after a shower of e-mails to local councillors, Council officers sprang into action. Within hours of pushing the e-mail send button, the conservation officer came back with an answer that replacement was allowed for individual lamp-posts. The same morning the City's lighting engineer was standing on doorsteps to explain why the original lamp-post had been removed - it was no longer suitable for maintenance because it did not have an inspection panel at street level to switch off the power. But there was a solution. In February, four months after the loss of the original, we now have a working replacement original Victorian period lamp-post, with a separate power isolation box.

Council officers told us that the whole sad tale of two lamp-posts was due to contracting out of the maintenance of street lights across the City and as a consequence, many poor decisions were made on the replacement of street lights. Other street lighting replacements which had been made in the Round Hill area were referred to as being, 'a bit of a dog's breakfast'. The Council is now taking street lighting

management back in house.

A lesson from this sorry tale of two lamp-posts is that it appears there is no clear Council policy on lamp-post maintenance, their replacement and any conservation issues that arise. Local consultation on this would be helpful and seems to be being considered. Another lesson is if you want action on a local issue involving the Council, pick up the telephone or hit the email button to your local councillor: it works.

If you see a Round Hill type Victorian grey lamp-post with number 7 on it in a pub garden, let the Council conservation officer know, as we would really like the 100-year-old original back please.

*Robin Morley
Resident*

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

It often pays to contact your local councillor if you have an issue you need to be dealt with swiftly. We are in the St Peter's and North Laine area and have three Green Party Councillors. They have split the area into three for ease of administration and our representative is Cllr Keith Taylor, whose telephone/fax number is 01273 291165 and his e-mail address is keith.taylor@brighton-hove.co.uk.

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

Chair	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road	673511
Treasurer	Paul Thompson	29 Richmond Road	883004
Secretary	Vivien Powell	66 Richmond Road	276386
Vice chair	Vacant		
Minutes Secretary	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	601320
Member without Portfolio	Peter Meakins	19 Round Hill Street	571519
Member without Portfolio	Jan Dirksen	92 Richmond Road	697587
Member without Portfolio	Nicky Bingham	27 Princes Road	702632
Member without Portfolio	Jean Brennan	87 Round Hill Crescent	693100
Member without Portfolio	Marian Gerrett	77 Princes Crescent	688009



ROUND HILL REPORTER

Issue 15
March 2004

£50 FOR CHARITY FROM SOLSTICE EVENT

It was not a night for hanging around on street corners - the weather being foot-stampingly cold - so we set off fairly promptly from the top of Belton Road, our numbers swelling as we went, a fair few furry red and white 'Santa' hats visible amongst the normal woollies. Jan Curry had marked all the appropriate lamp posts with a balloon and we stopped under each one and sang seasonal songs — some

religious, some not — to the accompaniment of Andrew Partington on melodion, and Rusty Curry and Ray Knight on harmonica. Meanwhile, Santa (aka Paul Thompson) and his young helpers went from door to door with their collection buckets.



A group of happy carollers at the end of the procession

Everyone was in fine voice and people were very generous.

Having tramped the streets and sung our hearts out, we were rewarded with mulled wine and mince pies, prepared by Rob Stephenson and Marian Gerrett, outside No. 77 Prince's Crescent.

Although numbers were slightly down on last year, we managed to donate £50 to Addaction, an organisation that helps rehabilitate drug users in



Rob and Marian serving the refreshments in Prince's Crescent

the city. Next year we plan to organise a lantern-making workshop prior to the event.

It was great to see people from both ends of the age spectrum venturing out into the cold to share this seasonal event. Thanks to the musicians, to 'Santa', to Rob and Marian and everyone who came along and made it a success.



'Rudolf' (aka Rusty Curry) and Santa (aka Paul Thompson) enjoying their mulled wine at the end of the evening.

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YOUR DOG AND THE LAW: ADVICE FOR DOG OWNERS

Following on from Brighton & Hove Council's Green Charter and 'Anti-Litter Campaign', the Council has introduced The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. This Act is to encourage greater vigilance and responsibility by dog walkers and owners.

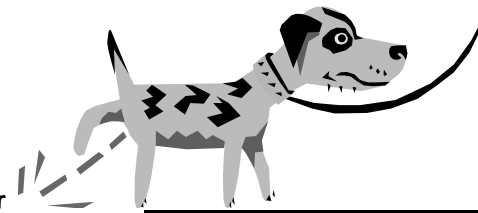
1. **Is it the law?** Yes, it is the Law. It is an offence to fail to remove dogs' excrement from the road, pavements, around trees, grass verges, parks and other specified areas. It is also an offence not to have a poop-scoop bag with you - an old carrier bag will do.
2. **What is the maximum fine?** The maximum fine upon conviction is £1,000 and is subject to change. Offenders can be issued with fixed penalty notices.

3. **Can you come back later and clear it up?** No. Dogs' mess must be removed immediately.

4. It is also the law (and has been since 1930) that all dogs in public places have to wear a **collar with an identification tag** attached to it showing the pet owner's name and address. The maximum penalty for failing to do this is £5,000.
5. **Dogs must always be on a lead** while on a road—the penalty for failing to keep your dog on a lead is £200.

For further information and advice, you can call Brighton & Hove Animal Welfare Officers on Brighton 292400 or 292406, from whom you can also obtain posters and leaflets setting out these laws more fully.

Vivien Powell



Learn to make silver jewellery

Small classes, all tools provided.

**Jackie Jones
Jeweller**

Phone 673511
for full details.



IN MEMORY OF MY FATHER BY JIG AGNIHOTRI

Mahendra Agnihotri
4 July 1935 - 16 January 2004

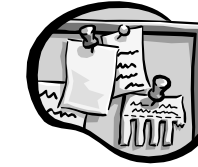
Born in Ahmedabad, India, my father arrived in England in 1967 and although Brighton was not the first place he set foot in, it quickly became his home. He secured a job as a haematologist at Worthing and Southlands hospitals and after renting a flat in Hanover Street, moved to Hove. He re-mortgaged his house in 1983 to buy what is now called Shakti Stores, mostly to occupy his wife after realising that the ITT/STC factory where she worked would be closing down. That is where his association with the Round Hill area started. The shop has now evolved to become an integral part of the area.

Many residents may remember being served by my father in the shop, or later on in the post office, where he helped for a few years. A man of few words or expressions, but a Hindu man who was true to his principles and beliefs: kind, honest and sincere and always ready to help his fellow citizens, he was highly regarded within the Brighton Asian community.

A heart condition and diabetes led to early retirement and less socialising, but he still managed conversations when out in the local area. He was proud of his achievements since emigrating. We are all extremely saddened by his passing away, but remain positive, as he would have wanted us to be, in order to carry our lives and his legacy forward.



NOTICEBOARD



FOR SALE

Quality LaCie CD Burner. As new, complete with installation discs. USB compatible. £25. Brighton 706726

CONTACTS

Book Club. Interested in forming a book club in the area? To meet once a month in a relaxed and social atmosphere to discuss 'a good read'? If so, e-mail cat_house@ntlworld.com

Spanish Conversation Group. Anyone keen to learn Spanish but need encouragement to practice? It must be easier together! Phone to compare ideas/resources: Caroline 07713 404047

Advertising rates:

Full page	£100
Half page	£55
Quarter page	£30
Eighth page	£16
Sixteenth page	£10

Phone 276386 to place an advert or notice

Residents only:
Noticeboard (up to 30 words) £2

DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE

Please send your articles, letters, adverts, poems, anecdotes etc, to the editor at the address on the back page by **FRIDAY 14 MAY**.

This Newsletter doesn't write itself and it's a lonely job on my own! A team of people is needed to help with its production. If you can offer a little of your time and inspiration, please contact the editor on 276386. If you enjoy your newsletter, please make a contribution to it, otherwise you may lose it.

Local McTimoney and Massage Practitioner
Working from Unit 4, 20-26 Round Hill Street
McTimoney Chiropractic Technique is used to adjust the bones of the body to help restore correct alignment & balance. It can be helpful for back & neck complaints, sciatica, joint problems etc.
Massage: Relaxation, Sports, Remedial & Thai Yoga.
Michael Gibbons DC MAO IHBC IISST IIHHT
13 years experience in bodywork.

Telephone 01273 56 26 76

REGISTER OF TRADESPEOPLE

The following tradespeople are recommended by local residents who have used their services:

WINDOW CLEANERS

Col Scarratt Tel: 298060 (answerphone), Mobile: 07759 9699514, e-mail: col.scarratt@ntlworld.com

Bishop Window Cleaning Tel: 07939 161904

BUILDERS/DECORATORS

Ian of Eastbrook Construction Tel: 594903, Mobile: 07881 992944

Mik O'Shea, 14 Wakefield Road, Tel: 698788

Preston Decorators (Prince's Road), Tel: 07976 893087

Rob Stephenson, 51 Upper Lewes Road, Tel: 673511

PLUMBERS

G J Saunders, 80 Melrose Ave, Portslade, Tel: 882827

Please send your recommendations (or warnings!) to the editor at 66 Richmond Road, tel: 276386

TILER

Jason Stone
Domestic Ceramic Wall and Floor Tiling

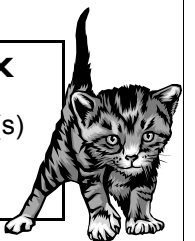
'Round Hill' Brighton
Mobile: 07754 665860
Tel: 01273 819964

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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



2004 SUMMER STREET PARTY PLANNED

After the success of the previous two street parties in 2000 and 2002, plans are in hand for another one this year. Hopefully it will become a regular biennial event. We've applied for a Council grant to finance the afternoon's entertainments and if this is forthcoming, we hope to hold the event on Saturday 17 July, so put this



date in your diaries now. As before, we'll be calling on local residents to help with the preparations and to help on the day. It

certainly can't happen without a good team of people involved, so please let us know if you would like to help us make our street party an even bigger success than the last one.

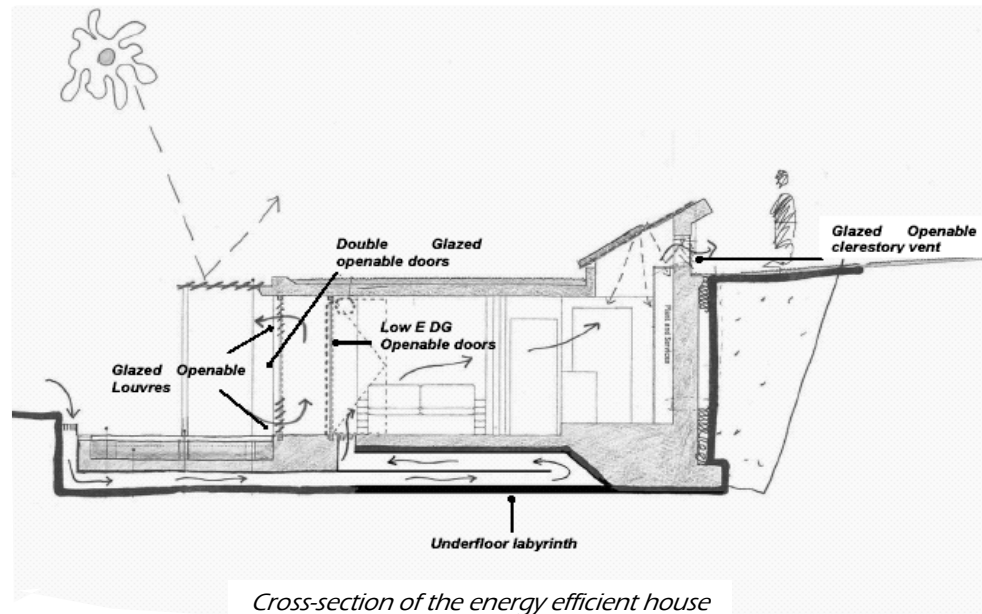
Contact Marian on 688009 or Vivien on 276386 or e-mail news@roundhill.org.uk. Thank you.

THE SMART HOUSE – OUR LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSE

ROB STEPHENSON

On the corner of Vere Road and Ditchling Road a new home is being built, and it incorporates lots of environmentally sound design features. The two bedrooms and sitting room are all on the south side of the house and have an area of 57m² (6150ft²), whilst the bathrooms, utility and kitchen are on the north side, with a combined area of 25m² (270ft²) gaining daylight through windows in the roof. Most of the flat roof will be covered in earth and planted as a lawn – further reducing heat loss. Rain falling on the roof will eventually drain to a tank in the utility room, where it will be stored for uses like laundry and toilet flushing.

To the north, east and west, the house is built into the sloping hillside, which will protect those walls from the extremes of heat and cold. The south side contains most of the windows, and they are behind a full width solar porch or conservatory to reduce heat loss in winter, provide a source of warm air in spring and autumn, and extend the living area in summer. All the outer glass can be opened for cooling in the hottest weather. Tilting louvres will protect the solar porch from too much direct sunshine and are covered in 25 square metres of photovoltaic (PV) cells so they harvest the sunshine, turning it into electricity. A further



Cross-section of the energy efficient house

25m² of PV cells on the roof will give a peak power of 5 kilowatts, which can be used directly or fed back into the mains, reducing the domestic electricity bill.

The roof will also have solar water heating panels – either 4m² of flat panel collectors (like black central-heating radiators behind glass) or 2m² of more efficient evacuated tubes (like giant vacuum flasks without the silver finish, and containing blackened metal heat absorbing pipework). Whatever the final choice, they will supply hot water tanks, with a back-up gas fired condensing boiler for cloudy days.

The last big feature is a system of ventilation ducts which can circulate sun-warmed air from the conservatory area into the main living spaces during

the colder seasons, or draw air into the house through pipes passing under the garden pond, which will help cool the interior in the summer.

Consultants have estimated the fuel savings of all these features and compared them to a similarly sized house built to the 1995 Building Regulations. The comparative fuel savings are truly enormous.

Of course this will be a very unusual house, not comparable with those more typical of Round Hill – perhaps we should seek funding (and a guinea pig household) to retrofit an existing home and monitor the changes. Any volunteers?

Thanks to Martin at Alan Philips Associates, Architects, for the info that made this piece possible.



NOTES FROM THE GARDEN — JAN CURRY

The garden is coming awake fast, in fact I don't think it went to sleep at all this year. Birds are already investigating the nest boxes. Snowdrops, primroses, violets and tiny native daffodils are in flower.

A couple of evenings ago, I was late shutting the greenhouse and consequently had to walk through the garden in the dark. I was pleased I had a torch as frogs and toads were all over the place, calling to each other as they rustled through the undergrowth towards the ponds. I'm not talking one or two amphibians here, but dozens and dozens. Glad I didn't tread on one - I would have screamed.

Talking of screaming, were you woken up the other night by a blood curdling scream out in the road? It

sounded as if someone was being murdered. It was a vixen calling to a dog fox. He answered with three short, sharp 'ow ow ows'. They trotted off down Richmond Road together.

Urban foxes are becoming very bold and recently I have seen them in broad daylight in Richmond, Mayo and Princes Roads (smelt them too). Let's face it, there are more easy opportunities for food and shelter for foxes in towns and cities than in the surrounding countryside these days.

My dog does not like them and I used to worry about my cat, but I've read that the two latter animals usually ignore each other - or if not, the cat comes off best. Foxes are a threat to family pets

such as rabbits and guinea pigs though - make sure your hutches are secure and fox proof.

I have read that foxes are surprisingly small animals under all that thick fur, not much bigger than a miniature poodle. They are small enough to squeeze through a gap about four inches square

and will find places to nest in or under garden sheds.

I shouldn't have mentioned 'garden sheds'; my new year's resolution was to keep ours tidy, but I have failed. How come I can put things away neatly indoors but can't stop chucking things into the shed?



PLANTS FOR YOUR WILDLIFE GARDEN

Spring is on its way and the warmer weather will lead many of us to garden centres, hoping to brighten up our gardens ready for

those balmy summer evenings by the barbecue. You might like to think about creating a wildlife area and including plants that will attract butterflies. The following is a list of suitable plants for attracting butterflies. It is by no means exhaustive, but may inspire you to look into the subject more thoroughly:

Wild Area

Bramble; Thistle; Bugle; Violets; Dandelion; Rock Rose; Hawkweed; Ragwort; Blackthorn; Pussy Willow; Alder Buckthorn; Fleabane; Hops; Cowslip; Lady's Smock; Birdsfoot Trefoil; Garlic Mustard; Nettle; Privet; Ivy.

Shrub Gardens

Cornus; Escallonia langleyensis; Ceratostigma willmotianum; Hebe (var). Buddleia davidii; Holly.

Spring-flowering plants

Aubretia; Wallflower; Sweet William; Yellow Alyssum; Forget-me-not; Polyanthus; Violet; Primrose; Honesty; Heliotrope; Valerian; Nepeta cataria; Corn Marigold; Helenium; Lavender; Aster sinensis; Buddleia (var).

Summer-flowering plants

Phlox; Scabious; Ageratum; Dianthus; Aster amellus; Erigeron; Lobelia; Perennial Cornflower; Hemp agrimony; Teasel; Echinops; Marjoram; Hyssop; Helichrysum; Inula denticulata; Tithonia 'torch'.

Autumn-flowering plants

Sedum spectabile, Michaelmas Daisy; Golden Rod.

Now is also a good time to think about installing nesting boxes in your trees. We need to try and encourage sparrows back into our gardens, as well as other birds. Make sure the boxes are well out of reach of your cat, though!



CATCH A 79 FOR A GREAT DAY OUT AND KIDS GO FREE

What could be more pleasant on these cold, crisp days than to wrap up warm and go for a walk in the country? Did you know that the No. 79 bus will take you to Ditchling Beacon and back for £3.00 (£1.90 single)? Up to two children under 16 travel free. Or you could go to the Beacon and walk to Stanmer Park or Devil's Dyke and get a different bus back. During the winter months, until 4 April, the 79 runs every hour on Sundays and Bank Holidays. Funding has just been given to keep the service going for another year and from 9 April, it will also run on Saturdays. The car park at Ditchling Beacon is becoming over-used and the overspill parking on the grass verge there is dangerous, so it makes sense to take the bus, which is under threat from under-use. For more information, phone 01273 886200 or visit www.buses.co.uk

Vivien Powell



A NEW ELM TREE IN UPPER LEWES ROAD

In the March 03 edition of this Reporter there was a photo of a tree being removed on the Upper Lewes Road, and so I am delighted to bring another photo this March showing a newly planted elm on the site of the felled tree.

A team of three guys dug out a clean pit and filled it with new soil before staking and planting the first new street tree on the pavement in this road for over a century. I was surprised by this planting because I had heard that the road was too narrow for new trees to be planted, so I asked the guys for a comment. The officer shown in the photo spoke of the new active tree planting policy in the Council, but one of the men wielding spade rather than pen said, 'There's always room for trees,

the road's too narrow for cars' - my kind of guy.

Come the spring the tree will need regular watering, and will be visited weekly by a Council employee whose job is to water newly planted trees and tubs, but we are welcome to help, and the tree may benefit from extra water - it's hard work getting enough water to your roots when they are spreading under tarmac.

I'm told that there will be at least one tree planted in the build-outs associated with the road closure at the New Vic, and several have appeared on Ditchling Road over the last year. The planting season is over now, but we ought to identify likely sites for more trees and begin to lobby for next winter's planting.



25% TRAFFIC INCREASE

A knock-on effect of the Richmond Road closure was inevitably that the rat-runners would find another route along Prince's Crescent and Wakefield Road. Add to that the increased use of these roads by local residents who can no longer get out via the bottom end of Richmond Road and you have an overall increase in traffic. According to the Council, this increase is in the order of 25% compared with a pre-Richmond Road closure count.

There have been various solutions suggested to alleviate this problem and we'd appreciate some feedback from you, especially if you live in Wakefield Road. These are as follows:

1. A 'no left turn' at the bottom of Wakefield Road.

2. Make Wakefield Road one way from Upper Lewes Road.

I don't think either of these ideas will be popular with local people, particularly those living in Wakefield Road, so if anyone has any other ideas, please let us know.

I have suggested re-phasing the traffic lights at the junction of Upper Lewes/ Ditchling/Viaduct Roads, so that local people can get through more quickly. However, the Council is reluctant to do this, because making the main flow of traffic wait longer will push it into residential streets to avoid the queue and so we'd be back to square one.

Vivien Powell

Acupuncture for Women's Health Acupuncture for Pregnancy

Elaine Gibbons
Adv.Lic.Ac, M.B.Ac.C.
Unit 4 Natural Health Centre
20-26 Round Hill Street
Brighton BN2 3RG



Tel: 01273 56 26 76



Exterior House Painting

thinking of repainting?
ask me for a quote

See 77 Princes Crescent – recent job

Rob Stephenson - 673511



ROAD CLOSURE NEARS COMPLETION

Council workmen have been busy completing the work to close Richmond Road to through traffic. It's nice to see they've taken the trouble to use pink bricks to try and blend with the existing pavement (it all used to be pink!). We're waiting for the promised planter to brighten it up, and there's talk of the possibility of planting a tree. There will also be double yellow lines across the emergency access area with the words 'KEEP CLEAR' painted on the road, as well as 'No Through Road' signs (one would have thought it better to put the signs up first...). In the meantime, please remember not to obstruct the road where the bollards are - it could be you that needs the fire engine, ambulance or police car - and obstructing vehicles may be towed away.

Vivien Powell



The New Vic

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

The Rowdy Pub Quiz

Chill Out Night, Games

Larry Lovers Music

Quiz

Bigtown Shakedown, DJs

Gordon Lovetrain and Danny

Inferno

Old Skool Disco, DJs Matt and

Benny

Roast Dinners £5 (1 - 4pm)

The New Vic
31 Richmond Road
01273 675906

Mon - Fri 4 - 11pm

Sat 1 - 11pm

Sun 1 - 10.30pm

Free room hire

