



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 52
June 2013

Memories of the Level – share them with others – page 2

Richmond House Result

144 bedroom student hostel rejected

At the planning committee meeting on Wednesday 15th May the councillors unanimously rejected the application for a very large student hostel block at the top of D'Aubigny Road.

No doubt the councillors were encouraged to reject the application by the presence of 12 residents of Round Hill in the public gallery, and an excellent presentation from D'Aubigny Road resident Alan King outlining the failings of the plan.

It was not just local residents who found fault with the application. The lead planning officer for the case described it as having an unacceptable impact, through noise and disturbance, on local residents; being an overdevelopment by reason of design, finish, bulk and massing; relating poorly to existing houses and failing to enhance the neighbourhood; it damages the greenspace seen in longer views and has a harmful impact on the streetscene. In addition it reduces light to the new flats to the north and reduces their privacy. And the developer has failed to demonstrate the site is not viable as offices. There is more, but you get the idea.

No doubt the developer will come back with an alternative, perhaps after trying to market it as offices for a year.

The news was less satisfactory on the Carelet site beside the railway and below Princes Road. The developer already had permission for 4 houses but was asking for six. The officer's recommendation was to grant permission, but as a car-free development with no rights to parking permits in the forthcoming Controlled Parking Zone. The application was granted by the committee, with only one dissenting councillor – our own Ian Davey. Whether Carelet will commence building, or sell the site with permission, to a builder, or wait a while and apply for parking rights in light of the fact that the Planning Inspectorate have already stated that the site is unsuitable for a car free development, we will have to wait and see.

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Level History Project Seeks Your Help

Do you have any photos or other documents depicting The Level? These are sought to be used in an exhibition marking the history of the park on the occasion of its re-opening following restoration at the end of the summer. Images of events such as circuses, demonstrations, BUFF, the Women's Peace Camp, Pride, the Great Storm, funfairs, sports events, or just you sitting on a swing, all welcome. An historian working with the Council on this project can visit you to scan any images you are able to offer. More about the project – which includes restoring Captain Bertie Maclaren's 1920s design with water, bridges and pavilions in the playground – can be seen on the BHCC website: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/thelevel

Please get in touch if you are able to help. Peter 571519 peter.meakins@yahoo.co.uk
You can also train to lead walks, contact www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/healthwalks

A see-saw on the Level – a magic lantern slide courtesy of Trevor Beattie



Local Handyman

Maintenance
Decorating
Improvements

Mostly small (one or two day) jobs undertaken
Please ring for advice and estimates

Peter Meakins

571519

Hanover Osteopaths

OSTEOPATHY AND
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Jasmina Cordal BSc (OST) ITEC
Registered Osteopath

01273 687072

07816288632

Evening & weekend appointments by arrangement

A Student Voice

Living on Round Hill

Living on Roundhill Crescent during my second year of Brighton University has been an entirely positive experience – it's generally quiet, a great location and we've had pleasant neighbours. However, it has taken me a lot longer to realise that I am part of a larger community outside the other students I live with.

I was recently able to attend a meeting with the Roundhill Society, who voluntarily support the area behind the scenes and have kindly welcomed me as a student representative. The discussion about students in the Roundhill area was that they make up a large demographic, but are generally out of touch with rest of the community. The members of the committee wanted to emphasise that there was support available in the local area and wanted to bridge the gap a bit.

They felt that sometimes students can be vulnerable and wanted to stress the importance of being safe – personally I have felt very secure in the middle of the terraced housing – but obviously within such a dense city area crime can happen even in the nicest of surroundings. The general point was to lock up properly, seriously consider insurance and take the opportunity to meet and support your neighbours so they can in turn support you.

The website: www.roundhill.org.uk is a great starting place with community events and forums as a way to voice any concerns, suggestions, or just to say hello!

Daniel Taylor

Big Bins on the Upper Lewes Road

House to house refuse collection has ceased on this road. We must now take our bags of refuse to the big bins on the road. They will fill more slowly if we put cans, bottles, paper and flattened plastic bottles into the recycling.



Burglaries

Six in eleven weeks

There has been an increase in burglaries in the area since the start of the year*. I would like to remind residents of the following crime prevention advice:

Always lock doors and windows even if you go out for a short time or if you spend time upstairs. Leave any keys in a safe place well away from doors and windows.

Fit mortise locks or bolts to all outside doors or easily accessible windows.

Never leave spare keys outside your property. Thieves know all the usual hiding places such as under mats and plant pots.

Make sure the side and/or back gate is locked.

Draw your curtains after dark and use timer switches for lights when you are out to give the impression you are in.

Make sure that any valuables are not in sight.

PCSO Bonnie Scovell

* 28th February west end of Round Hill Crescent, 1st March in Wakefield Road, 17th March east end of Round Hill Crescent, 27th March east end of Round Hill Crescent, 19th April east end of Princes Road and 7th May in Round Hill Crescent.

A Cautionary Tale

PVC windows rejected in Conservation Area

Two recent appeals to the Planning Inspectorate resulted in disappointment for the home-owners. Each had hoped to overturn the decision of the planning committee to deny their applications to install plastic framed windows, but the inspectors backed the city's decision. Everyone will have their own opinion on this matter, but the important lesson for others is to discuss your ideas with the planners before doing anything.

Brighton in Bloom

Best front garden, best basement, best window box or hanging basket, best street, best wildlife garden, best allotment, best commercial frontage, best licensed premises, best community space, best primary school garden.

Lots of categories to choose from – registration due by 21st June. Judging in July.

Visit the website to learn more:
www.brightonandhovecityinbloom.co.uk

All entries except school, allotment and wildlife garden must be visible from the street.



Shakti Stores *Your local Premier retailer*

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OFF LICENCE – great selection of good quality wines

102 Ditchling Road
Established December 1983

HMO Changes

New rules for rented homes

Since November 2012 a new licensing scheme has been in place for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in the five Brighton wards most affected by student housing, including our own St Peters and North Laine. It applies to houses of two or more storeys, with three or more occupiers from two or more households sharing facilities. Round Hill has a lot of houses fitting that description.

These HMOs have to meet minimum standards and the Council will inspect the building to ensure it is safe and appropriate, and up to necessary standards for, the number of people planned to live there.

Landlords have to register their houses with the Council, and risk a fine of £20,000 for failing to do so. Landlords in breach of conditions of their licence may be fined up to £5000.

It is very likely that there are homes on Round Hill which have yet to register. You can arrange to see the register at Hove Town Hall, but, as a resident or neighbour you can also report any house you think should be registered and might not be. Just contact the Private Sector Housing section of the city council on 01273 293156 or e-mail them on psh@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Jon Irwin

Our street sweeper

If you feel Jon does a great job, and is friendly and keen to see Round Hill clean and cared for, perhaps you'd like to cast a vote for him. Go onto the council website and search for Staff Awards. You will get to Cityclean awards and can 'vote' for Jon on the electronic form there.

Eco Open Houses

15th - 16th and 22nd - 23rd June

There are three open houses very close to Round Hill this summer. One is the purpose built and fairly well established single storey Smart House on the corner of Ditchling Road and Vere Road which featured in the Reporter when it was being built in March 2004. You have a chance to see inside and hear how its design reduces energy use if you call in between 2 and 5pm on Saturday 15th or Sunday 16th June.

Work on existing houses, including external and internal wall insulation, as well as other energy conserving measures can be seen and discussed at houses in Brewer Street and Newport Street (both handy for the Bugle, if a pint is called for).

14 Newport Street has a solid brick front façade which is being insulated internally, whilst the rear walls are being externally clad. The house already has solar water heating and a highly insulated loft. See progress so far and talk to the owner between 10am and 1pm on Sunday 16th and Sunday 23rd June.

Just round the corner there is more exterior insulation being fixed on 3 Brewer Street, plus internal insulation on basement walls and mechanical heat recovery, in addition to more standard improvements to sash windows and other draughtproofing measures. You can see these and discuss them between 2 and 5pm on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June.

Many other homes are open, for details visit the website, www.ecoopenhouses.org, where you can also see a short video about the Smart House.



Clean-up Chat

Some ideas for the Future

During the afternoon clean-up and gardening bash on Saturday 13th April, the 35 people who attended spent some time talking about other ways to improve the area, and get more involved.

One idea was to dissuade further graffiti at the top of the catcreep by commissioning two big murals - one on each gable end of the houses at the top of the catcreep steps. Of course we would need to talk to the owners of the houses first, but what should the images be?

One group weeded and replanted the raised planter at the road closure at the bottom of Mayo Road – and thought about extra planters we might create – perhaps on the low and wide concrete wall at the junction of Mayo and Princes Roads, and maybe on the wide pavement areas at each end of Round Hill Crescent.

Another idea was to talk to Sylvan Hall about planting a hedge on their space at the east end of Princes Crescent. This one might go ahead. We can get free saplings from the Woodland Trust in November, and Sylvan Hall may have money for other materials – but we will need volunteers to prepare the ground, plant and then maintain the hedge.



3 Brewer Street's external cladding during installation.

Up the mountain....but not over the hill!

Trekking for medical research

For several years now my sister and I have volunteered for the Twin Research Unit. This involves travelling to St. Thomas's Hospital in London on a regular basis for medical testing.

Our most recent project involved a longer and more arduous journey. Being 66 we adopted the motto, 'Adventure before Dementia' and, in March, we flew to Kathmandu then trekked from Lukla up to Everest Base Camp and back. We took part in medical investigations all along the way. As you can see from the photo, we got there! It was enjoyable, but the hardest thing I've ever done!

The research project, Xtreme Everest 2, is organised by a group of doctors and scientists from University College London Hospital and Southampton University Hospital. They are studying human systems, stretched to breaking point in extreme environments, in order to increase understanding of critically ill patients. Knowledge of how the body adapts to low levels of oxygen at high altitudes, and why some people are better at it than others, can be applied to a range of medical conditions, from babies born too young right through to the elderly. Information gained by this sort of research has been particularly useful in understanding how to support patients in Intensive Care Units, as doctors don't know why some patients survive this while others die.

This has been a massive study of more than 200 people and Xtreme Everest has to raise money in order to carry it out. Now it needs to fund the analysis of all the data obtained.

Thanks to all of my friends and neighbours who have already given their support. If you would like to know more or make a donation, you can visit www.xtreme-everest.co.uk. Or, if you prefer drop something through the letterbox at 50 Princes Road.

Thank you. Jenn Price



From Rosehill to Roundhill

A local history project

In 2004 a group of Round hill residents produced a local history book called 'From Rosehill to Roundhill'. It contained interviews with people who had lived in the area for many years, and recorded their memories. However, when the book was edited some anecdotes were, of necessity left out.

Extract from an interview with an OAP in her home on Princes Road in November 2003, referring to two bombs falling nearby in 1940. The first fell on the Franklin Arms in the Lewes Road:

"The blast came up, you see, and it blew out all the windows. We lived on the lower side of Round Hill Crescent and our back windows went out. But the people on the other side, you see, their front windows went out and that was where the upper windows were literally framed in feathers and I can remember that we were laughing about that – it was about 12 or 12.30 When we got there the fire people said, 'You can't go up there', but we said we had to, we lived up there, besides we've got the cat. . . . Then we moved into Ditchling Rise in 1941, we hadn't been there long when they dropped the bombs in Viaduct Road and blew our windows out again. We thought, 'here we go again!'"

If you haven't read the book and would like to, there are still some copies available – telephone me on 600993. Marigold Rogers

A Cautionary Tale (2)

From a Local Resident

The first time I fell for this ruse was last summer on the Lewes Road. A lady in her thirties/forties approached me in a bit of a flap because she'd run out of petrol and needed to borrow some cash to get herself and her daughter home to Worthing. Her 13 year old daughter was apparently waiting in their van. She asked if I could loan her £7 to cover the petrol she needed. She said she was back in town the following week at another out-patients appointment so if I gave her my address she could return the cash. I gave her the money she needed but not my address as I was in a hurry and was happy to do a good deed for someone in distress.

The second time I was conned was this April on Wakefield Road. Again a woman, probably the same one but this time with a bald head and headscarf making her look quite different and more vulnerable, stopped me and, full of apologies, asked to borrow £4 to get herself home as her car had run out of petrol. She had a mobile phone with her and claimed to have even rung her mum for help but she was in Spain. Her daughter was apparently waiting with the car, which should have run alarm bells for me but didn't, so I gave her the money. It was only when she said, as her parting-shot, that she would return the money the following week at her next outpatients appointment that I realised it was the same story I'd been spun before.

Report on the Bike Event on the Level

In the afternoon and early evening of Friday 3rd May the Council organised a bike maintenance and repair event on the north-east corner of the Level, as part of the government funded Lewes Road Improvements programme. Thirty five people brought their bikes to the bike doctor and all the issues were dealt with on the spot. In addition lots of people stopped to talk about cycling, and the possibility of getting their bikes back on the road.





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www.roundhill.org.uk

We are in Twitter.
Follow us at
@RoundhillSoc

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	
	Robin Morley	112 Richmond Road	
	Boo Vaughan	21 Princes Road	07971 823014
	Sandy Thomas	47 Round Hill Crescent	699152
	Cath Kronhamm	84 Richmond Road	
	Shane J Franks	101 Round Hill Cres.	

Bonnie Scovell PCSO 07717 785514 andree.scovell@sussex.pnn.police.uk
For reporting non-emergency events dial 101

Directory

Can you help us update this directory? We are seeking personal recommendations from local residents.

Window Cleaners

Bishop Window Cleaning M 07939 161904
Alan Barnett T 606710
Matt Cook weatherwatchers@hotmail.com 07940 071302

Carpenters

Richard Simpson W simpsoncarpentry.com M 07754
650135 E richard@simpsoncarpentry.com
Beacon Woodwork M 07843 247411
E steffan@beaconwoodwork.co.uk
John Mildoon M 07890 689982

Builders

Dan England Green design, build and renovation M
07968 808178

Gardeners

Sadie at Plant People T 562425 M 07881 992762
All Out Tree surgery and garden clearance. Contact
Giles T 243026 M 07989 537828
Bloomers Contact Sophie M 07773 984421
E brightonbloomers@gmail.com
The Outside Works – tree surgery and landscaping Matt
Haynes T 673112 W www.theoutsideworks.co.uk

Plumbers

Tim Packwood 88 Waldegrave Road M 07703 253740
C R Laker 76 Rugby Road T 501006 F 507745
Tom Thumb M 07973 551841
Lynette Ward Gas Safe Regd. M 07910 763689
T 302574 E lynette1.ward@ntlworld.com
The Boiler Works M 07930 877575 T 820551

General

Getafix mobile cycle mechanic T 693247 M 07928
116037
Auto-bodycare Car Service Centre 25 Ditchling Rise
T 696030
Jim Gustard Waste clearance incl. trade, bulky waste
174 Hollingdean Terrace M 07773 396212
E j.gustard@ntlworld.com
Bread making Classes – Anna's Kitchen 33 Princes
Crescent M 07946 443433

Decorators

Preston Decorators Princes Road M 07976 893087
Peter Skinner T 558790/ 889964
John Hoyle Round Hill Crescent M 07743 751665
A & D Decorating T 241392
J&J Decorating, f5, 6 D'Aubigny Rd, M 07523 509712

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.

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