



THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

RHS Newsletter Editor
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Website: www.roundhill.org.uk



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Exterior House Painting



Spring is coming and it's time to think about redecoration. Ask me for a quote.
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20 Prince's Road
3 d'Aubigny Road

Rob Stephenson - 673511

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Please phone to book an initial appointment on 01273 720603

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.

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE DUE OUT AT THE END OF MAY

Please send your articles, letters, pictures, adverts, poems, anecdotes etc, to the editor at the above address by **SUNDAY 14TH MAY** preferably by email.

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
Jack Gibson-J G Construction Tel: 07813 241287

DECORATORS

Preston Decorators (Prince's Road), Tel: 07976 893087
Rob Stephenson 51 Upper Lewes Road, Tel: 673511
Peter Skinner Tel: 558790/889964

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

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
Bruce Jonas Tree Surgeon Tel.: 693247

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



ROUND HILL REPORTER

Issue 23
March 2006

CARELET 0 : ROUND HILL 2

The second application by Carelet to build a large block of flats was unanimously rejected by the Planning Committee on 1 February.

Our thanks go to Christine Zaniewicka, who used the three minutes allotted to her to deliver a cogent and powerful speech, laying out our arguments against this proposed development. On this occasion, neither the developers nor the architect spoke in favour of their project. Cllr Keith Taylor urged the Committee to

agree that there should never be anything built on this land, but this was not carried.

Thanks to all of you who wrote letters of objection back in the summer. We would also like to thank everyone who wrote again to individuals on the Planning Committee just recently - we hand-delivered over 70 letters!

We are sure that your support makes all the difference. Round two won: we're ready for round three.

Marigold Rogers

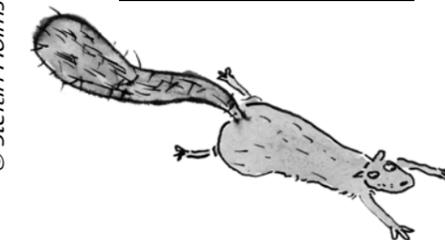
FURTHER THREATS TO OUR GREEN SPACES

A new housing development threatens the heart of Round Hill conservation area. The plan is to build houses half way down the Cat Creep, the flight of steps linking Round Hill Crescent and Richmond Road, and in the middle of the green ribbon that can be seen from the other side of the City from the Race Hill and Elm Grove. This is perhaps the most sensitive spot in the whole of Round Hill. It gets a special mention in the City Council's official statement about our local conservation area [see page 5]. If housing goes ahead here, it will be almost impossible for planners to stop development anywhere else in Round Hill. The pressure to open up other back gardens and undeveloped land will become

irresistible. The very special character of this very special area will be destroyed. To find out more, or to offer help in fighting this development, email Catscreep@hotmail.co.uk

Another planned development already has its application submitted for houses on land to the rear of 56-58 Round Hill Crescent. If you look on our website (www.roundhill.org.uk) you can download a specimen letter. Or you can send your comments direct to the council quoting Planning Application No BH2005/06680.

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Guess what Jan's wildlife article's about this issue? Thanks to Stefan Holmstrom for his illustrations.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? PARTY PLANNERS PLEASE!

Following on the success of last year's Open Gardens event, another one is planned for this summer and will be held on Sunday 4 June. This is timed to coincide with BBC Springwatch and Brighton & Hove Council's Springwatch activities. Last year, 13 gardens took part and no doubt many will show again, but it would be great to have new ones: big or small, formal or wild. Don't be shy - if you would like to be involved in this event, please contact Terry Tidman on 699182.

We're already thinking about next year and realise that it will be three years since our last street party. They do seem very popular, but require a huge amount of planning and work. Without sufficient volunteers, it would be impossible, so if you really would like a street party in summer 2007 and are willing to help (co-ordinator also required), please contact Rob Stephenson on 673511.

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THE OPEN MARKET

The history of Brighton's Open Market can be traced back to the 1890s when 'barrow boys' used to pitch in Bond Street and Gardner Street. The police and Brighton Borough Council became tired of the nuisance caused to shopkeepers and eventually made Upper Gardner Street available on Saturday mornings for both barrows and market stalls.

From the 1920s, a bowler-hatted gentlemen called Harry Cowley, born in 1890 and a chimney sweep by trade, kept order among the stallholders. He was helped by vigilantes, recruited from among Brighton's unemployed.

Two campaigns were mounted - the first to force the Council to give fixed pitches in Upper Gardner Street. The next was for sites for barrow boys in the part of Brighton now bounded by the London Road Shopping Centre and the Level.

Many of these barrow-boys were ex-servicemen who, in a period of high unemployment, were forced to compete for pitches in Oxford Street.

In the early 1920s, Brighton Council attempted to move the barrow boys from Oxford Street. They did not want to go. The result was the battle of Oxford Street, which sealed Harry Cowley's reputation as leader of the barrow-boys. He mounted a

rostrum, deliberately located in the middle of the London Road tramlines and addressed hundreds of supporters. Two tramloads of police officers used their truncheons in an attempt to disperse the crowd, but Harry remained on the rostrum for long enough to get his message across to the Council.



Until 1926, the barrow boys and stall-holders were permitted to trade in the central rose-walk of the Level. Afterwards, the Open Market moved to the cobbled frontages of the houses in Marshall's Row, allowing the vacated site to be developed in 1927 into a children's playground. Harry Cowley's name still circulates in the area. The 'Cowley Café' in London Road is named after him as is a Brighton & Hove bus.

The demolition of the houses on Marshall's Row in 1938 created more space for the market, but the traders had to wait until 7 January 1960 when the present permanent retail market with 42 stalls was opened by the Duke of Norfolk.

The existing traders have their own Association, chaired by Mary Mears, whose family has been selling fruit and veg for over half a century. The Open Market certainly caters for all needs, with stalls selling a wide variety of goods, from the usual fresh and organic produce to the exotic and extraordinary. Whatever you're looking for, it pays to check out the Market first.

We are lucky to have the Open Market so near to Round Hill. In a world of large organisations and ferocious competition for market share, small traders need our regular support.

Sources:

Who was Harry Cowley? [1984; revised edition: 2003 QueenSpark book 42]

SHOPS BOOK Brighton 1900-1930 by Neil Griffiths [QueenSpark Book 6: out of print]

www.OpenMarket.org.uk: Brighton's Open Market web site

Ted Power



ASKING FOR YOUR VIEWS

A huge 'thank you' to everybody who completed our questionnaire about nature conservation. We received well over 50 responses which helped us to make a powerful response to the City Council's consultation on the subject. The overwhelming view is that we need to make sure that there are sufficient green areas in Round Hill for the benefit of both wildlife and human residents. The full results are available on the website - www.roundhill.org.uk - but if you do not have internet access and would like to see the details, please contact Dave Guest (details on back). We know there are many other issues of concern for residents and have included a more general questionnaire in this issue of the Round Hill Reporter. Please let us know your views on local issues.



POSTBOX

Dear Editor

Residents of Round Hill are about to be asked their views about controlled parking zone status. We have been told that we should be concerned because the streets on the other side of the Upper Lewes Road are seeking controlled parking zone status, as are the people on the west side of Ditchling Road. If they all get it then we will get the cars no longer permitted to park in their areas. I have tried to find out who wants a CPZ in the streets on the other side of the Upper Lewes Road. A survey was distributed to all 900+ households there late last year. Sixty-five survey forms were returned and just 13 of them identified residents' parking as a good way to improve the area. This seems a poor basis for bringing in CPZ. May I urge everyone to find out what CPZ is, what it means and what it really offers. Participate or have a minority interest thrust upon you.

Rob Stephenson

(not a car owner, but concerned about transparent democracy) (by email)

Babysitting

Reliable, responsible and friendly Dorothy Stringer student offers babysitting. References available

Telephone
Alizee Le Duc 571519

RHS AFFILIATED GROUPS

The Round Hill Society is affiliated to the following groups in Brighton and Hove:

- Community and Voluntary Sector Forum.
- South Downs National Park Campaign.
- Conservation Area Advisory group (CAAG).
- Living Streets.



To the Editor and staff
Good morning to you all!!

What a delightful surprise when I was browsing the Internet looking for ROBINS. My husband has just gone off to buy mealy worms, and I was wondering about the diet of robins in the wintertime. I keyed just that into the search engine, and lo and behold, up came the most interesting information about Round Hill and its residents. Wonderful! There was a very interesting and informative piece on robins too... and mealy worms! Many thanks to your Jan Curry. Just what I wanted! The rest was a very pleasant extra.

I'm sure your residents must be a happy crowd - such a brilliant and informative website and plenty going on. I have to confess I had no idea of where it was, but I now know and will certainly keep having a look at what's going on in Round Hill.

I live in the North of England, in Burnley. Although coming originally from Morecambe we have lived here many years. This too is a wonderful area and full of history. We are very close to the Ribble Valley and Pendle Hill with its beautiful scenery - unimaginable delights of a town previously known for dark satanic mills and drabness.

Kind regards and once again, thank you!

Sally Seedall
(by email)

Please send your letters to the Editor at the address on the back page.

Dear fellow residents

I wonder if tree planting in the Round Hill area is a good idea? I know of quite a few people who have been badly affected by house subsidence caused by nearby trees taking all the water from the surrounding earth, and this is happening more often because of low rainfall levels. As most of our houses are perched precariously on the sides of a hill it may be worth asking an expert to comment before going ahead! I also wonder if expecting trees to live while their roots are mostly covered in tarmac and paving stone is fair? I urge a thorough consultation on these issues with experts and residents before any trees are planted in the streets.

Marie Sansford

Round Hill Crescent

I am reliably informed that subsidence related to trees is a phenomenon of clay soils and should not be a problem on our chalky soils. Everyone's comments are invited on the questionnaire enclosed with this issue. [Ed]

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.

WRVS

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DUMPING OUR WASTE - WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

In spite of bitterly cold weather, February's Public Meeting at the Downs Infant School, organised by the Dump The Dump campaign, was very well attended. In the audience were David Lepper MP, Councillors Jeane Lepper (Labour), Pat Hawkes (Labour) Keith Taylor (Green) and Richard Mallender (Green), and all voiced support for the campaign against Onyx's plans for Hollingdean Depot.

One of the main reasons for calling the meeting was to publicize the need for local residents to submit fresh letters of comment when Onyx's new proposal for Hollingdean Depot is registered. The consultation period will only be 21 days and previous letters of objection (nearly 4000 of them!) will not count.

Opening the meeting, Gus Garside lamented the lack of any vision for sustainable waste management in Onyx's proposal, which fails to address major recycling and packaging issues.

The second speaker, Edward Start, illustrated the dangers from heavy traffic. He showed a scale model of the narrow railway bridge in Hollingdean Road with a 44-ton vehicle attempting to manoeuvre under it. One of these lorries would pass under the bridge every 11 minutes, with 'normal' sized waste trucks passing through every 4 minutes, every day. A Traffic Consultant, hired by the campaign, was amazed at what drivers of Onyx's heavy vehicles would have to do in order to negotiate roads clearly not constructed for this level of use.

Speeches from the floor included an interesting contribution from the co-ordinator of a Research Team of retired scientists and engineers. He proposed a green alternative to incineration, claiming that under Onyx's plan a lot of Council Tax Payers' money would be "going up in smoke". He maintained that it would be better to invest in a modern recycling plant, in line with best practice in



Model showing 44-ton truck negotiating railway bridge

Scandinavia and Germany. Rather than give the whole of the city's rubbish to Hollingdean Depot, where much of it would be bound for the Newhaven incinerator, adding to congestion and pollution, smaller sites on the outskirts of the city were the preferred solution. Bio-reactors could be used to convert part of the waste to bio diesel (enough to run all the buses in Brighton) and producer-gas (for district heating). It is astonishing that Onyx have not taken up the free offer, from the European Union, of electric vehicles powered by fuel-cells AND SAVE THEMSELVES £20 MILLION.

Dump The Dump has started a 'blog' at <http://www.dumpthedump.blogspot.com> allowing residents to post contributions on the issues raised in their campaign.

The Round Hill Society welcomes the lead that the University of Sussex has

taken through its 'Energy Week', including the 'Incinerator Debate' on 20 February between the Manager of Onyx's incineration project and the Chairman of DOVE (the main objecting group).

Useful links:

<http://www.foe.co.uk>
Friends of the Earth site with reports on anaerobic digestion and recycling.

<http://www.freecycle.org>
A site where you can exchange unwanted items.

Give yours away and get something you want for free. This is a worldwide scheme with a very active group in Brighton.

There's a link to more in-depth articles on www.roundhill.org.uk.

Ted Power

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Philippa Segger psegger@hotmail.com
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JAN'S WILDLIFE GARDEN BRIGHT EYED AND BUSHY TAILED

I first noticed a couple of squirrels in the garden, last year. Grey squirrels were scampering round Sylvan Hall when my children were young, well over thirty years ago. So it has taken them quite a while to discover the Cat Creep and explore the inviting green corridor that enhances the view at the back of Richmond Road.

Grey squirrels are deemed to be pests and yes they are inclined to dig up bulbs, raid bird tables and have been known to chew through bird boxes in an effort to eat eggs or baby birds.

They were introduced illegally to this country from the U.S.A. in the nineteenth century and put our already ailing native red squirrels to flight. An adult grey squirrel will claim an acre as their own and keep other adult squirrels from invading their space.

So now we are stuck with them, so the simplest thing to do is to learn to live with these bright eyed, bushy

© Stefan Holmstrom



Oy mate, have you got a 20p piece?

tailed creatures.

Covering bulbs with dead, spiky holly leaves keep bulbs safe (ish). Providing woodcrete nest boxes or protecting the entrance hole with a purpose made metal plate keep the birds safe. (Squirrels are not meat eaters, unless they are desperately hungry.)

To keep them away from the bird table, I've purchased (I can't believe I am admitting to this) - a squirrel feeder. This is a perspex box with a lid, filled with peanuts still in their husks.

Initially it takes squirrels eight minutes to learn how to lift the lid. Then they carefully nibble through the husks, daintily eat the nut and fastidiously wash their whiskers.

Then satisfied they scuttle up the tree trunk, fly through the air with ease, landing on the thinnest of branches, only to launch themselves again into space, using their tail as a parachute.

They are oblivious to cars screeching, helicopters buzzing, sirens wailing - all the usual city noises. Watching their antics, I'm oblivious too.

Lucky? I should say so.

COUNCIL WANTS OUR VIEWS ON OPEN SPACE

Brighton and Hove Council have put together a questionnaire on Open Spaces. If you haven't already done so, you can download it from the Round Hill website at www.roundhill.org.uk or phone the Council on 01273 292352 and they will send you one, so you can have your say about open spaces in our city.

You may have noticed that the Round Hill area doesn't have any public open spaces at all and, looking at the questionnaire, the Council seems to think that everyone should have access to one within a 10-minute walk. Neither The Level or Saunders Park are within 10 minutes for most of us, unless we're extremely fast walkers. However, the

questionnaire doesn't seem to address issues like private green spaces, which provide pleasure as vistas or which potentially may become much needed public spaces. The advice of the Council is to write letters to enclose with the questionnaire which will be directed to the appropriate department. One of the aims of the Open Spaces survey is to highlight areas with insufficient or no public open spaces - which will then be addressed within the B & H Open Space STRATEGY which will include action plans - by which time of course we may have lost all our potential and/or valued green spaces to unscrupulous developers! It's important we make use of this

opportunity, even though it seems unsatisfactory, so please make the effort and send back questionnaires with a letter if you feel it necessary. We need to let the Council know how much we value the small amount of green space we have.

FAIR TRADING

There's a Fair Trade Fair held at the Friends Centre in Ship Street every third Saturday of the month, selling a wide variety of fairly traded and organic food, clothes and household goods produced both locally and worldwide. For more information, contact Barbara on 01273 675778



OPEN HOUSES - THE INSIDE STORY

Many residents are familiar with visiting the Open Houses art and craft exhibitions during the Brighton Festival. They attract hundreds of people during the weekends in May, but few people realise the amount of work that goes into setting them up.

The process starts in the previous September when the house owner confirms which artists are going to exhibit, and just how much work they plan to have ready. So, if you want to exhibit in an Open House, get in touch early.

Most of Brighton's Open Houses are part of a trail; ours is 'Beyond the Level' which, this year, will be 15 houses between Lewes Road and London Road. The production of the Open Houses brochure, which

includes all the trails, starts before Christmas with layout planning, selection of photographs and submitting the text entries. Proofreading is in February, after which we hope that none of our artists drop out.

Then the panic starts. Which parts of the house need redecorating? Hanging new pictures each spring always leaves dozens of holes to be filled and painted. Will the garden recover from a year of no rain? We are showing sculpture by Rusty Curry as well as serving teas and coffees this year (weather permitting). Will the artists get their work finished on time? It is essential to keep in touch with them to check on progress. Fortunately ours are all local friends.

During April the Open House brochure is out, publicity starts, sending out invitations, distributing the brochure and checking that website details are correct.

As May approaches we start to set up the show. I work from home, so have to pack away all my jewellery tools the week before the show begins. The rooms that will become exhibition space have to be stripped of normal domestic items, and these have to be stored elsewhere in

the house, reducing further the space available for normal living during May. Hanging the paintings takes a few days, and many factors have to be taken into account – reflections from glazed pictures, possible clashes between the work of different artists, room to stand back from larger pictures and the possibility of getting close enough to smaller ones. It's like completing a large jigsaw puzzle.

In some ways the jewellery is easier – each exhibitor gets their own case and arranges their work in it. This year I have six of my students exhibiting.

Every piece of art has to have a label typed, printed and fixed, and each artist has a short piece about them typed and displayed. Once all of this is done it's time for the big clean, put up the banner and the opening time notices, arrange the tables and chairs in the garden and wish for good weather.

Please don't let all this work, by hundreds of houses across the city, go to waste. Pick up a brochure in April, or check out our website – "<http://www.beyond-the-level.org.uk>" – and plan a few visits.

Jackie Jones
51 Upper Lewes Road

Learn to make silver jewellery

Small classes, all tools provided.

Jackie Jones
Jeweller

Phone 673511
for full details



COUNCIL VALUES ROUND HILL'S GREEN SPACES... IT'S OFFICIAL!

Brighton Council has adopted Character Statements for several of the city's Conservation Areas, including Round Hill. These Statements are important since they describe the features that make each of the Conservation Areas distinctive and special. Their purpose is also to 'provide a context for policies... which will guide future development in the area' (quoted from the Introduction).

The Round Hill Character Statement includes reference to the siting of the area: 'its hilly siting with long terraces of houses framing distant views of the sea to the south and the downs to the east'. It values the views of the conservation area from other parts of Brighton, particularly from Bear Road to the east and the

Race Hill to the south east where 'the curves and contours of streets like Round Hill Crescent are especially attractive'. It also states that 'equally important to the shape of the Round Hill is the stepped terrace and building line along the north side of Princes Road'

The Character Statement also recognises that the green ribbons, though they may be largely invisible from local streets, are an important feature of the area and help to 'define the unaltered Victorian street plan of the Conservation area from a distance' and that, in the absence of any public open space within the Conservation area, these green backlands contribute in various important ways to our general well-being (and that of local wildlife).

This is all good news, and Lesley Johnson from the Council Conservation team is to be congratulated for producing a Character Statement which I believe accurately defines what is special and distinctive about our area; some of us may even recognise our own words! (those of us who responded in detail to the public consultation which took place a year or so ago).

The big question is: will the Council Planning Department give due weight to this Statement, as developers attempt to remove our green spaces one by one? We need to continue to campaign to safeguard these spaces - but at least this policy document should help in the struggle.

Pam Blackman

THE TRIANGLE COMMUNITY

Following a number of informal meetings, groups of residents in the streets between Upper Lewes Road, Lewes Road and the Level held a public meeting on 7 February. The 50 people there established The Triangle Community Group. Ten people formed a steering committee, with individuals taking responsibility for IT (website and e-mail distribution), PR, minutes of meetings, council liaison (handling graffiti, refuse and lighting issues) as well as others in a more general capacity. The group hopes to identify street reps, develop new links with local businesses and publish a newsletter as time goes on, all with the aim of "improving the quality of life for everyone living in the area".

The steering group plans to meet with as many of the other residents who have attended previous meeting to discuss bigger issues as they arise. They already have a website - www.triangle-community.org.uk and an e-mail address at togetherletsmakeithappen@googlemail.com. Interestingly they seem to have found a modest pot of Council money to fund a community development person (from the independent Trust for Developing Communities based in the city) to work with them for several hours a week over a year on community development issues. I will be interested to see what that really means, and whether it is a great benefit.

Everyone attending the meeting was asked to tick a number of issues on sheets displayed around the room. The top five items, in order of priority, were: street lighting, graffiti, noise, rubbish/recycling box issues and parking.

Rob Stephenson



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