



**THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY**

RHS Newsletter Editor  
66 Richmond Road  
Brighton

Phone: 01273 276386  
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Website: www.roundhill.org.uk

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**ROUND HILL REPORTER**

Issue 20  
June 2005

**DEADLINE FOR THE AUTUMN ISSUE**

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

Your contributions are essential to this publication and very gratefully received. There is a Newsletter planning meeting every quarter at 66 Richmond Road. Please phone 276386 for details. You'll be made very welcome.

**Advertising rates:**

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

We want this newsletter to serve our local community and we offer realistic advertising rates to local businesses to cover the costs of printing. Please note that 50% will be added to these rates for organisations outside the Round Hill area.

Phone 276386 to place an advert or notice.

Residents only:  
Notice board (up to 30 words) £2

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER**

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **Don't forget the Round Hill Open Gardens event on Sunday 26th June from 2 to 5pm.** \*  
\*  \*  
\* **See front page for more information. Look out for posters on the houses and don't forget to take this newsletter with you. Have a great time and a wonderful summer.** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**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**  
Ian of Eastbrook Construction Tel: 594903, Mobile: 07881 992944
  - DECORATORS**  
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**  
Tim Packwood, 88 Waldegrave Road, Tel: 0770 325 3740  
G J Saunders 80 Melrose Ave, Portslade, Tel: 882827  
C R Laker 76 Rugby Rd, Tel: 501006, Fax: 507745  
Tom Plumb 07973 551841
  - CARPENTERS**  
Drew Davidson 07801 060928  
SAB Carpentry 27 Prince's Rd. Tel: 702632/07963 8415630
  - CARPENTER/PLUMBER**  
Lynette Ward Tel: 302574, Mobile: 07814 521961, e-mail: LDW@nikau.fsnet.co.uk
  - GARDENERS**  
Sadie at Plant People Tel: 562425, Mobile: 07881 992762
- Please send your recommendations (or warnings!) to the editor at 66 Richmond Road, tel: 276386

**ROUND HILL OPENS GARDENS**

You will have heard of Open Houses during the Brighton Festival, where people show art work in their homes. Well, the Round Hill Society decided to have 'Open Gardens' this year, and on Sunday 26th June, 15 local residents invite you to walk around the neighbourhood and share the beauty of their gardens. They will be open from 2pm to 5pm and all residents who receive this newsletter are eligible to visit.



The following gardens will be open:

- 2 Belton Close
- 81 Prince's Crescent
- 85 Prince's Crescent
- 9 Crescent Road
- 22 Prince's Road
- 25 Richmond Road
- 29 Richmond Road (front only)
- 46 Richmond Road
- 50 Richmond Road
- 56 Richmond Road
- 58 Richmond Road
- 112 Richmond Road
- 94 Richmond Road
- 8 d'Aubigny Road
- 89 Round Hill Crescent

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

- Please bring this edition of the Round Hill Reporter with you - it is your entrance ticket and will need to be shown at each garden.
- Please visit the gardens at random, not as they appear on the list, so that people don't all turn up at the same time and cause congestion.
- Children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.
- It should be recognised that gardens can be dangerous and you enter them at your own risk.

The Committee would like to thank everyone who has volunteered (or were persuaded!) to open their gardens to friends and neighbours who live on the Round Hill, and we all hope it will be a gloriously sunny afternoon and everyone enjoys themselves.

*Inside this issue:*

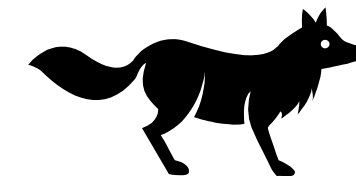
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*And much more!*

**FOX ALERT!**

They're back - taking advantage, like the seagulls, of black dustbin bags full of tasty bits and pieces, left out in the street overnight.

They're back, braver and bolder than ever and have been seen pretending to be asleep on the top of shed roofs, in the middle of the day.



Take care, don't leave your rabbits, hens or guinea pigs running loose and unattended and check that the wire on their hutches is firmly fixed. Also make sure your rubbish is in bins, so it doesn't get strewn all over the pavement.

Watch out - there's a fox about all day as well as all night.

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.



## FLOCKING TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

On Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>, at 6.30pm, I saw my first swifts of the year. A party of a dozen or so, fresh from their transcontinental odyssey, climbed high in a screaming spiral above D'Aubigny Road before disappearing eastwards. Welcome back, I thought.

These were not the first summer visitors to reach Round Hill. In the second week of April a willow warbler had taken up temporary residence in the single birch behind our garden. It stayed only four days – just like last year – briefly swelling the spring chorus, alongside the local greenfinches, great tits, blackbirds and robins.

There are more birds in Round Hill than you might think. And not just Herring Gulls. Despite the general urban squalor and murderous army of cats, our precious pockets of greenery support at least 23 breeding species – about 12% of the UK total. Many others pass through, finding a temporary haven in which to escape hard winter weather or stock up on food before migration. A few simply zoom overhead, including autumn movements of non-city dwellers such as lapwing and skylark. Even the famous Sussex Heights peregrines put in an occasional dashing appearance.



Willow Warbler

So you lucky residents with larger gardens are sitting on a veritable bird reserve, especially if you have a wild corner, with its oasis of insects, seeds and berries. Those of us with just a few square metres of turf or concrete have fewer feathered visitors. But we can still enjoy the rich chorus of neighbourhood songsters, and – with eyes peeled – may spot the odd stranger passing through.

The following birds are all those I've recorded in or over the Round Hill neighbourhood in the last five years. I'm sure others can add to it.

- Sparrowhawk
- Peregrine Falcon
- Lapwing
- Black-headed Gull
- Herring Gull
- Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Feral Pigeon
- Woodpigeon
- Collared Dove
- Swift
- Green Woodpecker
- Great Spotted Woodpecker
- Skylark
- Swallow
- Pied Wagtail
- Wren
- Dunnock
- Robin
- Song Thrush
- Mistle Thrush
- Redwing
- Blackbird
- Blackcap
- Willow Warbler
- Chiffchaff
- Goldcrest
- Great Tit
- Blue Tit
- Long-tailed Tit
- Magpie
- Jay
- Jackdaw
- Carrion Crow
- Starling
- House Sparrow
- Chaffinch
- Goldfinch
- Greenfinch

Stop press for local bird enthusiasts: I saw a Hobby fly over the race course last Friday morning (top of Bear Road).

Mike Unwin

### CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

Cllr Keith Taylor, tel/fax 01273 291165 e-mail keith.taylor@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

## PRINCE'S ROAD DEVELOPERS APPEAL

Carelet, the owners of the land in Prince's Road, have registered an appeal against the decision of the Brighton & Hove Planning Committee to refuse permission for a block of 30+ flats. You will remember from the last issue of the 'Reporter' that the Planning Committee's decision was unanimous; in fact, some of the councillors were positively scathing about the plans to build such a

huge development that would be totally out of keeping in our conservation area.

Unfortunately, the deadline for comments has now passed (26th May) but let's hope the Appeal Board shares the views of Brighton & Hove Council and does the decent thing - upholds their decision and rejects the appeal.

Watch this space.



## DOUBLE PARKING GOES TO EXTREMES IN THE CRESCENT

The double parking habit continues apace in Round Hill with the police and wardens apparently powerless to act ("no formal restrictions").

This was the scene at 9.30 am on Tuesday 24 May as the council recycling vehicle attempted to make its rounds. The truck was held up for fully twenty minutes and the street was totally blocked. The vehicle had been parked overnight. They never did manage to wake the owner and finally got through by locating car owners legitimately parked on the other side of the road and getting them to move. This car was finally moved from the middle of the street at 1pm. Just imagine the seriousness of this situation had it been a fire engine!

Trouble is that once the wardens and police worked in unison and they've now drifted apart. Neither wants to take responsibility - so it gets worse!

Andrew Haig and Associates  
67 Round Hill Crescent



This black Peugeot is seen here blocking the middle of Round Hill Crescent.

Cars are frequently to be seen parked on and around corners, as well as double parked. This can severely restrict the movement of large vehicles. How would you feel if your house was on fire, you were trapped and the fire crew couldn't get through because your car was obstructing their way? It's a disaster waiting to happen. Yes, parking is at a premium in Round Hill, but that's no excuse. [Ed.]

## SOLAR PANEL UPDATE

Our solar panel was fitted in November 2004, so until spring the heat input was not very great. As the days lengthened and became ever so slightly sunnier, the solar panel began to heat up the water in the tank – nothing spectacular, 30 – 40 degrees, but taking the pressure off the boiler – however, the pump was still very noisy, in fact quite irritating. Then one fine sunny day in early May it was quiet – and the temperature in the panel was 110! The pump had broken. Three weeks went by with the panel covered by a blanket until finally the technician arrived to fit a new pump.

Another day of disruption. So now, some 6 months after installation, it seems to be operating smoothly *and quietly*, and for the last few days (in May) we've switched off the boiler and, on a day of full sun the panel is giving us a tank full of water at about 50 degrees. So, we'll report next time on its efficiency over the summer months.

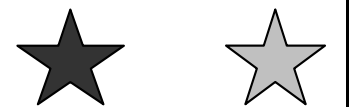
Ros Alder and Clive Baldwin  
22 Princes Road

### Learn to make silver jewellery

Small classes, all tools provided.

**Jackie Jones Jeweller**

Phone 673511 for full details



## Hatha Yoga

Sunday drop-in class  
6 - 7.30pm at Unit 4, Roundhill St.

90 mins of gentle but deeply effective breath and posture work

All levels, inc. beginners

Call Diane on 607662 for info, or just turn up



## POST BOX



Greetings all,

I have received the latest newsletter and note that an email address exists now so I am going to use it.

I want to say that your community efforts are very much appreciated and I always look forward to reading the newsletter when it comes. I particularly like the inclusion of trusted trade persons which, when I need one, always fills me with dread. On that note I see that in the post box you have asked for Tom Plumb's phone number. I have had him round to assess some work so I can tell you his number - 07973-551841. It is especially nice to know someone is recommended who lives in the Round Hill area too. Although I haven't experienced his work, he was recommended by my neighbour downstairs and my first impressions of him are good.

Recently I discovered a site that is devoted to Brighton and Hove and includes some great history of our Town and much of this area is represented with old photographs etc. Perhaps you would consider publishing the website for this wonderful resource:

[www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk](http://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk)

Lastly a little about me. I have lived in Round Hill Crescent since 1986. A small flat in a house that we were lucky enough to obtain the freehold and manage our own affairs.

Thanks for all your efforts and if I can be of any help please let me know.

Best regards

Louis Carresi  
24 Roundhill Crescent (by email)

Dear Editor

I joined the City Car Club a month ago - subsequent to the letter/advert in the March edition of the newsletter - and wish to share my view of the scheme with other readers.

First and foremost, membership is straightforward and processed within 48 hours. The cars are new models and there are three located within 10 minutes' walk of the Round Hill. It is easy to book and we have been able to access a car whenever we wanted. Our reason for joining is we mainly walk or use taxis around Brighton but would like a car on some weekends/evenings. On this basis, the convenience of a 'pool' car certainly outweighs the cost and maintenance involved with owning one. I urge anyone interested to give it a try or certainly let City Car Club know you are interested. If enough people state an interest, we could have a car sited in Round Hill.

Kind regards,

Jonathan Barrowman  
32 Richmond Road

Please note that where space is limited, letters may be edited.

If you would like your letter included in the Newsletter, but would prefer your name and address to be withheld, please give your details but ask for them not to be printed. Letters sent anonymously will not be printed.

## Exterior House Painting



thinking of repainting?  
ask me for a quote

Recent work done at:  
77 Princes Crescent  
20 Prince's Road  
3 d'Aubigny Road

**Rob Stephenson - 673511**

Dear Editor

Since September we have kept four chickens in our garden. This has been a very successful project, as the hens devour a great deal of food waste in the form of peelings, rice, pasta etc. They also lay 4 eggs daily, even during the winter months. I am writing to enquire whether any of your readers keep chickens too. This would be very interesting, as I would like to exchange tips and ideas. Also, if there are any poultry owners out there who would consider the possibility of looking after each other's birds when on holiday.

Yours sincerely

Hilary Hyde-Smith  
27 Belton Road  
Tel 675846



This will be a sore point for Jan Curry who, after keeping hens for over 15 years, has had to give up, as rotten old Mr Fox has managed to get rid of all but one of her beloved black hens (see warning on front page). So watch out, Hilary, and keep your hens shut in at night and eyes in the back of your head in the day! The above photo is of two of Jan's feathered friends, taken during the RHS Garden Party a couple of years ago.[Ed.]



## TROUBLE WITH MY WATERWORKS — JAN CURRY

Our butyl pond was made nearly twenty years ago. It is the home to a shoal of goldfish who are so well fed (by us) they luckily do not realise they could eat the toad and tadpoles that share the pond with them.

Dragonflies, damselflies, pond skaters, water beetles and newts also abound.

Nevertheless, for the first time ever, I'm a bit worried. The water looks scummy and turbid, different from the green algae that usually covers the surface for a week or two each spring until the water lily leaves bring some shade and the balance corrects itself to reveal clear water for the rest of the year. We have thrown in bundles of barley straw, suggested by experts for this sort of thing (we bought them from a garden centre).

We have also added a proprietary organic mixture, so called safe to all life (except scum). We await results.

There is never a 'good time' to clear out an established pond and we certainly won't do it in the spring, but I wish we had taken out all the leaves that fell in last autumn. I am sure that is part of the problem, or it could just be the frogs and toads churning up the mud — there are certainly a lot of them.

In fact, the dusk chorus croaked by dozens of amorous amphibians is nearly as loud as the dawn chorus sung by the birds, but not quite as beautiful.

Trouble with my waterworks or not, I wouldn't be without a pond: it is such a magnet for wildlife, even here in the city. The birds bathe round the edge



*Drawings on this and previous page by Mike Unwin.*

but they are nervous, so now I put hanging baskets around the garden, with dishes of water in them, instead of flowers, thus the birds can drink or bathe whenever they like, high up out of the reach of cats.

## E-MAIL TALES

The following are extracts from a Round Hill Yahoo Groups email dialogue:

1. Have just had to dispose of two more dead frogs from my garden pond, which makes six so far this year. These two, like the others, had been badly beaten up and left uneaten in the middle of the lawn, so I suspect the culprit is probably the same cat that has had such a successful recent career decimating our local bird life - the grey camouflaged tabby that looks like a miniature tiger. Anyone got any ideas on how I can protect the ones remaining? I've tried covering the pond with a mesh but it makes no difference as they come out into the garden when it's wet and get caught while they're hopping around. It's a crying shame that this cat has moved into our area. We've lived on Round Hill for five years and it's only recently I've seen so many birds and animals killed in such a short space of time. And it'll get far worse when birds are getting exhausted feeding their chicks this summer. If you 'own' this cat you should be thoroughly ashamed. Can't you swap it for something more environmentally

friendly - like a rabbit?

PS: It also craps in my flowerbeds.

2. I have a very small garden pond complete with a toad family - fortunately our cats keep away, maybe it's because they are toads and not frogs. Incidentally - the grey cat in question isn't mine - although I have one that brought a pigeon through the cat flap yesterday afternoon.

3. No idea who the cat belongs to, I have two black cats. Citrus peel is quite often a good deterrent for cats as the sharp scent stings their noses, so maybe leaving some lemon or lime peel around the pond might help?

4. Did you eat the pigeon? Was it a big wood pigeon or a collared dove (or a 'townie')?

5. No we didn't eat it! It went out in the dust cart this morning. All I could tell you is that it left an awful lot of grey feathers in the kitchen. I'll search out my pictures of 'Oscar' our massive toad and post it!

6. I am sorry, but if you really are such an animal lover, I would think it's quite obvious that this is nature and cats do go after birds (and by the look of things frogs too).....

7. I too have a cat and we have a bell on her collar, it seems to scare away anything near her or at least gives them

a sporting chance. It is a shame but as you say they are just doing what cats do!

8. I reckon this cat is one of the many ferals living on the south side of Richmond House (corner of Richmond Rd and d'Aubigny Rd). We have had lots of problems with it coming into our garden (and house) and spraying! Any ideas? Does the RSPC remove ferals? There's a big family of them now.

9. Mystery of German exploding toads. Toads in an area of northern Germany are dying from a mysterious disease - they swell and burst. < <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/1/hi/world/europe/4486247.stm> >

10. Interesting update on the frog situation...

Looked out of the window at 6am this morning and there was a fox and that bloody cat (the grey/black striped mini-tiger) in the middle of the lawn playing around with one of the frogs together! They seemed perfectly at ease with each other (like best pals) and when I banged on the window the fox followed the cat over the back wall. The frog was OK, by the way. I give up...

To visit our group on the web, go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/roundhill/>



## DUMP THE DUMP CAMPAIGN

Most, if not all, Round Hill residents will have received a letter from the Council and Onyx, setting out their plans for a Waste Transfer and Recycling Facility at Hollingdean Depot. This site is very close to Round Hill and right next door to the Downs Infant School. There is mixed feeling in the neighbourhood about it and there is a vigorous campaign against it, called 'Dump the Dump'. They staged a demonstration at Hove Town Hall in May, when they made headline local news. Over 250 people turned up with placards and banners and the Argus and Meridian News

attended. Cllr Jeanne Lepper, David Lepper MP and Cllr Keith Taylor support the campaign. There will be a further demonstration later in June.

The 'Dump the Dump' campaigners have produced a fact sheet that explains all the myths and facts surrounding this application. It also gives all the relevant names and addresses of people to contact to voice any concerns you may have. The application will now not go to the planning committee until mid to late July, which gives people more time to read the Onyx reports and make

an informed decision.

Check out the 'Dump the Dump' website: [www.dumpthedump.org.uk](http://www.dumpthedump.org.uk). Contact them on 07905 211691 if you would like more information or want to help with the campaign.

*Vivien Eliades*

**AA CHARCOAL GRILL**  
Brighton's No. 1 Kebab House  
**HOME DELIVERY**  
**01273 571003**  
41 Lewes Road  
Deliveries between 5 & 11.45 pm

## ROUND HILL WEBSITE

We now have a very active website to inform you of all the activities of the Round Hill Society and related topics. You can access it on [www.roundhill.org.uk](http://www.roundhill.org.uk) and we have to thank Ted Power for his time, his knowledge and his unceasing application to the task in hand. He has now become a member of the Round Hill Society, with responsibility for IT.

There is a condensed version of this Newsletter on the website, as well as the following pages:

- News
- Special Features
- Wildlife
- History
- Community
- Noticeboard
- Links
- Events Diary

The opinions expressed in the website are not necessarily those of all the members of the Round Hill Society committee and therefore don't necessarily represent the views of all the residents. Please send your comments or contributions to [news@roundhill.org.uk](mailto:news@roundhill.org.uk)

*Vivien Eliades*



## MASSAGE SCHOOL SETS UP IN ROUND HILL

Have you ever considered a career in complementary medicine? Do you need work that can be flexible and fit in with a varied life or school hours? Have you ever considered training in massage?

Massage has been practised in various forms for thousands of years. The power of touch, if given by the practitioner in an unconditional and caring way, can be a very powerful form of communication.

The popularity of massage is immense and it is one of the most widely practised forms of bodywork around.

The College of Classical Massage is now operating from Unit 4, 20-26 Round Hill Street.

Do I need to be physically strong? You do not need to be physically strong, but you should be taught techniques which will enable you to apply deeper massage without risk of straining or

### The College of Classical Massage Professional Diploma Training in Brighton, Est. 1999

- ITEC Diploma in Classical Holistic Massage  
Weekends from October 2005
- IPTI Diploma in Classical Indian Head Massage  
Monday mornings or Saturdays from September 2005
- Certificate in Advanced Massage  
Monthly Tuesdays from September 2005
- IPTI Diploma in Classical On-Site Massage  
Monthly Tuesdays from September 2005

Telephone: 01273 241061  
[www.collegeofclassicalmassage.com](http://www.collegeofclassicalmassage.com)

injuring your body. Once you are qualified, you can do further training with the No Hands® Massage Company and learn to give massage with zero

strain, without injuring your hands. You can find out more about them on [www.nohandsmassage.com](http://www.nohandsmassage.com)

Look for courses that run for several months at least. A good course will require a longer commitment to training, will cover all systems of the body in anatomy and physiology and look at professionalism,

business and how to set up in practice when qualified. You will be required to provide proof of about 200 hours of practise before you can qualify.

What should I look for in my training? Before you enrol on a course, talk to the tutor and discuss your needs. Check their experience and how long they have been trained for. Do they also have a private practice? The best way to find out about practitioners and courses is to book a treatment. If you like what you receive, find out about where that practitioner trained and whether they continue with Professional Development. Ask them how often they receive massage too and who massages them!

To what professional bodies are they affiliated? Some of the most common are IPTI, BCMA, ITEC, and FHT. You can find links to these websites on [www.collegeofclassicalmassage.com](http://www.collegeofclassicalmassage.com).

## SHAKTI STORES

**YOUR LOCAL PREMIER RETAILER**  
102 Ditchling Road

**Open 7am – 10pm daily**

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STORE and NEW\$AGENT**

Fresh organic bread and  
milk daily  
Frozen food  
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range

**OFF LICENCE – great selection  
of good quality wines**

**Established December 1983**

### Vivien Powell Bodywork

07801 784240  
[info@vivienpowell.com](mailto:info@vivienpowell.com)



Try a £10 massage taster session.

**The power of touch can  
transform our lives.**

## YOGA

**FOR OLDER PEOPLE**  
*It is never too late to start.*

**Mondays 4.30 - 5.45 pm**  
(excluding Bank Holidays)

£5 drop in - no booking required

**Unit 4, Yoga and Natural Health  
Centre, 20-26 Round Hill Street**

*Everyone can benefit from yoga, regardless of age or flexibility. This class will be a fairly small one with a relaxed, calm and friendly approach to yoga. The aim is to release tension, to increase awareness when breathing, to gain freedom of movement and above all, to enjoy doing yoga.*

It will be suitable for beginners or for those who have some experience.

**If you would like more information,  
please contact Ann Thomson  
01273 301128**