



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 63
March 2016

Two new trees on Round Hill – page 6

Round Hill Garden Party

Sunday 3rd July at 58
Richmond Road

This is advanced notice for your diary. The delightful, secret and large gardens of Jan and Derick Curry will be open for us all to explore and picnic in this summer on the 3rd of July. All being well there will be music provided by local musicians. If you have not visited this garden you are in for a real treat. It occupies a strip of land behind 23 houses in Richmond Road and 17 houses in Round Hill Crescent, and has been turned from a junkyard wilderness into a National Wildlife Award winning garden by years of hard work. Bring your own picnic, or at least a sandwich and a bottle of wine, and come along to explore the space and talk to some of your neighbours. If you prefer to drink tea, then it will be available and we might even arrange some cakes, for a small consideration.

Full details of the party will be in the June issue of the Reporter.



One lamppost you will not see again. It fell victim to the stormy weather in early February, and has now been replaced, see page 4.

PlaySafe dates for 2016

All the coming street closure dates for safe street play are listed on the back of this Reporter. Please make a note of them and come along with or without children. We also need volunteers to help with marshalling, to keep the events traffic free.

Pavilions come to Round Hill **page 3** • New credit card scam **page 4**
Crime report **page 6** • Recycling and refuse **page 8**

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Round Hill Society
by



Heading for Spring and New Things

On the 30th September a large group of volunteers gathered at the junction of Mayo and Richmond Roads to remove a broken tree and plant two others (see page 6). More gardening opportunities will arise when Pavilions begin to plan improvements to their offices in Richmond House (see page 3). Later in the year we will have to revisit the big planters at each end of Round Hill Crescent, they look a bit sad just now but fresh annuals will lift them. Last year about 9 houses along the Upper Lewes Road grew sunflowers in their front gardens – personally I hope to see more this summer.

A full year of PlaySafe events in Mayo Road can be found on page 8. These have grown in popularity over the last two years, both here and across the city. Volunteers always needed so ensure the 2 hour sessions run safely – contact Kate if you can help. The provision of tea and coffee are helping draw more than just children and their parents, why not come along and meet more neighbours.

If you don't want to stand on the street talking to neighbours we now have a new way of doing it on line - a Facebook page for Round Hill residents. If you'd like to join go to the page, and get in touch, giving your address, and you can be invited to join and contribute. If you just want to read what others are saying, just visit it at facebook.com/roundhillsoc. By the time you see this there should be two new noticeboards up where local information will be displayed (see page 5) It's a bit of a gamble – they may suffer at the hands (and paint cans) of some passers-by, and they will need a steady flow of interesting content. At the very least they will tell visitors that this is a community where people want to share information, ideas and even activities.

We are now living with the hub of Brighton's drug and alcohol rehab service, and some unfortunate incidents have occurred, and more probably will. We can help by reporting incidents to both Pavilions (page 3 again) and the police (see back page for contacts). Bonnie, our PCSO, is keen that we report incidents, even after the event, because it helps the police to better understand where issues are arising, and so plan policing. Locally January was a quiet month for crimes (see page 6) but badly managed refuse and recycling is causing issues mainly where newcomers don't know how the system works – we can all help by talking to our neighbours (see page 8). And a new credit card scam is reported on page 4. You might have spotted a bit of a theme here – and its improving neighbourliness. The Round Hill Society committee has joined up with many other groups across the city, as part of an initiative called 'Know my Neighbour'. But it's what we have been doing all along, doing stuff to help create a sense of community. If you want to raise a point then contact a committee member, see page 8.

Rob Stephenson.



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Or visit us at www.sashwindowssussex.co.uk



Who are Pavilions?

The adult drug and alcohol service for residents of Brighton and Hove.

We support individuals to improve their wellbeing, to take control, recover fully, live meaningful lives and become free from their dependence.

What do we do?

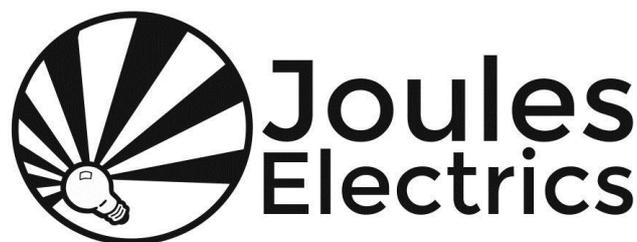
We are a recovery focused and strength based service. We tailor our interventions to people's needs, whether they want to reduce, stop, or just use more safely. We help people to develop and maintain healthy relationships, provide help with finances and accommodation and address their mental and physical health, skills, and employment needs.

Our main access point is Richmond House but we are also seeing clients out in the community and at our building in Hove. Our needle exchange service operates from Morley Street Homeless Surgery; there are also designated pharmacies that provide this service around the city.

People visit to attend a range of recovery focussed groups, see their care coordinator or nurse and support each other in mutual aid groups. We hold weekly service users forums with the aim of continuously improving the service we deliver.

What is going on around Richmond House?

The builders have almost finished clearing the outside area, the scaffolding is down, and we now have a shiny new bike shed. We will soon be working with our clients to develop a little garden at the back of the building, do let us know if you have gardening skills and would like to be involved.



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If you were to experience any form of intimidation or antisocial behaviour from anyone who might be accessing our service, please come and talk to us, we have an open door policy and have procedures in place to make sure this doesn't happen again. Please call the free phone number if the service is closed.

Did you know that local residents are welcome to use our training room facility? To book or view, get in touch using the details below.

The next Roundhill Society Liaison group will be held on the 4th April at 10am in Richmond House. We really look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any spare plants, games or books you'd like to donate for our client waiting areas then please drop them at reception. Thank you.

Can we help you?

If you are concerned about your or someone else's drug or alcohol use don't hesitate to get in touch. We provide confidential, tailored made support, information, treatment and recovery options.

How to get in touch

Call our 24 hour helpline 0800 014 9819

Drop in at Richmond House, Richmond Road, Brighton, BN2 3RL

t: 01273 731900

e: info@pavilions.org.uk

w: www.pavilions.org.uk

Twitter: @Pavilions_org



Lamppost Loss

In Wakefield Road

A falling tree branch seems to have snapped one of our cast iron lampposts off just inches below the ground, making the post unusable. It seems that this lost lamppost was a victim of Storm Imogen which flooded the seafront, closed the King Alfred Centre and stopped trains, so perhaps we got off lightly (no pun intended).

The new post is already in place, at the back of the pavement instead of beside the kerb this time. It's a lot taller and plainer than the previous 1950s post, but will probably have LED lamps, so what we lose in quality we gain in cost saving!

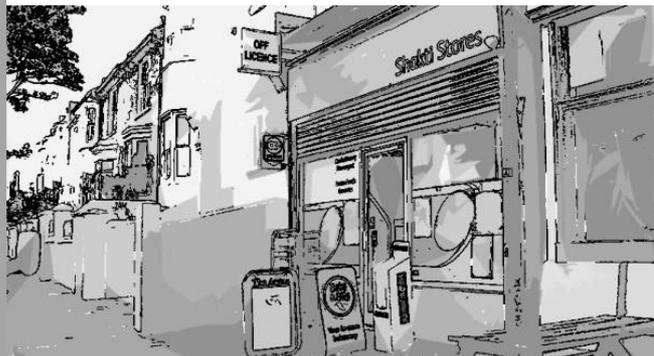
We are asking the Council if the potential cost savings of a new programme of replacing existing lamps with low energy LEDs might free up a small sum to help maintain historic lampposts. It would be a terrible thing to allow the current austerity programme to destroy our long-term heritage, and here in Round Hill we have a very good selection of historic lamppost styles, possibly the widest range in any comparable area in the city.



A New Credit Card Scam

from a North Laine resident

Following a phone call announcing the delivery a courier arrived with flowers and wine. He couldn't say who sent them, but said a letter would follow. Then he said he needed £3.50 delivery verification charge, because of the alcohol. That would prove he had handed it over, and not left it on the step. Cash was not acceptable, credit or debit card would demonstrate a clear legal transaction, he said. He had a machine through which he swiped a credit card and asked me to enter my PIN. To our horror, over the next 4 days over £4000 was charged to that card, from various ATMs. Clearly the card reader copied all the necessary info to duplicate the card. The police confirmed that this scam has been used several times in the city. Of course no card arrived from the sender of the wine and flowers.



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by John Fowler

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New Noticeboards

Princes & Ashdown Roads

Last year we applied for and received a modest sum from the Council towards the cost of installing three community noticeboards on Round Hill. A plea for suitable locations for them resulted in two positive responses. Joan Coe of 94 Richmond Road offered her garden wall (on Ashdown Road) and Ted and Jane Power offered their front garden at 55 Princes Road. After some online searching we decided to place the order with a local firm based in the neighbouring industrial estate – in fact they do all the signs for the Council, and had made some PlaySafe signs for us already. On the right are Sam and Jake just after they installed our new Ashdown Rd noticeboard.



Lots of litter showing through after cutting back shrubs outside our local Sainsbury's store.

So far we have not found a third site, but one idea has come up during talks with representatives from the Triangle Residents group (the triangular area between Lewes Road, Upper Lewes Road and Union Road). We could ask Sainsbury's if they might host a noticeboard on their outside wall at the junction of the Upper Lewes Road and the gyratory, which would serve residents of both areas. And speaking of Sainsbury's:

Sainsbury's Raised Beds

at the Gyratory

There are three separate planting beds at the front of our local Sainsbury's, and all were stripped of some very big shrubs last year. The result has been to show up the amount of litter thrown there. Replanting these beds is clearly the responsibility of the store, but it's not a big priority for them. We have talked to the new manager there and he tells us that there are a few staff who hope to help with remodeling the beds, and the store might find some money for new plants. There are certainly some people here on Round Hill who would like to get involved, and it turns out that some residents in the Triangle have also been expressing interest in taking action. If you'd like to be involved please pass your details to a committee member and we will keep you informed as things develop.



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Why suffer? – Act now – Contact Hanover Osteopaths

General and Cranial Osteopathy, Pregnancy Clinic, Babies and Children Clinic. 93 Islingword Road.

Jasmina Cordal BSc (OST) ITEC

Registered Osteopath

01273 687072

07816 288 632

Weekend and evening appointments by arrangement





Many people came together to make the tree planting activity a reality. The Halloween PlaySafe event had a collection box to raise money for a new tree, and people gave generously - £74 was collected that afternoon. Later appeals brought in £50 from our neighbours, the Sylvan Hall Residents Association and another 17 households gave a total of over £200.

Thanks to this generosity we were able to plant **two** trees, boost the soil fertility with extra compost, add flowers and bulbs, and fit some sturdy tree staking kit.

Crime statistics

An improving picture?

Whilst the new drug and alcohol treatment centre has generated a couple of anti-social behaviour incidents, the usual pattern of crimes here continues to be burglary, vehicle theft and criminal damage. The following data was provided by our PCSO, Bonnie Scovell:

November 2015

- 2nd – A window was smashed in Wakefield Road
- 9th – Burglary in basement in Round Hill Crescent (near the Cat Creep), a male was arrested.
- 10th – A mountain bike was stolen from a car roof rack in Wakefield Road.
- 14th – Tyres slashed on a car in the Upper Lewes Road.

December 2015

- 1st – A bike stolen from the rack in Ashdown Road
- 4th – Criminal damage to a car in the Upper Lewes Road
- 18th – A burglary in Round Hill Crescent (gyratory end) through a front door secured only by a Yale-style lock.

January 2016

No crimes reported!

New Trees for Richmond Road

The power of community

Well over 20 people turned out on Wednesday 30th December to dig out the broken tree and plant a new rowan in its place complete with lots of fresh compost and bulbs and flowers. In the adjacent brick planter other volunteers planted a smaller rowan and more primulas and bulbs. A neighbour provided tea, coffee and biscuits for everybody. It was a great turn out, and a grand result.



A NEW NETWORK FOR MEN 50+

In Brighton and Hove

An exciting new network of activities and interests for men aged 50+ is being rolled out across the City. This pioneering initiative, called PrimeTime, is being led by a group of men, here in Brighton, who have come together through their local volunteering activities. The initial idea came from a resident of the Round Hill area, in Brighton, who since retirement has realised that as he needs to make that extra effort to retain and build his social network among friends, families and interest groups to overcome isolation and loneliness as he gets older.

After two years of trying to get things moving, the dream has now become reality. With the aid of a most welcome donation from a Brighton based benefactor, clusters of men's groups are now starting to materialise.

Already underway at PrimeTime are arts, cookery and walking groups. These clusters, or small groups, are supported by a project coordinator who will provide advice on the formation of a group with a starter kit, advice and access to social media.

As men get older they face major changes in their lives. Whether to do with changes at the workplace or at home, older men are less likely to seek help. Bereavement or ill health can prove to be the last straw.

A recent report ("Independent Age: the emerging crisis of older men") highlights that older men are more isolated than women:

- 14% of older men experienced moderate to high social isolation compared with 11% of women;
- almost 1 in 4 older men (23%) had less than monthly contact with their children, and close to 1 in 3 (31%) had less than monthly contact with other family members. For women these figures were 15% and 21% respectively;
- older men also had less contact with friends. Nearly 1 in 5 men (19%) had less than monthly contact with friends compared to only 12% of women.

If you would like to form a group or are interested in joining an existing one please get in touch:

0300 303 2015,

primetime@volunteeringmatters.org.uk
www.meetup.com/PrimeTimeBrighton

When is a home not a home?

When it's an income generator

After London and Oxford, Brighton has a greater proportion of private sector rented housing than any other place in England. This is largely driven by two universities which are expanding their student intake without expanding their accommodation provision. As a result the private sector sees opportunities to cash in. The result is faster rising house prices and because the majority of landlords want to maximize their profits, a decline in the quality of our streetscapes as paintwork flakes off, front gardens are paved or left to grow wild and fill with junk, and curtains hang badly from broken curtain rails.

People renting these places tend to have little commitment to them, or the area, so often allow windows to get filthy, front gardens to decline in condition, and often fail to learn how refuse and recycling should be managed.

Residents can help by offering advice and support to new tenants, and we can all check to see if these houses let to groups of people sharing bathroom and kitchen, are properly registered with the Council as HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation). This is important because houses occupied by several folk need higher standards of gas and fire protection which certification demands. Check whether those near you are on the Council list of HMOs, available on their website (though it is a user-unfriendly list of forms in date order only).

If you are students and need help with the poor condition of your rented house see your student union. Both Brighton and Sussex have people who can help.

Local history in old photographs



The flint-faced Lodge to Sylvan Hall – courtesy of the Regency Society photo archive at www.regencysociety-jamesgray.com - on the Upper Lewes Road opposite the top of Rose Hill, demolished in the 1960s perhaps.





Round Hill Reporter
51 Upper Lewes Road
Brighton BN2 3FH

www.roundhill.org.uk

We Tweet :

Follow us at:

@RoundhillSoc

Yahoo Roundhill

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	01273 609086
Secretary/editor	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road	01273 673511
Treasurer	Carol Hall	36b Princes Road	01273 687636
Conservation	Ted Power	55 Princes Road	
Community Events	Kate Rice	33 Richmond Road	07789 904865
	Ray Knight	93 Princes Crescent	01273 681965
Environment	Sandy Thomas	47 Round Hill Crescent	01273 699152
Environment	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	01273 601320
Environment	Barbara Harris	14 Mayo Road	01273 677610

Veolia Waste Plant issues :

Noise problems – B&H Council 01273 292256

Smell problems – Environment Agency 0800 807060

Illegal parking in the CPZ

Report it on 0845 603 5469 and select option 3 for a traffic warden.

Student liaison officers:

Sussex-Mark Woolford 01273 678219 M.A.Woolford@sussex.ac.uk.

Brighton- Andrew Keeffe 01273 641894 a.w.b.keeffe@brighton.ac.uk

Refuse & Recycling Box use

If you've been here a while you'll know this, but many are new to Round Hill every year.

Tuesdays are refuse collection days on Round Hill except on the Upper Lewes Road where each and every one of us is responsible for taking our bags of refuse and depositing them in the big black bins set along the north side of the road.

Recycling is also Tuesdays, but alternate weeks: March 8th and 22nd, April 5th and 19th and May 3rd, 17th and 31st. Put your black boxes out the night before these dates, and please take them off the pavements after. You will need one box for glass bottles and jars, and another for plastic bottles (tops removed), newspapers and magazines and other clean paper and card (A4 maximum size please), food and drink cans and aerosol cans.

PlaySafe Dates for 2016

Our ever popular Street Play sessions are planned to return in 2016 on the following dates:

Sunday 17 th April	Sunday 17 th July
Sunday 15 th May	Sunday 18 th September
Sunday 26 th June	Sunday 30 th October

All will be held from 3-5pm in Mayo Road and are open to all Roundhill residents (not just the kids!!). We will be seeking support for these sessions to help make them a success so please contact Kate (see above for contact details) if you can offer any support. Thank you as always to all the residents of Mayo Road and surrounding streets for supporting these events and the associated road closure. These events are a great opportunity for kids to play out safely and for adults to catch up with friends and neighbours.

Police Contact Nos.

Emergencies

Call 999 if:

- A crime is being committed now, or
- The offender is still there or nearby, or
- People are injured or in danger.

Non-emergencies

Call 101 if:

- It's less urgent, or
- You have a question

You can also report a crime or incident online:-

E-mail: contact.centre@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Please make a point of reporting incidents to Bonnie or the 101line as it aids police planning.

Alternatively, for non-emergencies, contact Bonnie on **07912 897 134** or e-mail andree.scovell@sussex.pnn.police.uk. "I would encourage residents to make me aware of any suspicious behavior in the Round Hill area. If you have a question or need any advice then please call me and I will do my best to help." **Bonnie Scovell, Community Police Support Officer**

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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