



ROUND HILL REPORTER

Issue 36
June 2009

TAKE TO THE STREET

D'Aubigny Road will be closed to all traffic early on Saturday 20th June and bunting, tables, chairs and astro-turf will transform the place ready for an afternoon of stalls, games, food, drink and music.

The Round Hill Picnic Party will begin at 2pm, and we have planned a series of events taking us through til 6pm, or perhaps longer if people are still keen. We hope everyone will come along for at least some of the time.

Table sale

Take part in our street market—run your own stall to sell whatever you fancy: cakes, games, bric-a-brac, books, chutneys or jams, pickles or plants. If you'd like to have a stall just contact Rob on 673511 or rob.stephenson51@googlemail.com to reserve a pitch.

Bring a Picnic.

There will be a BarBQue where you can buy vegetarian and meat foods, but you can also bring your own picnic and occupy a table or settle down on the (plastic) grass to eat and be entertained by our visiting magician, "Leonardo - Maestro of Magic".

Live Music

From about 3pm there will be live music from singer and guitarist Matt Mitchell, the Curst Sons, with their special country-bluegrass music (check it out at myspace.com/thecurstsons) and a stunning Samba band featuring up to thirty musicians.

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© Stefan Holmström

2 New Developments

Property developer Carelet has submitted its fifth planning application for the small green strip behind Princes Road.

2 Back to the Forties

The WRVS want to hear from people with memories of wartime Brighton and Hove.

5 Acupuncture

Round Hill's very own auricular acupuncture practice.

5 Fox news

Pitched battles in Round Hill's streets may shed light on missing cats.

6 Show gardens

Reports from the front line in the two Round Hill gardens participating in the National Gardens Scheme.

7 Out of control

How building a dream house turned into a nightmare for the neighbours.



Brighton & Hove

City Council supported

The Round Hill Society is grateful to Brighton & Hove City Council for its support of the Street Picnic.



A GRAND DAY OUT (ON THE STREET)....

(continued from front page)

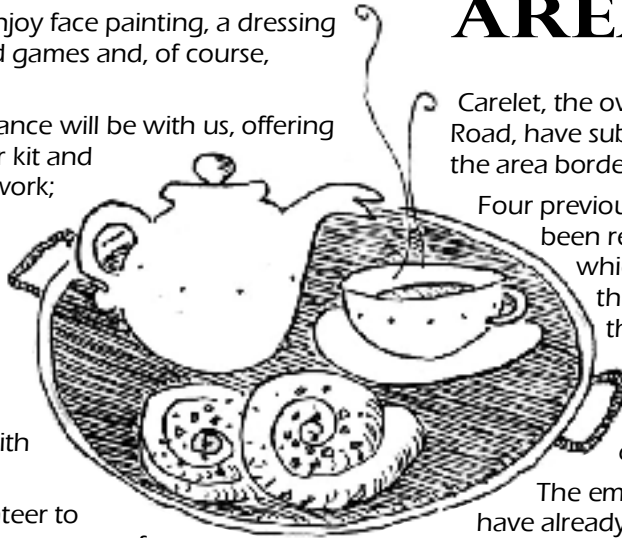
Family fun

Younger folk may enjoy face painting, a dressing up area, giant board games and, of course, bouncy castle.

A paramedic ambulance will be with us, offering guided tours of their kit and talking about their work; and there will be a recycling information stall for those still confused, or with questions to ask.

There will also be a refreshments stall with drinks for sale.

If you'd like to volunteer to help set up, take down or any of the many tasks between, please step up and offer. We would be delighted to hear from you. © Stefan Holmström
Rob Stephenson



NEW PLANS THREATEN CONSERVATION AREA

Carelet, the owners of several properties in Princes Road, have submitted their fifth planning proposal for the area bordering the railway and business park.

Four previous applications for the same site have been refused for a catalogue of problems which include difficulty of access to the site, the density of the proposed housing and the pressure that additional dwellings would generate for local infrastructure. The new proposal, for a terrace of four houses, is subject to many of the same disadvantages.

The embattled residents of Princes Road who have already had to suffer the construction of the Hollingdean waste processing facility and the deforestation of the railway embankment are fearful that the City's planning committee will bow to pressure to supply more housing spaces by allowing historic conservation areas such as Round Hill to become overpopulated.

There remain however, substantial problems with the application. Although the site is very small, the developers have repeatedly tried to cram as many dwellings as possible into the confined space. This increases the potential profit margin but places undue pressure on an area such as Round Hill which is already densely populated with little open space and inadequate on-street parking.

The access to the site, by way of a narrow path at the end of the existing terrace, has been problematic in all of the applications, allowing room only for a set of stairs and a single lift. This does not sufficiently allow for access by disabled residents and raises potential issues for the handling of waste and deliveries.

Any car owners who have lived in the area will be incredulous at the developer's suggestion of the ample on-street parking spaces available in Wakefield and Ashdown Roads.

The plans are currently under consideration but likely to be assessed over the summer. For a wealth of information and regular updates, please see our website: www.roundhill.org.uk.

David Guest

REMEMBERING THE FORTIES

Do you have memories from the 1940s of Brighton, Hove or Portslade you would like to share with others?

WRVS Heritage Plus Portslade, in partnership with Brighton and Hove Museums, are looking for people willing to be interviewed about their memories of the city between 1939 and 1945. They are particularly seeking those who remember what life was like in the Blitz in the area—such as going to school, work and family life during this time. For more information, please e-mail heritageplusportslade@wrvs.org.uk or call 07901 552 164.





CARELET 5: THE PLANS

In such close proximity to the new Waste Transfer Station and Materials Recovery Facility at Hollingdean, and directly bordering the railway embankment, the noise profile for the site makes it unsuitable for residential development but the noise survey submitted with the application dates from 2006, before the Veolia facility was constructed.

In an area which is already densely populated, strips of open space running behind the rows of houses provide an essential habitat for wildlife as well as visual amenity for residents. This is particularly important in this case, where the land helps to define a geographical boundary between the conservation area and the industrial zones which surround it.

Building on this strip of land constitutes an erosion of the historic Round Hill neighbourhood.

The proposed site is an amalgam of different freeholds. The majority of the land is previously undeveloped and under the planning regulations, developers are required to show that brownfield land in the region has been exhausted before construction can begin. However, no case has ever been made in the planning applications for this site.

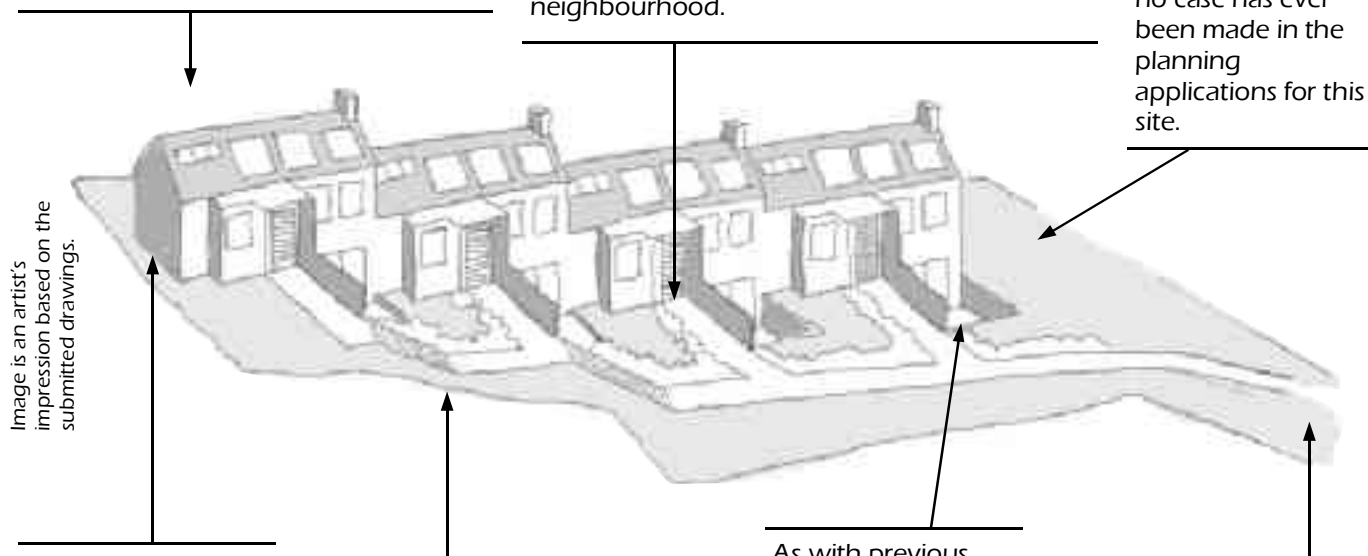


Image is an artist's impression based on the submitted drawings.

The footprint of the proposed development uses most of the available space. This is an example of urban cramming, in which as many people as possible are squeezed into a small geographical area.

The site is modest in scale and bordered on two sides by the gardens of existing properties in Princes Road. This would allow very little privacy for residents in the proposed dwellings. Because the existing houses in Princes Road are so much higher, the new properties would be overlooked.

As with previous proposals, the plan allows very little outdoor amenity space for residents of the proposed development with cramped patio spaces and small gardens bordering the railway embankment.

Access to the planned dwellings is severely restricted by the topography of the site, with a single lift accommodated in a 'gate house' on Princes Road. The development would lead to increased pressure for on-street parking.

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LONDON ROAD: SHAPING THE MASTER PLAN

Brighton & Hove City Council have now released a draft "masterplan" for the regeneration of London Road. The document is based on the earlier rounds of consultation completed in 2008 and, once finalised, will form part of the Local Development Framework.

This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will inform future planning decisions in the area, including large-scale initiatives such as the embryonic plans by Tesco and St James's Developments to convert the area around New England House into a retail centre.

City residents now have an opportunity to contribute



to the next stage of the formation of the master plan by commenting on the draft document. The consultation is open until Monday 6 July and copies of the draft SPD can be downloaded from the website (www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/ldf-haveyoursay) or viewed at Jubilee library or CityDirect offices.

You can also order your own copy by calling 01273 292 505.

Comments can be sent in writing to Planning Strategy & Projects, Room 407-410, Hove Town Hall, Hove, BN3

3ZZ or by e-mail to: ldf@brighton-hove.gov.uk and there will also be more details on the Round Hill website: www.roundhill.org.uk.

NOISY NEIGHBOURS

One of the objections to the centralisation of the city's waste processing at Hollingdean was the concern that the plant would create unwelcome noise pollution and so far, the newly operational facility has lived up to expectations.

With warmer temperatures, operators of the site have begun to leave the large access doors open for longer periods, causing noise disturbance across the neighbouring areas. The problem is particularly acute in Princes Road. Reports from workers at the facility suggest that environmental conditions inside the buildings are problematic and it is understandable that operatives seek cooler and fresher air.

Although the groups speaking in opposition to the plant were ultimately unsuccessful, there was considerable complaint that it was not appropriate to site such an intensive operation in the midst of residential areas. On this point at least, it seems they were right.

For more details on how Round Hill residents are experiencing the Hollingdean facility, please see our website: www.roundhill.org.uk.

David Guest



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ANYONE FOR AURICULAR?

Auriculotherapy is a specialised form of acupuncture

focused on the ear and Round Hill now has its very own practice. Juliana Ashworth explains.

Have you ever felt low in mood, lacking in energy, or that you're too hyper, that your moods fluctuate? Maybe you're not getting good quality sleep. Or do you generally feel stressed due to a busy life? Do you ever go out partying and find that it takes a few days to feel normal again? Do you have painful or irregular periods? Or are you pregnant and suffering from nausea and exhaustion?

Do you think you could benefit from taking time out, sitting in a calm space, with the smell of geranium oil, the sound of bird song, whilst sipping herbal tea, and gathering your thoughts? Time to slow down, even for just half an hour.

What's it meant to help with?

Addictions, anger, anxiety, concentration, depression, detox, digestion, energy levels, irritability, menstruation, mood swings, morning sickness, motivation, pain, side effects of medication, sleep, sluggish blood flow, stress.

But there's no spare money at the moment

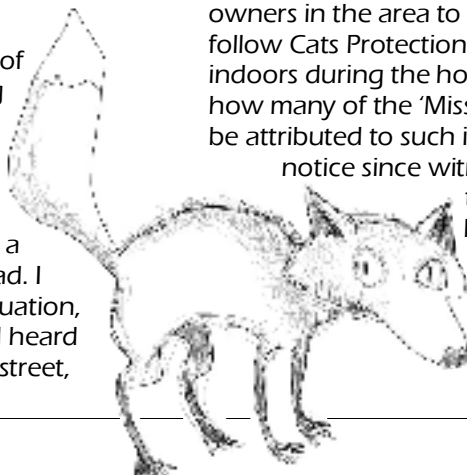
Best of all, in these hard times of no cash, this is one of the cheapest treatments you're likely to get. At only £8 per session. (£6 concessions). Why so cheap? Because I can treat several people in one sitting. You come in, have five points done in each ear, then sit and relax for thirty minutes with a cup of herbal tea. During this time, you can be shown a Chinese meditative relaxation exercise, if you wish.

But if none of this is reason enough to come, then come because certain A-listers do! The Guardian reports that Kate Moss, Matt Damon, Cherie Blair and Helena Bonham Carter are all fans of Auricular Acupuncture.

A FOX IN THE NIGHT

For years I have been reading articles arguing for and against the theory that foxes will kill cats, and have been in two minds about the issue. On the night of Friday 17th April, however, I found out that the answer is – YES!

Just before going to bed I heard some sort of a commotion outside in the street involving some screaming, and what, with hindsight, was probably growling. Thinking it was probably an inebriated couple arguing on the way home, I looked out of the window and was very surprised and horrified to see a cat and a fox almost nose to nose in the road. I dashed downstairs to try and diffuse the situation, but was too late. As I got to the front door I heard another scream, and as I emerged into the street,



What clients have said

"felt much more balanced, better than I'd felt in a long time...I felt stronger & more positive...I keep finding it's helping with other things, there's been no pain with my periods for the first time ever"

"That's better, felt instantly relaxed and less nauseous... haven't felt so chilled in weeks"

"That was really nice, I felt like I was in a deep hypnosis"

"A deep sense of relaxation, that stays with me, and has helped me sleep more soundly. Regular visits have increased by feeling of well being"

"I've tried a few things to stop smoking, and this has worked"

How often would I come?

Some people like to come for six sessions to deal with a particular issue, whilst others pop in every now and then. However I like to think that we all could do with relaxing and detoxing on a regular basis, in the same way we would go to yoga, pilates or meditation. Each person is different and you will generally be able to tell when you could do with a top up, or if you prefer to come as part of a weekly or fortnightly routine.

Of course it's not going to be the cure all for everyone, but what is? At just £8.00

a go, what's there to lose?

And if none of this applies to you but you know someone who it might, please show them this article in case they could use it.

Juliana Ashworth

was just in time to see the fox run around the corner and up Ashdown Road with what looked like a very limp cat in its jaws.

The reason I am writing this article is to alert all cat owners in the area to the fact that they really should follow Cats Protection advice and keep their cats indoors during the hours of darkness. Who knows how many of the 'Missing Cat' notices in this area can be attributed to such incidents? I haven't seen a new notice since witnessing this incident, so there is the possibility that this may have been a feral cat – but next time it could be yours!

THINK – KEEP CATS IN AT NIGHT!

Jean Brennan



FLOWERS, FLAPJACKS AND FUNDRAISING!



Many of us have enjoyed the opportunity to have a wander around some of the lovely gardens of Round Hill over the last few summers, either through the Round Hill Open Garden afternoons, or the Sussex Beacon Garden Gadabout.

Now two of our neighbourhood gardens have been accepted into the prestigious National Garden Scheme (often referred to by its famous brochure, 'The Yellow Book'), a nationwide scheme that is known for high standards – for both its horticulture and its cake!

"It's true!" says Steve Bustin, from 1 Belton Close. "The NGS is probably just as famous for the opportunity to eat some fantastic homemade cakes as it is for the high quality of the gardens open to the public. We've had more people asking about what cakes we're baking

than about what seeds we're sowing!"

Gardens have to be inspected by an NGS County Organiser before being accepted into the scheme, which annually raises more than £2 million for charities including Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

"It was a little nerve-wracking," admits Steve, "but they want to make sure that all the gardens included in The Yellow Book are of a suitable standard. We were gobsmacked to be accepted the first time we were inspected – it takes many gardens some years to reach the required level. We've been told to expect anything up to three hundred people in our first year, but both us and our colleagues George and Claire on Princes Crescent have only got small gardens so it could be a little cosy!"



1 Belton Close and 85 Princes Crescent are open in the National Garden Scheme as 'The Round Hill Gardens' on Saturday 11th July, 12-5. Both are also open, along with 43 and 118 Richmond Road as part of the Garden Gadabout on Sundays 12 and 19 July, 11-5.

For more information see www.roundhillgardens.co.uk.

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UNCONTROLLED DEVELOPMENT IS A NIGHTMARE

This cautionary tale is from Bob Marchant who lives beside a development site (for just one house) between Round Hill Crescent and the Upper Lewes Road. Bob, like many people nearby, had objected to the preceding multi-house development proposals, but thought a single house would be acceptable, and might even help improve this secret corner of Round Hill, especially since the developer had told him that the access lane would be resurfaced and the entrance improved with electrically controlled gates for added security.



The development was to take 6 months, and the application said "all materials to be removed from the site will be bagged and stored safely before removal", but it took two years and rubble was heaped on Bob's access road and on Round Hill Crescent, at one point taking over 4 parking places with loose heaps of mud and rubble.

Bob's home has had two garden walls knocked down or damaged, and the quality of the repair is poor. He has had concrete sprayed over his windows, from a leaking delivery pipe. It has set hard on the glass now, but its not as bad as the broken shutters, damaged render and cracked window that resulted from a close encounter with a poorly operated excavator. Another machine accident has bent his gates at the top of the drive, and the promised new electric gates never appeared.

The new access road surface is a crude patchwork of concrete textures, colours and slopes; creating a poor first impression for potential purchasers, which is perhaps why the house is now let.

In the course of the development the building footprint grew, extending the ground floor bedroom just over a metre further east, and the sitting room over a metre to the west. Only the vigilance of neighbours stopped the

eastern outgrowth being built to the full height of the main house.

The development was to have a bin storage area and bike store, neither have materialised, but the developer has built a store for his cement mixers and other kit, resulting in builders calling early and late in the day to take and leave equipment for use at other sites. As part of its environmental credential the house was to emphasise locally sourced materials, but the admittedly stunning fitted kitchen came from Germany, the patio paving slabs imported from Turkey and even the high-tech new render came from Poland. Two of the three fruit trees have gone and the planting on the boundary is bamboo. This is hardly the environmentally benign development of the original application, and creating it was not benign for Bob at all. Now it is (nominally) finished every litre of sewage generated by the house has to be pumped up to the sewer in Round Hill Crescent, hardly a success for energy efficiency.

Rob Stephenson

UPHEAVAL ON ASHDOWN

Residents near Ashdown Road are still suffering the impact of living with an active business on their doorsteps. Raj Motors, the Car Valeting and Servicing company which began to trade from Round Hill last year has continued to cause concern for neighbours. The Planning Enforcement arm of the City Council served a notice on Raj Motors in the spring. The company now has six months from 17th April to obtain planning permission or find new premises.

A decision is still awaited on the planning application for the same property. Please see the Round Hill website for details of the plan and information on how to comment.

David Guest

Exterior House Painting

Seeking work for the summer

Some local jobs:

3 d'Aubigny Road (2004)

85 Round Hill Crescent (2006)

14 Mayo Road (2008)



Rob Stephenson
673511



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COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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Treasurer	Kevin Tansley	11 Wakefield Road	672648
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Newsletter and website	David Guest	16a Wakefield Road	699476
Committee members	Marian Gerrett	77 Princes Crescent	688009
	Carol Hall	36b Prince's Road	687636
	Mandy Jones	81 Princes Crescent	
	Annie Rimington	8 D'Aubigny Road	
	Paul Thompson	29 Richmond Road	883004

Deadline for next Issue:
FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST

OVER THE HILL...



Two recent planning applications have been given the green light. Work is well underway at the Victoria Public House after an application to convert the building into two townhouses was granted.

A second application for Marcia's hair salon on Princes Crescent also received the go-ahead. The plan is to convert the ground floor shop back into a residential property.

There was some relief for residents in D'Aubigny Road and Round Hill Crescent after an application from Sainsburys for permission to extend their delivery hours was refused although few expect it to be the last word on the matter.



Meanwhile, the City Car Club are optimistic that the car in D'Aubigny Road will be reinstated shortly following discussions with the City Council. The car was withdrawn earlier this year after members found that the designated parking pay in Round Hill was not respected by other road users.

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

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