



ROUND HILL REPORTER

Issue 30
December 2007

ROUND HILL PREPARES FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

It's time to don your furry hat and stout boots, stock up on throat lozenges and dig out your lanterns, as it's that time of year again.

Thursday 20 December is the date for our annual seasonal singing event. Most of you will by now be familiar with the routine (and the carols!) and we try to vary the route slightly each year, so no one feels left out. We walk around the streets, stopping at lamp-posts to sing seasonal songs, whilst Santa and his helpers collect for a charity.

Everyone's welcome, old and young alike, whether you think you can sing or not, and musicians are always welcome to accompany the singers and swell the sound.

This year, we'll meet at **6.30pm** on the corner of d'Aubigny and Richmond Roads and sing in Richmond Road, Crescent Road, Prince's Road, Round Hill Road/Street, Belton Road and Prince's Crescent, finishing outside 77 Prince's Crescent for mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies. It's always a great evening and this year we're collecting for The Alzheimer's Society and the Sussex Wildlife Trust.

© Stefan Holmstrom



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And more!

If your house is not on the list of streets and you're unable to take part, please contact one of the committee members to make a donation.

Santa needs some helpers, so if you or your children can help on the day, or if you need more information, please ring Vivien on 276386.

Vivien Eliades



THE FIRST ROUND HILL TABLE SALE



And they did roll up for the first ever Round Hill Table Sale held on a warm, sunny afternoon in September.



The trickle of shoppers turned into a steady flow as the afternoon wore on, many seeking refreshment at the Victoria Pub who laid on barbecue

food to supplement a refreshing beer.

There were plenty of bargains to be found. Good books were selling for as little as 20 pence. Had anybody wished to buy a suitcase-full, there were suitcases for sale too and even a Singer sewing machine in good order for just £5.

Richmond Road residents set up pitches adjacent to their own homes and there was a second short line of stalls in Mayo Road, some selling

delicious and eye-catching home made cakes and biscuits. Other stalls featured a wide range of household items and gifts and a large selection of videos.

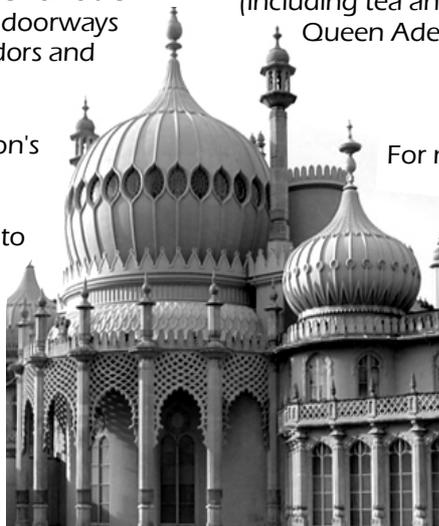
The Round Hill Society would like to thank the sellers, some of whom contributed their takings to charity, and others who were willing to have a clear-out and put up tables in support of what turned out to be an enjoyable community event.

Ted Power and David Guest



HIDDEN SECRETS OF THE ROYAL PAVILION

Local residents can now explore the Royal Pavilion, Brighton's showpiece palace, in ways not normally seen by the general public. The Pavilion is renowned for the richness of its decorated state rooms, but there is also another side to this remarkable building. Concealed doorways lead to hidden corridors and rooms once used by servants, now the domain of the Pavilion's guides and maintenance staff. Secret staircases rise to spaces unseen by most visitors, including the 'bottle' room within the main onion dome itself.



Then there are the underground tunnels which criss-cross under the regency gardens and the evocative wall markings left by hundreds of hands over the years.

Tours are available for groups of 10-20 people and cost £16 per person (including tea and biscuits in the Queen Adelaide tea room).

David Guest

For more information or to arrange a visit:

Web
www.royalpavilion.org.uk

Email
visitor.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Telephone
292820

Special Winter rates for residents

For a more conventional view of the Pavilion, don't forget that special rates are available for Brighton and Hove residents over the winter.

Before the end of February, residents producing a Council Tax or utility bill can obtain entry at £3.70 per adult with up to two children free (extra children £2.20).





CYCLE REPAIRS ON WHEELS

What's the best way to get your bike fixed and stay 'green' into the bargain?

Get in touch with Bruce Jonas and 'Getafix Mobile Cycle Repairs'. Bruce has ditched his motor and now cycles to repair jobs or you bring them to him.

A dedicated cyclist and environmentalist who believes the way forward is 'think local, act local', Bruce also works for Brighton and Sussex-based training organisation Bike for Life since 2000 and teaches road safety and DIY cycle mechanics.

"I come out to your home or workplace and carry out a professional repair service while you rest assured you create a zero carbon footprint as I always travel by bike!

To contact Getafix Cycles

Web

www.getafixcycles.org.uk

Email

getafixcycles@yahoo.co.uk

Telephone

693247 or 07928116037



You relax knowing you're paying less than the cycle shops since my overheads are far lower!

Bish bash bosh - and the plaudits are rolling (sorry wheeling) in. Jamie Greenwood spotted Bruce's flyer in his local Hove health food shop and gave him a call. "Bruce got back to me quickly and was friendly and flexible in arranging a time to

visit. The service took a trouble-free hour-and-a-quarter including a new tyre and brake cable that he brought with him. The charge was very reasonable and I was able to get on with things at

home without having to head down to my local bikeshop."

It's all about encouraging people to make the transition to a cleaner greener future, according to Bruce.

Spot him out and about on call, training other cyclists or at local cycle events such as the monthly Critical Mass community ride (6pm last friday of month at the Level)!

Jan Goodey writes for Brighton's 'Rocks' and the 'Big Issue' and lectures in journalism at City College.

LOCAL TRANSPORT: AN UPDATE

At a meeting of the Triangle group on 1st November, Councillor Keith Taylor informed residents that the area had not been moved up the Council's list of priorities for consideration of controlled parking schemes.

It is now unlikely that the possibility of controlled parking for Round Hill will be considered for some years.

Surveys performed by the Round Hill Society suggest that opinion of residents is divided but in the "Scottish Streets" bordering Lewes Road, there is more concerted call for parking restrictions .

One development that will be of interest to many in Round Hill is news that the Council are considering the installation of

staggered parking bays on Upper Lewes Road, as a means of increasing the number of parking spaces available and reducing the average speed of traffic.

The Triangle Community Group covers the area between Lewes Road and Upper Lewes Road as far as the Level.

David Guest



THE REAL BAT AND BALL

THE casual onlooker when passing The Bat & Ball pub, situated close by The Level in Brighton, could be forgiven for assuming the pub's name derives from the game of cricket. However, a close inspection of its inn sign reveals a different game being played, that of bat and trap (however, around the corner in Oxford Street, a second and more recent sign does acknowledge cricket!)

The sign commemorates the fact that The Level was, for many years, a popular venue for bat and trap, with many Brighton pubs fielding teams to take part in the regular weekly matches. Sadly, the second world war virtually brought an end to the playing of the sport. Post-war, interest in bat and trap in Sussex was never regenerated (however, Brighton Trades and Labour Club still fields two teams to play the game on The Level every Good Friday, a tradition which began with the club's foundation in 1916).

Bat and Trap is possibly a more ancient game than cricket, for the first documented mention of it is a reference to a match being played in 1570 at Ye Old Beverlie Inn, in Canterbury, while the first documented mention of cricket was some years later in 1598. Incidentally, while the game in

Brighton and the rest of Sussex never recovered from the wartime cessation, bat and trap remains very popular in Kent, where it is believed to have originated, and where today scores of pub teams play each weekend, especially in the east of the county.

There are usually eight players to each bat and trap team. The trap is a rectangular box around 2ft long and 5ins wide. Within it is a miniature see-saw called the 'striker', which is spoon-shaped. A hard rubber ball is placed in the spoon bowl. The bat has changed in shape over time and is today rather like an over-sized table tennis bat, though it is made of hardwood and is more bulky. The batsman taps the other end of the striker with his bat, which causes the ball to fly upwards. The batsman then attempts to hit the ball while it is in the air, his aim being to send the ball straight down the pitch to pass between two 7ft high white posts at the opposite end of the pitch. These are 13ft 6ins apart.

The fielding side, which stands behind and between the white posts, can catch the ball in which case the batsman is out, or otherwise can stop the ball while it rolls along the ground. This entitles the fielding side to hurl, throw or trundle the ball at the



trap, which has an extension at the front comprising a 5-inch square wicket, or flap. The flap is usually painted white with a black bullseye. The batsman is not permitted to defend this target flap.

If the batsman fails to strike the ball or the ball fails to cross the line between the posts, or if the ball passes over the tops of the posts, the batsman is 'knocked out'. Should one of the fielders catch the ball before it hits the ground, the batsman is 'caught out'. If a bowler strikes the target so that it is knocked backwards and hits the ground, the batsman is 'bowled out'. If the bowler does not manage to knock down the target, the batsman scores one 'run' – although the batsman never actually runs! He then collects the ball, and the process starts all over again.

There are no absolute rules for batting and bowling, or even for the number of players in a team. This is a game where enjoyment is more important than regulations or kudos, so local rules tend to apply.

John Rackham

(Article originally published in CAMRA newsletter, and reproduced with permission of the author.)

Exterior House Painting

Now pricing and taking bookings for 2008.

Some local jobs:

3 d'Aubigny Road (2004)

85 Round Hill Crescent (2006)

66 Richmond Road (2006)



Rob Stephenson
673511



NOTES FROM A WILDLIFE GARDEN

I read somewhere that over the past two weeks, people have been settling down in front of their televisions to watch one particular programme more than any other. Each episode contained scenes of violence, raw sex and the struggle to survive against all odds: "Autumn Watch". Personally, I find Bill Oddie a bit oddie but he does know his stuff and anyway it's the camera men and women behind the scenes who really deserve our admiration for their patience and determination to bring us close up to Nature in all its agony and glory.

Rusty bought me a new camera, one with a long lens, last Spring. I now have a collection of photographs showing: a bent leaf - a resting butterfly fluttered away before I could snap it; an area of grass - that should have been a hedgehog with a plum stuck on his prickles - too late (hedgehogs can move fast); a stalk - the dragonfly flew off at the wrong moment, and a tail - the fledgling blackbird that had teetered on the side of its nest for a whole morning (just outside our back door) chose to launch himself off, just as I blinked. I really do admire those camera men!

Blackbirds are my favourite birds and there are more of them in the garden than ever. In Spring they fill the air with their liquid songs, usually sung high up in a



tree. They need dense shrubs or holes in sheds to hide their nests, as they don't like nest boxes; this makes them very vulnerable to marauding squirrels. On plunging from their nests, baby blackbirds live particularly dangerously as they have to skulk in the bushes for a couple of days whilst their feathers finish growing and they find the strength to fly. Their parents still feed them during this time. Then comes the moulting season; the garden is uncannily quiet through July as no adult bird wants to draw attention to themselves at this time, as they can't fly very well during the period of feather drop. Luckily, more and more of us are growing leafy shrubs and putting bells on our cats' collars, thus helping the birds survive.

Now at last, it is late Autumn; all the challenges have passed, adult birds are free of responsibilities - they haven't even got sex on their minds - days are golden, insects and berries are still abundant but soon, too soon, food will become scarce, days and nights will be cold, water frozen; only the strongest will survive. Our

gentle summer gardens are wild and brutal in the winter. We can help by offering them extra food and water and when the blackbird sings again in the Spring, it will surely have been worthwhile.

Jan Curry



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SHAKTI STORES

YOUR LOCAL PREMIER RETAILER
102 Ditchling Road

Open 7am – 10pm daily

YOUR LOCAL CONVENIENCE
STORE and NEWSAGENT

Fresh organic bread and
milk daily, large vegetarian
& organic range, frozen
food

OFF LICENCE – great
selection of good quality
wines

To gain a feeling of well being, restore balance and encourage the body's own healing power, indulge yourself with a holistic aromatherapy massage or reflexology treatment.

Contact Carol Hall Raworth Dip. CThA
Telephone answering machine
01273 687 636



ROUND HILL AGM 2007

A happy band of residents attended The Downs Infant School on the dark evening of 20 November for the Round Hill Society's Annual General Meeting. After the Chair's report and the ordinary business of the AGM, Rob Stephenson, in his last meeting as Chair, introduced PC Daniel Jewell of Sussex Police who spoke about Law and Order in Round Hill.

PC Jewell is the Neighbourhood Specialist constable for the Round Hill area (but not only Round Hill of course - his beat also includes the Level, Lewes Road, London Road, Seven Dials, as well as the area from the Clock Tower back to the main police station on John Street!). He quickly impressed us with his understanding and awareness of the types of lawlessness which most trouble Round Hill residents, explaining how, on Fridays and Saturdays in particular, police resources were drawn into other areas in the city where incidents of lawlessness were both more serious and more frequent. He acknowledged that this responsive style of policing had led to communities like Round Hill feeling that their needs were less important.

In an effort to address this gap, Sussex Police have established several points of contact and we are invited to participate in a "community-led" model of policing. This does not mean that Sussex Police want residents to act as vigilantes using strong-arm tactics to police ourselves, but it does mean being vigilant and reporting incidents of lawlessness, so that Sussex Police are fully informed about what is going on. Residents are encouraged to report any suspicious or disturbing incident using the non-emergency number (see contact details) as at the very least, it will provide valuable background evidence that enables

PCs to build a picture of criminal activity in the area.

Photographs of criminal activity taken by residents are also valuable to police officers investigating particular crimes and PC Jewell declared himself to be a believer in Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. Several attendees at the meeting expressed an interest in setting up a scheme in their part of the Round Hill area.

Other business

The accounts of the Round Hill Society were presented and approved and the following Committee members elected:

Chair

Jean Brennan

Secretary

Rob Stephenson

Treasurer

Marian Gerrett

Conservation Advisory Group Representative

Ted Power

Newsletter and website editor

David Guest

Members without portfolio

Paul Thompson

Vivien Eliades

Kevin Tansley

After several years on the Committee, both Terry Tidman and Jan Curry have decided to step down. We are sincerely grateful for their many contributions to the Round Hill community and hope to enjoy their participation in events and activities through the coming year, albeit in a different capacity.

We generally aim to have ten members of the committee and so are keen to recruit new members. Participation in the Committee is interesting and enjoyable. We meet monthly to discuss issues relating to the area and plan activities and communications such as the quarterly newsletter. We are particularly interested to hear from

any resident interested in focussing on Sustainability issues for Round Hill.

Ted Power and David Guest

Useful contacts

Neighbourhood police

To report a crime or behaviour that is not an emergency

Telephone

0845 60 70 999

Online

www.sussex.police.uk (click on "Contact Us")

To contact PC Jewell

Voicemail

0845 60 70 999 ext 17849

Email

www.sussex.police.uk (Click on "Contact Us" and then enter your post code under "Contact Your Local Officer". Click on PC Jewell's profile to send him an e-mail)

Illegal parking

The quickest way to report illegally parked cars is to call the NCP hotline on **0870 6000 649**. Messages are collected every ten minutes and the nearest wardens alerted.

Abandoned vehicles

If a vehicle has been left in a dangerous position or you suspect it may have been stolen, it should be reported to the police using the contact details given above. If it is more likely that the vehicle has been abandoned, for example, if the road tax has expired and the vehicle has been left for some time in poor condition, it should be reported to the council on **01273 292929** or e-mail abandoned.vehicles@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Graffiti

Any graffiti on public walls or buildings is removed by Cityclean and should be reported on **01273 292929** or e-mail cityclean@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Racist or offensive graffiti is removed by Cityclean urgently.

Graffiti should also be reported to the police using the contact details given above.



THE LIFE OF A NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Round Hill Reporter has had four changes of editor since its inception in early 2000. Anyone remember David Hodd, who used to live in Round Hill Crescent? He was our first editor and I remember he even went to the lengths of writing 'anonymous' letters to fill up the space!

Nowadays, it's hard to find room to fit everyone's offerings into a publication twice the size. Then when David moved away, Amanda Evans took it on for a while. Early in 2002 my partner, Barry Eliades, volunteered for the position. He made a brilliant job of transforming the Reporter from the old A5 format into the style we have now, but found he hadn't enough time to do it justice, so guess who stepped in to get it finished in time? And do the next one. And the one after that. Five years and 12 issues later, I've decided to hang up that particular hat and pass on the task to our very capable webmaster, David Guest who, until recently was our fantastic Secretary.

So, how's it been? Quite a steep learning curve from a design and layout point of view and in the early days it took me ages to arrange everything on the page. Getting people to write articles was initially my biggest headache, but then they started to arrive thick and fast and actual editing skills were the next thing to learn - cutting back on some people's ramblings has been quite a challenge!!

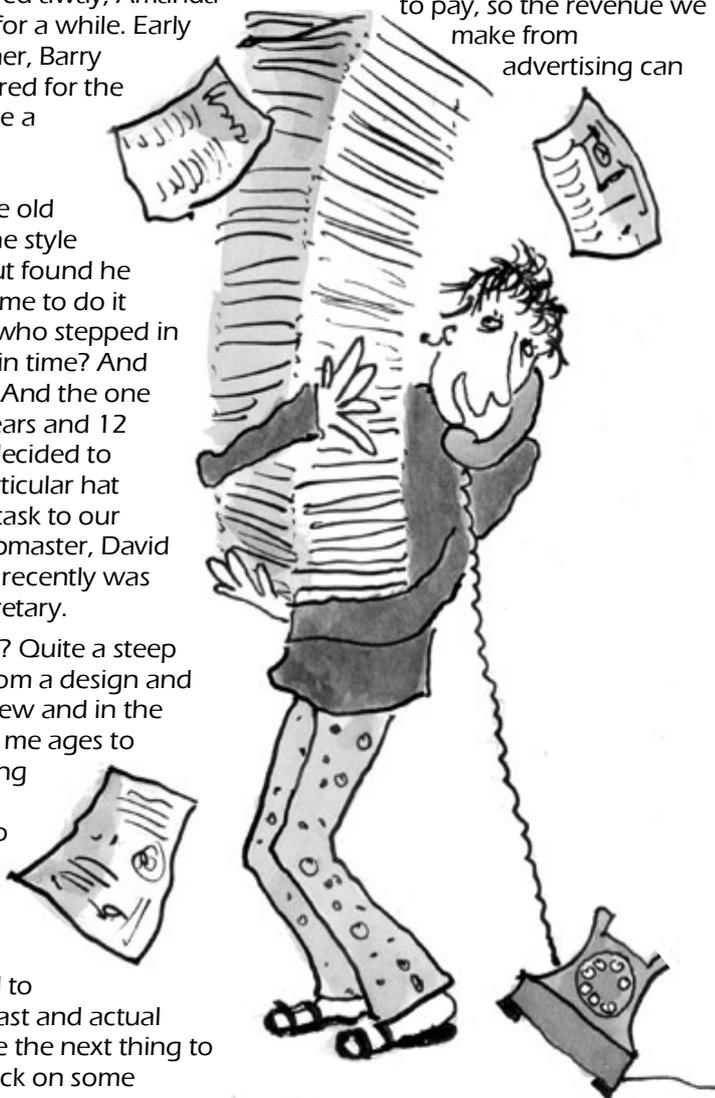
There was often a dearth of illustrations and I sometimes had to resort to Clipart or my own photos. Now we have the wonderful Stefan Holmstrom who pens such

humorous sketches for us.

When I first took on the job, we used to get the Reporter printed at the Resource Centre, which was quite a task, as we had to collate the pages before putting them into bundles for our stalwart delivery team.

Now we have it printed by Maslen's estate agents on their all-singing, all-dancing printing machine. The print quality's better, it's stapled as well as collated, and costs less than we used

to pay, so the revenue we make from advertising can



© Stefan Holmstrom

be ploughed back into our delightful community.

I'm a bit of a perfectionist and was always upset if I noticed a mistake or, on one occasion, got the day wrong for the first Open Gardens event. Overall I've tried to keep it varied with a bit of humour amongst the burning issues of the day. Our dear wildlife expert, Jan Curry, has helped enormously in that area. Her delightful tales of urban wildlife have been a joy and I hope she continues to contribute.

Well, good luck to Dave. I hope you all continue to enjoy your local newsletter. Do remember it is for everyone and if you have anything you'd like to contribute, advertise, get off your chest or share with the rest of us, email it to Dave. Details on the back page.

Vivien Eliades

ARE YOU A FREECYCLER?

The Brighton branch of Freecycle has over six thousand members and is a thriving alternative market place. The site is similar to online auction sites such as ebay but with one crucial difference—every item is free.

If you need a new printer or want to find a home for your old television, this site can work wonders:

www.freecycle.org





THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

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16a Wakefield Road
Brighton BN2 3FP

Phone: 01273 699476
Email: news@roundhill.org.uk
Website: www.roundhil.org.uk

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

Chair	Jean Brennan	87 Round Hill Crescent	
Secretary	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road	673511
Treasurer	Marian Gerrett	77 Princes Crescent	688009
Conservation Advisory	Ted Power	55 Prince's Road	688102
Newsletter and website	David Guest	16a Wakefield Road	699476
Member without Portfolio	Paul Thompson	29 Richmond Road	883004
Member without Portfolio	Vivien Eliades	66 Richmond Road	276386
Member without Portfolio	Kevin Tansley	11 Wakefield Road	672648

Deadline for March Issue:
WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

The Friends of William Clarke Park invite you to the
Winter Warmer on the "patch"
2.30 to 6pm on Sunday 9th December
Camp fires, lanterns, soup, mulled wine, music
www.williamclarkepark.org

SADIE TURNER PLANT PEOPLE GARDENING SERVICES

Sadie has been a gardener in the Sussex area for ten years, building up her business via client recommendations, including being a recommended tradesman in the Round Hill society news letter.



After completing an Advanced Garden Design & Hard landscaping course in the summer, she is developing her business and expanding her range of services to incorporate the following: Gardening Consultant, Garden designer & Project Manager.

Combining her passion for plants, the environment and practical gardening experience with a background of training in Three Dimensional Art & Design, she is able to generate an understanding of the client's aspirations for their garden.

Playing with colour, shape and texture in Nature's own medium, she blends the home and surrounding area together; creating a bespoke outside space, tailored specifically to the clients needs. Whether it is a safe space for play or a peaceful sanctuary space for relaxing, it remains engaging and sustainable for years to come.

If you would like any of the garden services mentioned or for further information please contact Sadie Turner on Tel: **07881 992762** or at Website: www.sadieturner.co.uk

TRADE SPOTLIGHT

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.

REGISTER OF TRADESPEOPLE

Tradespeople recommended by local residents.

WINDOW CLEANERS

Col Scarratt T: 243366, M: 07759 9699514
E: col.scarratt@ntlworld.com
Bishop Window Cleaning T: 07939 161904

BUILDERS

Chris Nesbitt Plastering, bricklaying. T: 07867 864619
Earthwise Construction green design, construction & renovation (Contact Ben East). T: 0845 680 0015
A Team Builders Ltd Plastering, damp proofing (Contact Giles Walker). T: 385478, M: 07725028393

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: lynette1.ward@ntlworld.com
Alex Jackson T: 683383

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 REPAIRS

Getafix Mobile Cycle Mechanic T: 693247,
M: 07928116037

CAR REPAIRS

Auto-bodycare Service Centre 25 Ditchling Rise,
T: 696030

Please send your recommendations (or warnings!) including your own details for verification, to the editor.

david
maslen
estate agents

This edition of the Round Hill Reporter was printed by