



ROUND HILL REPORTER

ISSUE 27
March 2007

READING GROUP SUCCESS

The Round Hill Reading Group recently scooped one of three prizes in a national competition organised by Harper Collins Publishers. The group was asked to review their top 3 books of 2006.

Harper Collins emailed the news of the group's success. The judges said they were impressed by the group's selections, that the book list showed breadth and scope and was not just driven by prize winners or the latest films. They felt the group demonstrated that they clearly relish discussion and debate.

Each member won a Book Journal - a beautiful notebook which has space to record reading notes, as well as information on book prizes, major literary dates, a guide

to running a book group and recommended reads from ten well-known authors such as Annie Proulx, Amy Tan and J.G. Ballard.

The Round Hill Reading Group was set up 4 years ago. Its members are from all walks of life and meet once a month in each other's houses to talk about the selected books. They have some serious discussions but also have a laugh. They are currently down to 7 members and would welcome some new blood. If you live in the Round Hill area, love books and would like to join the reading group, please email Sue Hickey at shsujaho@aol.com

See p.7 For info on the selected books.

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And much more!

35 FLATS FOR ESSO SITE

Plans are in progress for the redevelopment of the former Esso Garage site in Hollingdean Road. The project team working on the proposals is:-

- Southern Primary Housing, who are the promoters of this proposal. Their details are: Southern Primary Housing Limited, Hole Farmhouse, Woodmancote, Henfield, Sussex, BN5 9SU Tel: 01273 493931
- Southern Housing Group, who will be providing the affordable housing on the site.
- DRP Architects, who are based in Upper Lewes Road.

Southern Housing Group is one of Brighton and Hove Council's preferred Housing Associations for the development of new affordable housing in the City. This team has produced several successful schemes

including the housing at the south end of Preston

Park and around the Bear Public House. Southern Housing Group currently own and manage over 500 properties in Brighton.

The current proposal will provide 35 flats for affordable rented housing, comprising 7 x 1-bed flats, 23 x 2-bed flats, 2 x 3-bed flats and 3 flats for wheelchair users.

As part of their commitment to local resident consultation, the team held a public "open evening" on 22nd February and the plans went to the Council's planning department soon after. They will be shown to the police for their input on the security aspects of the design to obtain the Secured by Design accreditation.

If you wish to see the plans, they will be on display in the usual way at the Council offices and you will be able to make your comments online at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk.

END OF AN ERA AS CO-OP CLOSES

In line with their national policy, the Co-operative department store in London Road has now closed. The supermarket will remain open and the Post Office will stay where it is for a year. The pharmacy is moving to Oxford Street, opposite the doctors' surgery, the lighting shop will be at 53 North Street, Mostyn's is relocating to Preston Circus, next to the greengrocer's and the Travel Shop will move to the front of the old Co-op Store.

The Co-op will be missed by many. Let's hope the London/Lewes Roads Regeneration Scheme provide a viable solution to this valuable retail space and the redundant staff find happy employment elsewhere.



SIX MORE YEARS TO SORT PARKING ISSUES?

Several months ago, Round Hill and neighbouring areas to the west and south were at the beginning of a consultation about whether or not we wanted some form of controlled parking in the area. Your committee decided to ask for your views, so that we'd be better able to represent you. We distributed over 900 questionnaires and had a limited response:

- 34 did not want controlled parking;
- 11 did want it;
- 6 were not sure.

In December the Council changed its mind, deciding that the need for controlled parking consultation was less important here than in other parts of town and we'll come back up the list in 2013. It seems that the majority got what they wanted, so it's good news then?

Perhaps not. The residents living between Viaduct Road and Ditchling Rise are desperately trying to get the Council's decision changed. They want controlled parking to stop commuters,

shoppers and local businesses from filling their streets with vehicles, making it nearly impossible for residents to park anywhere near their



homes during the day, and well into the evening.

This is already a problem in Round Hill Crescent, as well as the streets between Lewes Road and Upper Lewes Road (the Triangle).

If the Viaduct Rise residents, and possibly those in the Triangle, campaign for controlled parking consultation, and get it, we may suffer from displaced commuter and shopper parking. Are we happy to take this gamble?

Meanwhile the government is considering a paper from the Transport Committee which is urging Councils and government to work together to

ban pavement parking, parking on corners and double parking. There is reason to believe that the government will act on this. If pavement parking becomes illegal, there will be an immediate impact on parking in Round Hill – think of Wakefield, Belton and Ashdown Roads.

Our problem will not be from commuters' and shoppers' vehicles, but from our own. Would enough people give up their cars if they had to pay £80 a year for a permit?

In the city centre the Council has removed the local parking zones whereby a resident in, say Regency Square area had a permit for that area, and no-

one from outside could get one. This helped you to park close to home. Now that resident competes with hundreds of other residents for parking spaces from the Hove boundary to somewhere up St James' Street. If we enter into consultation, can we be sure to get local parking zones? Or will there be pressure to accept a more administratively convenient larger zone, perhaps from Preston Road to the gyratory?

We would like to have your views. Please commit them to paper and deliver it to a convenient committee member, see the addresses on the back of this issue, or send an email to info@roundhill.org.

Rob Stephenson

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NEIGHBOURS' WEBSITE

Our neighbours, the Triangle Group, who occupy the 'Scottish Streets' between Lewes and Upper Lewes Roads, now have a website: www.triangle-community.org.uk and are soon to launch a newsletter. We wish them luck with their new venture and hope we'll be able to work together to make our areas even better places to live.





NOTES FROM A WILDLIFE GARDEN

AAHHGGS AND OOOHHS

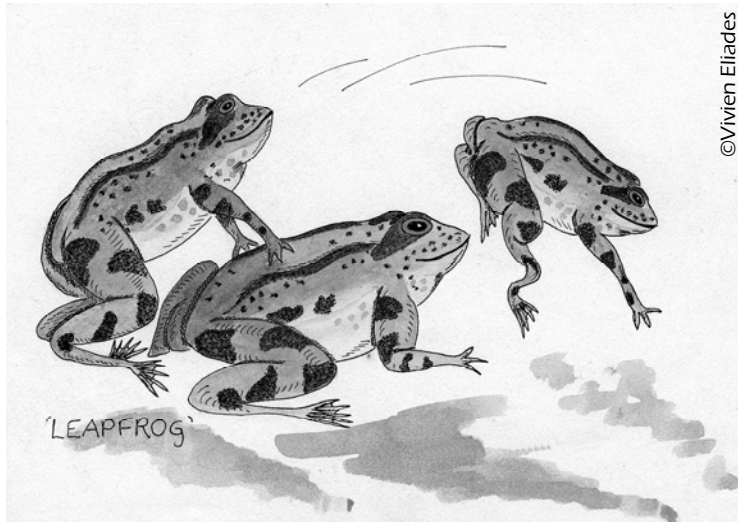
Walking with friends round the garden this time of the year, I usually get a lot of 'oohhs'

- robins, wrens, long tailed tits and a pretty rare sighting of a female blackcap; the tentative early notes of blackbirds soon to be in full song; emerging violets, celandines, snowdrops and primroses; a still sleepy bumble bee and the heady perfume of winter flowering honeysuckles and golden spires of mahonia all just cry out for appreciative 'oohhs.'

I'm a bit perverse though, I love the oohhs but can't wait to come across the aahhggs.

In fact I've already encountered two - on February 14th, St. Valentine's Day, the day when folklore says the birds choose their mates - I found frogs already in the ponds laying frog spawn and a number of warty, squat toads were lumbering across the grass towards their chosen breeding watery place. Frogs and toads return to the same pond every year - the pond they lived in as tadpoles - often hopping or crawling long distances to do so. In the wild, many ponds are disappearing, drying up or being concreted over, so garden ponds are becoming life savers to these amphibians. They will eat all your slugs and creepy crawlies (as long as you don't put slug pellets down, which will harm them in the same way as we can be harmed when bad things get into our own food chains). Soon, three more potential

'aahhggs' will be emerging - the newt, another strange looking creature that breeds in the pond but lives most of the year on land. They are usually quite



pipistrelle can eat around 3,000 insects in a single night. The Level and the Round Hill have more bats than anywhere else in central Brighton. Bats are clean creatures, they do not gnaw wiring, their droppings are disease free and no bat would deliberately become entangled in your hair, as they use their built-in sonar systems to guide them around objects. Come on now, all together oooohhhh not aaahhhggg !

©Vivien Eliades

Jan Curry

* Chris Packham's "Back Garden Nature Reserve" (one of the best wild life garden books I have read.)

languid creatures but in the Spring, they perform crazy acrobatics in the water. They look a bit scary, but not inebriated, so I don't know where the expression (I guess I'd better not repeat it here, as this is a refined magazine) comes from.

And then the dragon fly, a creature that evolved - wait for it - nearly three hundred million years ago. I read, ' they have a top speed of forty miles an hour, they can fly backwards and can hover waiting for their prey to emerge - they are more deadly than any tiger in the jungle.* 'Aahhgg !' They live in this garden, probably yours too.

Luckily, bats are definitely one of my oohhs but to many they are unfortunately an aahhgg. One

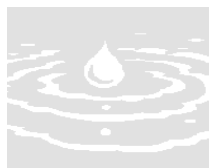


GINGKO, ANYONE?

A few years ago, I came across a leaf on the corner of Crescent Road and Prince's Crescent. It looked like the leaf of a gingko, or maidenhair, tree and I wondered if anyone in the area has such a tree in their garden?

Rob Stephenson

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SPRING CLEANING IN ROUND HILL: WAYS OF DISPOSING OF HOUSEHOLD CLUTTER

The expensive option is to arrange for a "bulky waste collection" through the Cityclean helpline on **01273 292929**. The Council's web page provides a table of charges for this service. For example, collection of a double bed mattress costs £17.20 while a washing machine costs £26.80 to take away. Benefactors who are tempted to use local streets to deposit 'unwanted gold' or items of lesser value, should think again. The hope of delighting a passing 'Dick Whittington' could also result in a fine of up to £20,000. See the Council's web page on "fly-tipping". Fortunately, there are ways for donors to RECYCLE unwanted items,

which do not cost and are generally deemed to be socially responsible.

If you have access to the Internet, one of the best ways is to join the Brighton Freecycle network at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/freecyclebrighton/>

Here you can advertise things you want to get rid of for Free. **Wanted messages** can be posted as well as **offers**. If you are without the Internet, other options remain:

MAGPIE (Saunders Park Depot, Saunders Park, Brighton BN2 4AY – Tel: 01273 677577 to arrange collections for furniture donations). Electrical goods, computers, clothes, books and records as well as

furniture are redistributed at Magpie's **Shabitat warehouse**, open to the public 9-5 Mon to Fri and 10-4 Sat.

HOVE YMCA has several charity shops in and around Brighton & Hove. Donations of clothes, bric-a-

brac, furniture and electrical goods are accepted. Phone their home collection service line on 01273 885505 between 9.30 am and 4.30 pm Monday - Saturday for more information. Alternatively take goods along to any of their shops.

Their London Road shop no longer exists, but their REVIVED ELECTRICAL SHOP at 66 Blatchington Road, Hove (Tel: 01273 776868) redistributes fridges, TVs, hi-fi, PCs, and freezers, etc.

FURNITURE NOW (based in Lewes – Tel: 01273 487377) and **EMMAUS** (based in Portslade – Tel: 01273 426470) will also accept donations.

EMMAUS accepts household appliances, electrical goods (not gas), bric-a-brac, clothes, books, tools, toys etc, as well as furniture.

BRIGHTON AND HOVE WOOD RECYCLING PROJECT (Unit 32-36 Municipal Market, Circus Street, Brighton BN2 9QF Tel: 01273 570500) guarantees to collect within 48 hours of notification, on most occasions arriving the next day.

The **Links Page** on the Round Hill Society's web site at www.Roundhill.org.uk provides further info on the organisations listed above with the addresses of their shops and external links to their web sites.

Ted Power

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77 Prince's Crescent (2003)

3 d'Aubigny Road (2004)

85 Round Hill Crescent (2006)

66 Richmond Road (2006)



Rob Stephenson - 673511



ROUND HILL MAN TO CYCLE THE ALPS FOR CHARITY

Oz Merlo of Crescent Road will cycle 600km off road through the Alps, climbing a total of 19,500 metres over eight days to raise funds for charity.

Oz and his friend, Chris Taylor from Hanover, will ride mountain bikes through Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy, competing against 550 teams of riders ranging from amateurs like themselves to international professionals. The Jeantex Bike Transalp challenge takes place 14-21 July 2007 and both men have already started a tough training schedule in readiness.

Oz and Chris came up with the idea after their mountain bike challenge to cover both North and South Downs last year was cut short by the death of Chris's father to Parkinson's disease. In January they decided to up the stakes and raise funds for

charity at the same time: Parkinson's Disease Society in memory of Chris's dad; and St Martlets Hospice in

Wayfield Avenue, Hove, chosen by Oz who lost his mother to cancer when he was a teenager.



Oz Merlo, right, with Chris Taylor, in training for the big event

"We're both really looking forward to mountain biking through the Alps, and the added motivation of riding for charity is a real boost," said Chris. "The most daunting bit is the fundraising. Trying to get sponsorship and donations is going to be the biggest challenge of all: we have a kit list as long as my arm and need everything from widgets to a camper van. Any and all donations will be very gratefully received and absolutely everything we get will go to charity as all kit and non-cash donations will be auctioned off after the event, smelly kit excepted!"

If you'd like to make a donation, please email valking@davefishlock.co.uk or osvaldo.b.merlo@aexp.com. You can ring Oz on **07800 794004/01273 713639**. You may also have some bright ideas for fund raising. Maybe if you take part in the Round Hill table sale in June (see below), you could donate all or part of your takings to this worthy cause.

PLANS FOR TABLE SALE

We thought we'd take a break from Open Gardens and instead to hold a Round Hill Table Sale sometime in summer. The idea is for participants to place a table either outside their house or in one particular street (without obstructing the pavement) with stuff they no longer want (nothing dodgy, naturally). Local residents can wander around the area and buy the items on sale. There will be a nominal (probably about a fiver) charge to cover licensing costs and insurance and if you want to donate all or part of your takings to the Round Hill Society for next year's Street Party or tree planting, or to Oz and Chris (see above), your

offerings will be most welcome. This is not obligatory - you can, of course, keep the dosh. If you'd like to take part, please phone Dave Guest on 699476. There'll be more details in the June issue, but start rummaging in your attics now! And no, we didn't get the idea from the Archers. A Street Party had been planned for this summer, but owing to unforeseen circumstances, it's had to be shelved for another year. Anyone who is keen to take on the organisation for 2008, please let one of the committee members know (see back page). The sooner we start organising, the better.

GUIDED WALKS

Guided history walks around our area have featured in recent years as part of the Brighton Festival Fringe events. In 2006 there was insufficient support to justify the expense in future of advertising in the Fringe Events brochure. However, if there is enough local interest, then it is proposed that walks could be undertaken on Saturday 5th and 26th May and again on Saturday 23rd June. At least 10 people are needed to warrant the tour guides undertaking the walk, so if you are interested, please phone Dave Guest on 699476 and let him know your name, phone number and preferred date. The price will be £3 per person, children under 16 accompanied by an adult, free. If there is enough interest, we will confirm the dates with you. Each walk starts at 3pm outside Avard estate agents in Ditchling Road and takes about 3 hours. Because the itinerary includes steep hills and steps, it is not suitable for prams or wheelchairs.



A BRONZE AGE BURIAL ON ROUND HILL?

I was fascinated by the letter from David Guest in the September 2006 issue of the Reporter, referring to the discovery of a possible Bronze Age burial beside Upper Lewes Road, and decided to see what more I could learn. The document inspiring David's letter, from East Sussex County Council written in 2002, contained references to a site visit by a member of the Ordnance Survey (OS) Archaeology Division in March 1972, articles in the Brighton Herald of October 1822 and of 7 July 1923, and an OS archaeological records map.

The easiest to follow up was the Brighton Herald 1923 issue held on microfilm in the Local History library at Brighton museum. Page 12 held a regular feature called 'Brighton 100 years ago', and it was there that an item from 1822 was reproduced at the suggestion of Mr H S Toms, the Curator of Brighton Museum. The item was a letter written by 'R.H.' of Middle Street, and related the discovery of five skeletons and some broken pottery on land owned by a Mr John Colbatch at a site on the south side of Round Hill. Workmen had been removing a mound formed of stones and loose earth, when they discovered the human remains about 30 inches below the surface. R.H. visited the site with Mr Colbatch and noted that the bodies were not interred into the solid chalk. The letter failed to give a specific site for the burial.

Why does it matter where the exact location was? Ultimately I guess it doesn't, but once hooked on the search, every nuance takes on meaning. The East Sussex document that started this trail gives an eight-figure grid reference for the site – that pinpoints it to a specific ten metre square. Where did this apparent accuracy come from? As far as I have been able to discover so far it is down to Herbert Toms. Having drawn the Herald's attention to the 100 year old item, he added the information to a map of record of archaeological finds, held by East Sussex County Council. The map is now held in Barbican House by the Sussex Archaeological Society and the printed OS sheet has been hand annotated by Toms. He

scribed a '2' on the bottom edge of the map just where Upper Lewes Road runs off the printed area, so that the upper part of the figure 2 is totally within the open land behind 20 to 23 Upper Lewes Road. Mr Toms also wrote a note on the margin of the map as follows:

2. Mound with 5 skeletons and pottery Oct 1822 see BH 12/10/1922 See also article in B'ton Herald July 7, 1923.

The second line I followed was the OS Archaeology Division visit of 1972. A call to the OS in Southampton revealed that they no longer have such a division, that the named inspector no longer appears in their internal phone book and that the full report is likely to be lodged at the National Archive at Kew Gardens. A letter to them may unearth the site report, which might provide more information.

The OS field investigator is quoted on the East Sussex document that started this search. He says, "The given siting falls within an old quarry now occupied by a coach park, behind a Georgian house at the roadside. The Brighton Herald issues referred to are now no longer available." His term 'the given siting' must refer to Toms' original figure 2 written on the archaeological records map. The eight-figure grid reference coincides with a point halfway up the vertical height of the 2 and on the actual drawn line of the figure two. This combination leads me to conclude that the field investigator gave an eight figure grid reference to Toms' site, picking the middle of the figure two arbitrarily. It occurred to me that a 1972 OS visit to a site originally recorded some 40 years earlier must have had a cause, and I thought that it might have been a significant planning application. Records from the seventies are held somewhere in Newhaven, but the Council did get them for me. I learnt of some very big plans including a 6-storey block of flats over a car maintenance and repair garage with petrol station forecourt - a plan submitted on behalf of National Benzole in 1965 - but there were no

applications in the 1970s – another dead end.

One remaining line of enquiry would be to find records of land ownership for 1822, and to see what parcels of land on the south side of Round Hill were held by a Mr John Colbatch. There is a J Colbatch of 4 Grand Parade in the Baxters directory of 1822, listed under 'nobility, gentry and others not in trade'. Googling Colbatch and Brighton led me to the Round Hill Society's website and an article by Chris Tullett. The Colbatch family owned the Sylvan Hall Estate, land at the western end of Upper Lewes Road. This is more fully documented in a Brighton Books publication, 'Rose Hill to Roundhill', written by the Round Hill Society local history group and published in 2004. The Colbatch name is mentioned on pages 17 and 19. The nearest part of Sylvan Hall Estate is sixty metres from Herbert Toms' figure 2.

Several years ago the newly formed Round Hill Society bid for, and acquired, a substantial collection of land ownership and transfer documents relating to land between Upper Lewes Road and Wakefield Road. In part, they relate to the land which would become 20, 21, 22 and 23 Upper Lewes Road, and the earliest indenture for this plot, dated 8th August 1826, was between Thomas Read Kemp and William Acton, George Faithfull and Henry Faithfull. There is no earlier transfer listed in the schedules, and no mention of the Colbatch family.

The original newspaper piece appeared because Mr Colbatch had some men working on his land in 1822. An 1830 map of Round Hill, on page 8 of the 'Rose Hill to Roundhill' book, shows no building at all along Upper Lewes Road, but there is a large detached dwelling just east of Ditchling Road and barely south of the present Bromley Road, right on the ridgeline of Round hill and on land belonging to the Colbatch family, at about 130 feet elevation. Perhaps it was during initial clearing and groundwork for this dwelling – Rosehill Villa - that the mound was removed and the skeletons discovered?

Rob Stephenson





PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR POOOOOOCH

©Stefan Holmstrom



We're faced again with the perennial problem of dog mess littering our streets. The owners of these dogs are too lazy to take them somewhere green for a 'walk' and can't be bothered to pick up their dogs' mess and take it home with them. They give good dog owners a bad name. All our streets have become dogs' toilets. I've even found neatly tied bags of turds left in the gutter. This is not the middle ages. We don't throw the contents of our toilets into the street - if we did, there'd be an outcry - so why should we tolerate dog mess? If you know who's responsible, report them to the Council's Animal Welfare Officer, Tel 292483 . It's an offence, that means anyone allowing their dog to foul the footway OR THE ROAD/GUTTER is committing a crime and fines can be considerable. Have some respect for your fellow residents. PICK IT UP AND TAKE IT HOME.

Editor

ANYONE RECOGNISE THIS?

A lady called Sarah who lives at the Cope in Prince's Road sent this photo (below) to the Reporter. She found it last year whilst walking along Prince's Road and asked if we could publish it to see if anyone recognises it. Who's this person doing a headstand on the lawn, and who are the people looking on? There may be an interesting story here. If you've lost the photo, or have more details about it, please contact the Editor - details on the back page.



BOOK CLUB'S WINNING CHOICES [FROM PAGE 1]

Austerlitz by W.G.Seбалd

'The protagonist has lost touch with his roots and does not know his name. Only in retirement is he able to tackle the voyage of discovery he has been avoiding all his life...'

Snow by Orhan Pamuk

'In the midst of media arguments about Muslim women wearing veils and about global terrorism, we tackled this book. The group was deeply divided between some who were gripped and others depressed by it...'

We Need To Talk About Kevin by Lionel Shriver

'Not everybody in our group is a mother, but the book provoked strong feelings about parenting and the mother-child relationship. The proposition that mothers can dislike their own children is central to the book and aroused different responses from our group...'

Sue Hickey



THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

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Secretary	David Guest	16a Wakefield Road	699476
Vice chair	Marian Gerrett	77 Princes Crescent	688009
Minutes Secretary	Jean Brennan	87 Round Hill Crescent	693100
Newsletter Editor	Vivien Eliades	66 Richmond Road	276386
Webmaster	David Guest	16a Wakefield Road	699476
Member without Portfolio	Kevin Tansley	11 Wakefield Road	672648
Member without Portfolio	Terry Tidman	56 Richmond Road	699182
Member without Portfolio	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	601320
Member without Portfolio	Ted Power	55 Prince's Road	688102

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE 2007 ISSUE

Please send your articles, letters, photos, adverts, poems, anecdotes etc. to the editor at the above address by
MONDAY 14TH MAY 2007
preferably by email.

PATCH DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There are plans to hold three community events this year in William Clarke Park (The Patch):

- **Saturday 21 April, 1pm - 5pm**
Spring in the Patch
- **Saturday 14 July, 2pm - 8pm**
PatchFest
- **Sunday 9 December, 2.30pm - 6.00pm**
Patch Winter Warmer

The Patch is situated just across the other side of Lewes Road. There are gates into the park a few yards up Hartington Road (opposite St Martins School) and up Franklin Road, fourth left and to the end of Picton Street. Parents and children especially welcome. See the website www.williamclarkepark.org for more information, or contact duncanblinkhorn@yahoo.co.uk.

ILLEGAL PARKING ACTION LINE

If you see cars parked illegally, eg on double yellow lines, in the road closure, causing an obstruction etc, you can ring 0870 6000 649. You will be put through to an answering service, but if you leave details of car and location, someone will be contacted shortly and sent out to take some action. The car would need to be *in situ* at the time of your call.

REGISTER OF TRADESPEOPLE

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

WINDOW CLEANERS

Col Scarratt T: 243366, M: 0775 9699514

E: col.scarratt@ntlworld.com

Bishop Window Cleaning T: 07939 161904

BUILDERS

Jack Gibson—J G Construction T: 07813 241287

Chris Nesbitt Plastering, bricklaying. T: 07867 864619

DECORATORS

Preston Decorators (Prince's Road), T: 07976 893087

Rob Stephenson 51 Upper Lewes Road, T: 673511

Peter Skinner T: 558790/889964

PLUMBERS

Tim Packwood 88 Waldegrave Road, T: 0770 325 3740

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

C R Laker 76 Rugby Rd, T: 501006, F: 507745

Tom Plumb T: 07973 551841

Lynette Ward CORGI registered M: 07910 763689

T: 302574 E: lynette.l.ward@ntlworld.com

CARPENTERS

SAB Carpentry 27 Prince's Rd. T: 702632

M: 07963 8415630

GARDENERS

Sadie at Plant People T: 562425, M: 07881 992762

Bruce Jonas Tree Surgeon T: 693247

CYCLE REPAIRERS

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Please send your recommendations (or warnings!) including your own details for verification, to the editor 66 Richmond Road, news@roundhill.org.uk

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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maslen
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