



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 43
March 2011

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Round Hill Research

Building neighbourliness

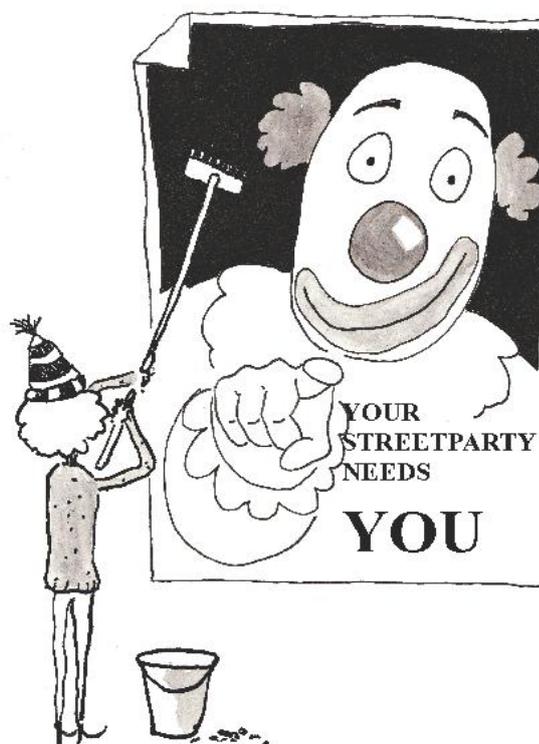
Late last year the committee of the Society applied for funding from the Community University Partnership Project (CUPP) with the idea of helping us learn more about the people of Round Hill, their needs and willingness to help. We now have the funding to work with students and academics from the University of Brighton to:

1. Carry out a survey to tell us more about the structure of our community.
2. Identify the sort of needs people living here have, which volunteers might meet.
3. Identify potential volunteers on Round Hill.

The aim is to build on the already good sense of community here, not to interfere with people's private lives.

We hope that you will be willing to

Stefan Holmstrom



be involved in this exciting project, on a steering group perhaps? Contact emma.daniel@ntlworld.com to express interest.

During the spring we will seek local students to carry out the project, and plan to involve younger folk at the Street Party.

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ESTATE AGENTS

Carelet Appeal Rejected

Inspector cites lack of available parking for dismissal

The Carelet saga rumbles on, with what can only be described as a victory for local campaigning.

Last year Carelet applied to build six three storey houses on the steep land between the railway line and the back gardens of Princes Road where they already have planning permission to erect four houses.

The planning officers of the Council proposed that the application be accepted, but the committee listened to what we said and rejected the idea on three grounds:

1. It will put too much pressure on the already difficult parking on Round Hill
2. It is overcrowding of the site
3. It is too near the Waste Transfer and Recycling depot and will therefore suffer noise

Carelet took the decision to the Government 's planning inspectorate, and this month the Inspector, Isobel McCretton, decided that the planning committee was right about the extra parking pressures and dismissed carelet's appeal.

Ms McCretton found that the development could generate nine vehicles, and Carelet's own traffic assessment found only six spaces; she went on to say that the recently introduced Controlled Parking Zone across the Ditchling Road would probably exacerbate our parking problems.

Sadly she felt unable to support the other reasons for rejection, so the cost of Carelet's appeal will be shared by Carelet and the city Council Tax payers.

Last summer a small group of residents carried out comprehensive parking surveys within 400 metres of the street access point of the Carelet site. Of the total 459 parking places counted, they found just a handful still available by 10pm on

three weekday evenings, but far more cars double parked or dangerously parked on corners, see the table for the actual figures.

10 o'clock at night on:	Available spaces	Illegally or dangerously parked cars
Tuesday 20th July	11	48
Wednesday 21st July	11	54
Thursday 22nd July	22	50

(see full survey report at www.roundhill.biz)

Speaking of Traffic

Time to revisit parking?

In the light of the impact of the Viaduct Road to Ditchling Rise Controlled Parking Zone perhaps you have changed your mind about the need for parking controls in Round Hill? Or maybe you always wanted parking controls for Round Hill, but not those we were being offered.

There was certainly a flurry of concerned messages on the Roundhill Yahoo Group shortly after the adjacent CPZ commenced.

If you think we need to look again at parking controls of some sort you should deliver your name and contact details in writing to any of the Round Hill Committee (see back page for details). If 300 names come forward we can go to the Council and ask them to look again at parking in our area.

Perhaps there will be enough people to set up a working group to think about the kind of parking controls which would work.

If we do nothing at all, then the Council will probably come back to us in about six years time.

If this issue concerns you mention it to your neighbours, they may have missed this article.

12th June 2011 - Street Party

Seeking musicians, more musicians and helpers and ideas

Last autumn we held a street party which started at 2pm and went on until about 10pm.

We started with stalls – about 25 of them run by you for your own purposes – cakes and savouries, tea and coffee, children's toys, honey, jewellery, books and bric-a-brac, clothes, bike repairs and art.

The bar (two real ales plus wine, run by us) was available throughout, and the hog roast, burgers and veggie options (by an outside caterer) lasted 'til dark.

The bouncy castle and circus skills proved popular even in the wet. Music started at 4pm and went on 'til 10, getting quieter after 8pm.

In all we spent nearly £2300 on the event, and took £700 on the day, as well as receiving £700 from two local sponsors and £1500 from the Council. So we made a small sum.

£800 was spent on musicians, £300 on bouncy castle and circus skills man, £600 on hiring tables, chairs and a toilet.

We may not have as much money this year, so we'd like to find some local musicians who might like an audience but be less demanding about the money.

Last year we were busy from 10 in the morning and again after 10 at night, setting up and clearing away. Some of us were busy the next day with more clearing up.

In an ideal world we'd like to gather a group of volunteers together to make the whole task easier this time.

And we need ideas for this year. I want a coconut shy this time, and I know where to get one.

Please contact Rob Stephenson if you can help with ideas, action, planning and MUSIC. Contact details on back page or rob.stephenson51@gmail.com



Brighton and Hove



Brighton & Hove City Council

Brighton NHS and Brighton and Hove City Council - working together to improve your health.

Are you thinking of ways to improve your health? Diabetes, heart disease, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, kidney disease and stroke are some of the things we all worry about.

The good news is that all of these conditions can often be prevented – even if you have a history of them in your family.

Brighton NHS with Brighton and Hove City Council are offering free NHS Health Checks to people aged 40 to 74 who don't already know they have heart disease, high cholesterol, high blood pressure or diabetes.

Even if you are feeling well its worth having your **FREE NHS Health Check** now; you may be unaware you have high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

We know that the risk of developing heart disease, stoke, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease increases with age. There are also things that can put you at even higher risk:

Being overweight Lack of exercise Smoking High blood pressure High cholesterol

We are offering a FREE NHS Health Check with a qualified nurse who will be able to assess your risk and give you advice on taking care of your health. It's quick and completely confidential. You could be referred onto other agencies to help you increase your physical activity, give up smoking or lose weight – **all free!**

So if you are determined to do more about your health and well-being in 2011 contact the **Health Development Team on 01273 294557.**



Redesigning the Level

If you care about the Level now is the time to get involved

Over the last few months there have been several meetings, in schools with children, in sheltered accommodation, at the Salvation Army centre and at Phoenix Studios, where people have had the opportunity to voice their opinions on a range of design ideas for a revamped Level. A new café and toilets seem to be agreed, and new toddler and junior play areas are on the agenda, but whether they are near the café or further south is still being discussed.

The existing paddling pool will probably become a shallow fountain area, for play and visual pleasure without fear of drowning.

The biggest issue seems to be the location of a new skatepark. One choice is to rebuild it in the same place, the other is to put it north of the Rose Walk, on the most southerly triangle of flat grass.

The big grassy northern area may get more seating and improved paths, perhaps less likely to be full of puddles after rain. Lots of people have mentioned the broken down stone walls and the value of a big open space.

If you want to track events or get involved e-mail parksproject@brighton-hove.gov.uk or phone 292929 to get on the mailing list, or to register interest in an Oral History Group being set up.

There will be a formal consultation during March, keep up to date on the website, www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/thelevel. or look out for information boards on the Level.



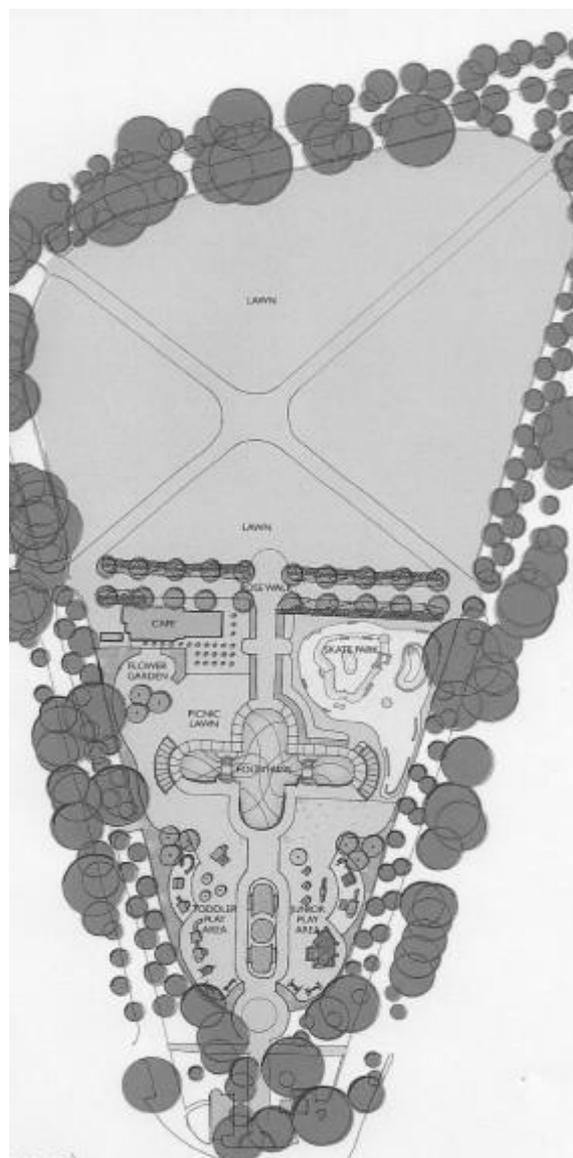
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Vote for Change

AV or FPTP?

On the 5th May we all get the chance to elect a new Council, but perhaps more importantly we get the chance to change the way we elect Governments.

After a lot of Parliamentary debate we have been given just one option other than the existing system (First Past The Post) and that is the Alternative Vote (AV).

Why are we getting this choice?

Those who want the change say that FPTP is good when there are just two choices, but when there are more choices we need a system that is capable of more subtle assessments of our overall voting pattern. Brighton Pavilion is a good constituency to illustrate the change. We had three significant political parties standing here at the last general election, as well as five other candidates. None of the main parties got even a third of the total vote. Caroline Lucas was elected with just over 31% of the vote. Fewer than one in three people voted for her.

Under the AV system you would put a 1 against your favourite candidate, 2 against the second, and so on, as far as you wish. So, if you had wanted to vote for Caroline but were worried it might let in the Labour/Tory candidate you could select Greens first and then Tory or Labour, depending on who you'd like second.

Deciding the winner starts by counting the first place votes, if one candidate comes out with more than 50% of all first places they are the winner. If no-one has 50%+ then the lowest poller has his/her second votes counted and distributed amongst the remaining candidates. This process is repeated until one candidate gets 50%+. The AV system allows us to vote for the party we want, without having to worry about letting the wrong one in, because we can use our other votes to reduce that risk.

When the two traditionally dominant parties seem to believe much the same, separated only by a matter of degree, a system that allows other voices a chance has surely to be worthwhile.

Robert Stephenson

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Rubbish at Handling Rubbish?

Take a leisurely stroll to enjoy the Round Hill streetscene

Binvelopes, wheelie bins, black boxes, a few dustbins and lots of plastic sacks, plus a good spread of uncontained refuse and a smattering of mattresses and other household goods.



Brighton & Hove Community Waste Forum 23 March 2011

6 to 8pm Brighton Town Hall, room 1

If you are interested in developing new ways to reduce waste, recycle or compost more, we want to hear from you!

The city-wide Community Waste Forum is a place where all residents, community groups and organisations can come with ideas on how to make real change in their area. This will be an opportunity for organisations and individuals across the city to get to know more about waste management in Brighton & Hove, collectively think about activities that might help reduce waste in their areas and explore ways forward in collaboration with Cityclean (the council's in-house waste and refuse service).

This is an open meeting , all are welcome!

If you would like to attend, or know anyone who would, please e-mail e.hoover@brighton.ac.uk to book a place.

Two pics: Not a bin day so why bins on street?

BAT AND TRAP ON THE LEVEL

Games enthusiast Graeme Walker is looking for people interested in reviving Good Friday Bat and Trap on The Level. If you've got any equipment, any know-how about local rules, are actively involved in playing, or if you're just interested please get in touch. redletter@graemewalker.net or 0795 206 5556.

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66 Richmond Road, Brighton BN2 3RN

Creating a Wildlife Garden

from a derelict wilderness – by Jan Curry

We have lived in this house for over 50 years. An ordinary terraced house on a hill, surrounded by busy roads. Running along the back of the terrace was a strip of derelict land that had once been drying fields of a Victorian laundry. For 25 years I chucked our snails over there, as did most of my neighbours.

Then we were given the chance to buy the land for a song. Half an acre of neglected land, broken glass, a variety of mattresses, rusty corrugated iron and rather a lot of snails. It took two years to clear the land, and for the next three I scattered slug pellets around with gay abandon, happily spraying this and that with a variety of poisons and was working towards a velvet sterile bowling green lawn, edged with clashing beds and hybrid tea roses that looked like grotesquely shaped skeletons for at least five months of the year.

Then my husband dug out a series of ponds. The day we filled them up changed our whole attitude to gardening. We found a frog at the waters edge, and while marvelling at it and wondering how it got there an enormous dragonfly zoomed over our heads. There and then we resolved never to use pesticides of any description again, and we haven't.

We decided to create a garden, a haven for wildlife but also a refuge where people can just sit, unwind and relax. I think people who visit are surprised to discover that it looks like a garden, not just a jungle of weeds. It has a flowery lawn, well defined borders, fruit trees and even vegetables. It took us a few years to get the balance right. The hybrid tea roses went, to be replaced by berried shrubs like holly, berberis and pyracantha, as well as ancient roses, honeysuckle and trees like rowan, birch and hawthorn. The mix is a corridor of delight for birds, offering food, nest sites, roosts and shelter.

Beneath the canopy we have smaller shrubs like lavender and hebes – sources of nectar and pollen – plus as many herbs and flowery weeds as possible, which seems to please masses of winged

insects. Even the lawn is a patchwork of daisies, scarlet pimpernel, clover and starry blue speedwells. All flowers that just arrived and decided to stay.

These days we fill the ponds with water diverted from the gutters to water butts. I haven't watered the hedgerows in years, but they are mulched with grass cuttings to keep up the organic content – a rich soil is unlikely to dry out and is unlikely to blow away like dust.

When I see a sparrowhawk over the garden I know it is because we have lots of nesting and feeding birds. And at this time of year I put out hanging baskets of moss, dry grass, hair brushed from the dog and even feathers from an old pillow – so that the birds have plenty of nesting materials .



Here comes the Round Hill Forest

Those who follow the Roundhill site on Yahoo may be aware that we have secured over 100 small trees for planting on the hill. Most will be planted on the boundary with Sylvan Hall Estate (with their agreement), and a few will go elsewhere on Round Hill. The Woodland Trust are the generous distributors of these trees.





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The Round Hill Reporter is published by the Round Hill Society to keep residents in the area in touch with local news, events and each other. We try to present a fair and balanced view but the opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily shared by all.

Please send your recommendations or warnings to the editor. Letters or ideas for articles are welcome – please contact the editor at the address shown above.

Deadline for the June edition 14th May