



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 54
December 2013

Brief AGM report on page 7

Come out and Sing

Thursday 19th December from 6pm, starting at the western end of Round Hill Crescent

An easy route this year – so a map would be a waste of space. Starting at the west end of **Round Hill Crescent** (you know – the Bradley's and pillar box end) we will gather at 6pm with children, lanterns and musicians. Song-sheets will be provided. After discussions during the event last December we have added what we hope will be seasonal songs with greater child-appeal, and struck out one or two that no-one seemed to know.

Pausing to sing under several lampposts as we walk up the Crescent, we will then ascend **Ashdown Road** (perhaps two singing stops here). If you cannot join us for the whole route please come for some. And if you hear us coming, please open your front doors and listen, perhaps contributing something to the collection buckets that our helpers will bring.

This year we will be collecting for Brighton Housing Trust's First Base Day Centre, a service much in demand in the winter, and especially so at Christmas and New Year. Learn more about the work of Brighton Housing Trust at www.bht.org.uk.

At the top of Ashdown Road we will turn left and head along **Richmond Road** and a bit of **Princes Crescent** towards Crescent Road, stopping at several singing-stations along the way. Near the end now, we will venture up **Crescent Road** to sing beside one or two lampposts before turning back to 77 Princes Crescent where warm mulled wine, and something similar without alcohol, will be available with mince pies – hopefully your first of the festive season of excess - if not the first then the most welcome.

If you have them, please bring children, musical instruments and lanterns or torches, dress warm and help us set new records for turnout and sum raised.

Clean-up report **page 2** • Older Peoples Council **page 3**
New hedge planted **page 5** • Richmond House result **page 7**

Round Hill Clean-up: Sunday 20th October

Over 30 residents turned out on a less than perfect day to don the high visibility clothing and gloves provided by Damien's City Clean team in order to (alphabetically):

- **A**ttack vegetation growing in excess through the fences separating us from the industrial estate down in Hughes Road.
- **B**ulb plant around the new Richmond Road trees and in the raised planter at the junction of Mayo and Richmond Roads
- **C**lear the Cats Creep of overhanging vegetation
- **D**eliver our new 'Love Round Hill' window stickers.



TOP: Workers of all sizes – but mainly small – gather at the start of the action.

BOTTOM: Sacks of clippings await collection by Damien's City Clean team

Kate asked her children what they did on Clean-up Day:

Why do you think the clean-up was important?

Ella: To make it clean and safe so people don't trip over rubbish.

Tom: Because otherwise the world will get smelly. To stop animals eating the rubbish and getting poorly.

What work did you do?

Tom: I picked up rubbish, swept the pavement and cleared the gutters.

Ella: I swept up rubbish and leaves.

What did you enjoy most about the clean up?

Tom: Going round with the Council man because he was nice. We went round picking up rubbish.

Ella: Going with Lotta to give people stickers to stick in their windows.

What should people do now to keep Roundhill clean?

Tom: Don't let their dogs poo in the street or if they do they should clean it up!

Ella: If they drop rubbish they should pick it up.

Tell the world you care about the way our streets are looked after by all of us.

Put one of the 'Love Round Hill' stickers in your window. Please contact one of the committee (addresses and phone numbers on back page) and we will arrange to get one to you soonest.

Brighton & Hove Older People's Council

ISSUE 54



Brighton is often seen as a young people's City but nearly 18% of the population are over 60 and there is a need for the City to recognise and respond to the needs of its older population. The Older People's Council (OPC) was established to recognise the contribution of older people and make sure that their voice is heard. The members are elected (with some co-options) once every four years on the same cycle as elected Councillors. They make representations to the Council about issues that affect older people across the City.

Living in Roundhill for many years, I am keen to ensure that older people in the area are aware of the Older People's Council. There is a useful website www.olderpeoplescouncil.org which contains information and advice for older people and regular public meetings are held during the year, details of which can be found on the website.

As a result of lobbying by the OPC, Brighton Council has committed to becoming an Age Friendly City. An Age Friendly City focus group is being co-ordinated by Age UK which will feed in ideas from older people. If you are interested in participating, or just keeping in touch with what is going on, contact Jackie Duncan at Age UK Brighton & Hove on 01273 720603 or jackied@ageuk-bh.org.uk

As we grow older our needs and concerns may well shift and change whether it is access to local services, help with transport, social isolation, or the cost of heating and eating. For example, seating availability which may not be a consideration when younger becomes much more crucial when older. The OPC is concerned that such matters be built into the fabric of decision making at the Council rather than an afterthought.

If you have any views or issues relating to Older People, I can be contacted on 01273-687319 or for those with email chrispennymorley@aol.com.

Penny Morley,
Secretary Older People's Council

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Keep your presents under wraps this Christmas

Please don't pile your presents under the tree especially if it's in the window. Keep your presents away from prying eyes. Hide the boxes – both before and after Christmas Day. Empty boxes left for the rubbish or recycling* collection show thieves what's new in your home. If you're away over the Christmas period use automatic time switches to turn on lights, or a radio to give the impression that someone's home.

Happy Christmas to all Round Hill,
Bonnie Scovell
PCSO

*Cardboard for recycling should be cut into pieces about A4 size



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Website Changes

Making our history more accessible

The Round Hill website is a wonderful thing – if you have not been to see it, you have missed a great record of our area, and a rich resource of what is going on locally.

Local resident Ted Power does most of the updates and inputting, and he needs help from others who might be willing to take on a regular task. If you might be interested in helping, phone Ted – his number is on the back of the Reporter.

Just recently Ted has been going through the 13 years of Round Hill Reporters and re-arranging some of the content into a more useful format for web browsing. He has created a 'History' listing and another for 'Environment', both can be accessed from the home page when you go to www.roundhill.org.uk.

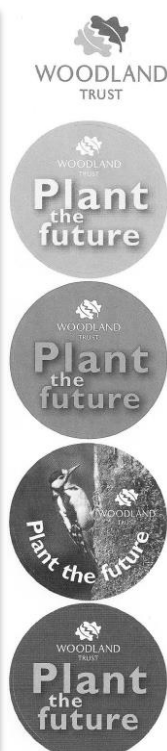
Way back in 2004 ex-committee member Robin Morley reported the interesting case of a disappearing cast iron lamppost outside his home. It was removed in October 2003, and did not re-appear until, after heavy campaigning and lobbying, February 2004. Now that we have a more conservation sensitive Street Lighting Manager, Gillian Packham, who is actively working with our Conservation Officer, Tim Jefferies, this sort of sad saga may be a thing of the past. But it may be worth noting that out-sourced services were blamed 10 years ago, and those guys are still doing the day to day work today – so keep your eyes peeled.

Under the Links heading you can see menus in local pubs or explore on line the East Sussex history archive – but don't expect that to be perfect as they have just moved their whole resource to the new Centre for all such documents, The Keep, just a brisk walk up the Lewes Road. Perhaps we will soon be able to offer a special Round Hill trip to see the Keep in all its air conditioned glory.

Rob Stephenson

Lost branches and new hedges

Way back in the spring a huge branch fell from our finest elm tree – the one at the east end of Round Hill Crescent. You can still see the scar, and tell that the branch which fell must have had a diameter at its base of over a foot – bigger than a lot of modern street trees in their maturity. Luckily no-one was hurt, but some cars were damaged. Local resident Dee Dobinson took this fine picture.



We are lucky to have so many elm trees in Brighton. In fact we are the home of the National Collection of Elm Trees, mainly because the sea and the largely treeless South Downs offered our elms some protection from the spread of Dutch elm disease, and the Council operated a strong policy of removing the few that fell victim to it. All trees help to reduce air pollution, their leaves intercept polluting particles from vehicle exhausts which could get into our lungs, they also provide summer shelter from the sun, and by their respiration cool the air around them. In the winter even leafless trees reduce wind on our homes, and help keep them warmer. Then there is the habitat they provide, for birds and many insects. So we recently joined forces with Sylvan Hall Resident’s Association and the Woodland Trust (who provided trees for free) to plant a short length of hedgerow at the east end of the Estate. Thirty small trees (dogwood, hawthorn, holly, hazel and dogrose) have gone in, and will be looked after to create a new habitat on Round Hill.



Barry from Sylvan Hall busy digging pits for tiny new trees.

Weed-suppressing cloth helps the young trees grow, and tells the mower crew where they are.



Cunning as a Fox – a short story with links

“I was doing a bit of pruning in the garden, waiting until it felt like time to sit down with a cup of coffee and the three Jaffa Cakes already placed on the small table next to my chair. Suddenly there was a bit of a commotion from my hens at the far end of the garden. I went to investigate, but they seemed much calmer when I got there, so I headed back to my coffee.

As I came round the corner I saw him, up on his hind legs, front paws on the table as he neatly picked up the third and last Jaffa Cake in his jaws. I squealed at him, and he looked over his shoulder, as cool as you like, dropped to all fours, cocked a hind leg and peed against my chair before calmly walking off into the bushes.”

Jan Curry.

Perhaps not the fox experience we'd all welcome, especially if we kept hens and had lost many to foxes in the past. Nonetheless many of us enjoy watching foxes in our gardens, especially when the cubs are playing. Another resident, Martin Scolding, has spotted a very healthy fox walking down the middle of the Upper Lewes Road at 2am recently, but in his back garden there has been a sad specimen, with almost no brush, sitting and nearly constantly scratching at open sores – mange most likely.



Yet another fox is here on the left, seen crossing my garden wall. Not in great condition, it has three scabs on its neck and a generally ragged appearance.

Foxes of the Lewes Road area figured large on a recent BBC Autumnwatch episode. Drs Bryony Tolhurst and Dawn Scott of Brighton University have been fitting foxes with tracking collars to see how far they range.

Has anyone here seen a fox with a tracking collar?

Rob Stephenson

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Music in a local Pub – The Park Crescent

Folk fan and accordion playing local resident Andrew Partington wants us to know that **English Folk Tune Sessions** will happen at the Park Crescent on the second Wednesday of each month, come along and listen or even join in. And, on **Tuesday 17th December, from 7.30pm you can be there for an informal evening of local, unusual and traditional carols.** But if **Irish Folk Music** is more your thing, then try the first Thursday of the month, when a foursome of musicians will be playing Irish traditional music.

Round Hill Annual General Meeting

Thursday 17th October 2013 at the Salvation Army

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's AGM. It was a good turnout and we were pleased to welcome Cllrs Pete West and Lizzie Deane along with PCSO Bonnie Scovell.

5 new committee members were elected, so we now have a very healthy and keen group of community representatives ready to work together to improve Round Hill. Full member details are on the back page. Following on from the 'official business' of treasurer's and Chair's reports, residents took the opportunity to feedback to our elected Councillors their views and concerns about local issues that affect Round Hill residents.

The impact of the CPZ, particularly its enforcement, distribution of permits and security of motorcycles in dedicated bays were key areas voiced. The Lewes Rd 'improvements' and the need to find more ways of improving the very limited open space in Round Hill through seats, planters and play schemes were also raised, along with planning ahead for winter by making sure grit bins are full and requesting extra deliveries of sacks of salt/grit at strategic locations if the winter brings lots of snow.

With our refreshed and enlarged committee we hope to plan some fun events next year. Your ideas are very welcome.

Visit www.roundhill.org.uk for a full report.

Richmond House – the Second Application Fails

Exactly 120 objections to the Richmond House student accommodation proposal were received by the council ahead of the decision making meeting on the 20th November.

The council's planning officer's report supported residents' views and recommended refusal. The officer drew particular attention to the failure to demonstrate the office was not a viable business, failure to properly address waste and recycling needs, and the unsuitability of the design because the bulk of roof details, dormers and bays would have a harmful impact on the Richmond and D'Aubigny Roads area, it would also block the long views out of the area, as well as cutting light from the housing immediately north. In addition the loss of all the trees on the steep north slope was seen as damaging to the green boundary of the Conservation Area.

At the meeting Round Hill resident and Society chair, Annie Rimington, emphasised the local opinion that this plan is too big for the site and too destructive of the green corridor in her three minute opportunity. Cllr Pete West spoke against the application, noting that some of the proposed rooms are nearly underground, and would have very little natural light. He also questioned the loss of employment space.

During further discussion Cllr Hyde said that 12 housing units (the Council's preferred alternative to office use) would be a better use of the site, should the owner be able to demonstrate that office use is not viable. So far there is very little evidence that the property has been seriously offered as offices.

At the vote seven councillors voted against the proposal and three abstained from voting either way, thus it was refused.

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Two local
recommendations





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Community Group: a
forum for local info and
advice (Google or find
link on website).

The Round Hill Society Committee

Chair	Annie Rimington	8 D'Aubigny Road	609086
Secretary	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road	673511
Treasurer	Carol Hall	36b Princes Road	687636
Conservation	Ted Power	55 Princes Road	688102
Others	Deborah French	3 Mayo Court, Mayo Road	
	Kate Price	33 Richmond Road	673321
	Boo Vaughan	21 Princes Road	07971 823014
	Sandy Thomas	47 Round Hill Crescent	699152
	Cath Kronhamn	84 Richmond Road	
	Adam Campbell	94 Round Hill Crescent	07889 148143
	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	601320
	Barbara Harris	14 Mayo Road	677610
	Maria Bonner	48 Richmond Road	383407

Bonnie Scovell PCSO 07717 785514 andree.scovell@sussex.pnn.police.uk

For reporting non-emergency events dial 101

Veolia Waste Plant issues : Noise problems – B&H Council 01273 292256

Smell problems – Environment Agency 0800 807060

Report an illegally parked car in the CPZ on 0845 603 5469 and select option 3 for a traffic warden.

Student liaison officers: Sussex-Mark Woolford 678219.

Brighton- a.w.b.keeffe@brighton.ac.uk

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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.

Letters or ideas for articles are welcome – please contact the editor at the address shown above.

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