



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 53
October 2013

2 hours a month close a road for children's play – would you make use of it? - page 5

Turn Out, Dig In and Clean Up *Sunday 20th October 10.30 – 2.30pm*

Once again we are asking for volunteers to contribute a couple of hours to our third clean-up. We had a great turn out last time, and lots of people who couldn't help on the day, contributed by tidying up their front gardens and paths. People also tidied up their bins and boxes and cut back any plants overhanging footpaths. We can help with bags and removal of 'greenstuff' if you let us know in advance.

The council will again be supporting us with equipment and taking away rubbish we collect. We will be targeting the Cats Creep; the junction of Mayo and Prince's Roads; the flower beds at the junction of Mayo and Richmond Roads and the flower bed outside Richmond House. Any graffiti and fly-tipping will be reported to the council's removal team. If you know of sites that need attention just let us know.

Please do come and join us, children (with parents) are very welcome. Wear gardening gloves and bring garden tools if you have them. We will be meeting at 10.30 at the junction of Mayo/Richmond Rds. We will be planting bulbs in suitable locations. Do you live near a tree that has space for bulbs beneath it? Would you be willing to keep an eye on it during the year? Let us know and we will prioritise 'your' tree.

So **turn out, dig in and clean up on Oct 20th**, and **spend a bit of time 'sprucing up your home's front'**.

Round Hill AGM

*Salvation Army Hall, Park Crescent
7.30 Thursday 17th October*

If you have an interest in Round Hill please come along to our Annual Meeting, to offer to join the committee or to vote, or just to hear what has been happening over the last 12 months, and what is planned for the future.

We hope to have window stickers like the one below ready for the AGM. They are part of our ongoing plan to encourage greater caring for Round Hill. We hope everyone will want one.



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Round Hill Reminiscences – 62 years residency

Before Margaret moved to D'Aubigny Road in 1952, she and her husband Bill (who was in the Navy) rented a basement flat in Hastings Road for £2.00 a week. After renting their D'Aubigny Road house for 9 years, Margaret and Bill bought it for £2,000 in 1961 (when buying your own home was quite unusual). The local milkman lived at 17 D'Aubigny Road and the plumber lived at no 5. The last house in Richmond Road- No 128 - was a corner shop which sold just about everything. It was open every day of the week and as a boy Bill, who then lived on Ditchling Road, worked there. The dustmen and coal men came through the house to collect the rubbish and deliver the coal; Margaret can remember putting down newspaper to protect the floors. Before central heating became common, coal was used to heat the house and water, as well as in the range for cooking.

There was a coal depot beside the railway line (now Centenary Industrial Estate) and Lewes Road Station was on the site of Richmond House, where trains went to Kemptown across the Lewes Road Viaduct and through a tunnel. Number 14 D'Aubigny Rd was the station house. No 6 was the Cox's home, on the right side of the house was an archway into their back garden (now converted to a flat).



Cox's pill factory and part of the railway viaduct seen from the end of Melbourne Street. Sainsbury's takes up most of this view today.

The building on the far right still stands on the Gyratory.

Margaret's garden overlooked the Cox's garden which was very large and stretched down to Cox's Pill Factory the family business, the site Sainsbury's now stands on. In the Cox's garden were tennis courts and a collection of stuffed birds which was kept in a greenhouse! Her garden looked towards the Viaduct and Margaret can remember the viaduct being demolished in 1976. It needed dynamite to flatten an impressive piece of Victorian brickwork.

People seemed much friendlier then, says Margaret, many more children played in the street, hopscotch and skipping for the girls and football and cricket for the boys. Margaret and Bill would use a footpath via the station down to Hollingdean Road. It was a short cut to the Vogue cinema (where tickets were 6p in the upstairs seats) and she enjoyed watching crime, mystery and cowboy films. They also visited a local pub (now demolished) next to the cinema, but can't now recall its name. Does anyone know of it?

Margaret did most of her weekly shopping on the Lewes Road. Then it was a very busy shopping centre with a butcher, baker, fishmonger, greengrocer, and a delicatessen who sold smoked bacon and hocks. There was also a pawnbroker. The Open Market had regular meat auctions where sides of beef and legs of lamb were auctioned in front of large crowds. On most Friday afternoons, local mothers and children regularly went skipping on the Level.

It was great to talk to Margaret and hear her memories. Is there someone living near you we could interview?

Annie Rimington

Round Hill: Red in Tooth and Claw

A tale of the unexpected

A loud, powerful thud in the room above startled me. As I instinctively turned and looked up I caught sight of a sparrowhawk, ruffling its feathers and looking positively put-out, perched on a wall less than three feet from the window.

Marvelling at the presence of the hawk at such close quarters, while simultaneously being puzzled by it, I did not connect it to the loud thud.

Upstairs all seemed to be as normal until I noticed shards of glass scattered across the double bed and surrounding carpet. Slightly stunned and definitely bewildered, I slowly scanned the room and in disbelief spotted in one of the window panes a jagged hole, surprisingly small in relation to the shower of glass. On the flat roof alongside was a mass of white feathers. What now? Neighbourly moral and practical support and a reassuring cup of tea. But the "drama", not yet over, was about to take a comic turn. Looking up at the broken window from the outside as I sipped my tea, my credulity was further stretched by a dove perched on the inside bar of the sash window looking out.

Exasperation at what appeared to be the stupidity of the dove in flying into a room through a broken window was succeeded by farcical frustration as my neighbour and I futilely pursued the dove round and round the room. Finally, the old trick of throwing a tea towel over its head eventually led to its capture.

Carrying the dove out into the garden, so light within the tea towel, with its alert eyes peeping out, was quite a special moment.

A rational explanation for such bizarre events? Possibly the sparrowhawk had swooped on the dove which had panicked and been briefly stunned as it crashed through the window.

Unexpected? To me, certainly, but according to glaziers not that uncommon.

Miraculously, both birds were unharmed. Three special memories remain: that close view of the sparrow hawk; holding the dove in my hands; and my neighbour's willingness to abandon everything to help me. All part and parcel of living in Roundhill!

Sandy Thomas

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07791 341594**

Campaign to End Loneliness

According to the "Campaign to End Loneliness" one in 10 people feel lonely. We are now becoming more of an ageing population and many of us are living on our own. Would you consider being a good neighbour by asking any older neighbours if there is anything they need doing, or even to arrange a regular visit – one hour a week/fortnight for a cup of tea. This could make a lot of difference to their lives. Or, if you feel that your neighbour needs more assistance, you could help out by getting in touch with Age UK, and other charities on their behalf, which are well able to assist vulnerable people.

Carol Hall



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Greetings Students

Welcome to Round Hill!

It's a new academic year, and time to welcome all new and returning students to Round Hill.

There is a great community in Round Hill, and residents are very welcoming to students. Everyone tries to be considerate to neighbours and this approach seems to support the community spirit. The Round Hill Society is essentially a residents association which we hope reflects the make-up of the area.

The members of the committee try to represent local views and interests; investigating planning applications and addressing residential issues such as litter and graffiti, preserving our open spaces and the character of the area, and promoting local businesses. There are a few events held in the area each year, we have an annual Seasonal Singing evening at Christmas, raising money for the Martlet's Hospice, and we hold a Community Clean Up event twice a year to tidy up the streets, cut back foliage and clear litter.

We also have a street party when we can, and it usually rains! We are very keen to for our resident students to get involved with these events, and would also like to recruit a student to our committee, so if you are interested, please contact a committee member or come along to the AGM on the 17th October.

Security Advice to Students

Several recent burglaries have specifically targeted student houses. You should ask your landlord to fit mortise locks or bolts to all outside doors or easily accessible windows. Ideally outside security lighting and a visible burglar alarm help to deter burglars. If you leave your house empty – even when you are in the back garden – lock all the doors and windows. Draw your curtains after dark and use timer switches for lights when you are out to give the impression you are in. Keep all laptops, wallets, purses, credit cards and car keys out of sight. Ensure information on your laptop is backed up and consider having a tracking device installed on your computer. Mark all valuable electronic property with ultra-violet marking pens. Register your valuable items such as laptops, bicycles and mobile phones with www.immobilise.com (National Property Register).

Mayo Court Chronicles

It all started on a cold day in May. It was the day of the great Round Hill Clean Up and Mayo Court Residents' Association (MCRA) were aiming to use this day to commence their Gardening Project, having received a grant from the St. Peters and North Laine Community Development Fund.



Before we started this bed was a tipping ground



But just look at it now

The first day was hard work but thanks to the efforts of the MCRA and members of the Round Hill Society, we tackled a large proportion of the preparation needed.

In the subsequent two months we have planted shrubs, flowers and vegetables and Mayo Court is now blooming. Deborah French and Helen Ashdown.



A Regular Playstreet Event?

Would sufficient parents of young children be interested in a monthly two hour street closure so that local children can take over the street?

The scheme would need about 5 folk to be on the street, to 'police' the closure and watch over the kids. There is lots of information on the playingout.net website

It's working in other parts of the city, and could work on (probably) the top of D'Aubigny Road. Come along to the AGM to have your say.

Ditchling Road BP Petrol Station

A sorry story

The side of the shop attached to the petrol station is very tatty, and as work was clearly being done elsewhere on the site a Round hill resident wrote to BP suggesting they might smarten up the side of the shop.



Their response was to say its not their site, they lease it to another company. As our correspondent noted, this was not the reply you might expect from a media-savvy organisation. He decided to approach the other company (MRH Retail Services, of Egham, Surrey) and their answer was to point out that any work done there would be unlikely to improve their profits.

Love your Lampposts

When the houses and roads of Round Hill were being built from mid-18th to early 19th centuries, the street lights that were installed all ran on coal-gas. The gas was initially made at Black Rock by the Brighton Gas, Light and Coke Company, established just outside the parish of Brighton to avoid coal-tax. One of the Victorian gas holders still stands there, behind a high flint wall on Boundary Road. I have heard it said that the name Black Rock came from the discolouring effect of hauling coal up the cliff from ships on the beach to the gas works.

We still have 19 of the originally installed lampposts on our streets. They are cast-iron and have an octagonal lower section that was probably first designed as a bollard. The local iron foundry would have adapted their bollard pattern to make a lamp-post. A projecting arm near the top of the post would accept a ladder for maintaining, repairing and lighting the gas lamp. The name 'C G Reed and Son' appears on a bollard lamppost at the junction of Princes and Mayo Roads – this business traded in that name from 1878 to 1912, from 26 North Street, as ironmongers and ironfounders.

Originally the lamplight would be yellow, from a flickering gas flame, but the invention of the gas mantle in 1891 gave a brighter, whiter light. The gas mantle is used today in camping lanterns running on bottled gas. Metal oxides in the fine mesh mantle glow with a brilliant white light when heated.

The Brighton Lighting and Electrical Engineering Co (BLEECO) was established in 1921 in St Martin's Place to make kit for converting gas lights to electric street lighting. Many of the Round Hill cast iron lampposts have BLEECO electrical switch boxes and swan neck electric light supports fitted to them. BLEECO also installed new cast iron posts for electric lights which have switch controls behind a door at the bottom of the post. We have examples made by ironfounders John Every of Lewes in Belton Rd and Wakefield Rd. Every may also have cast the BLEECO badged posts in Wakefield Rd, and Princes and Round Hill Crescents. The most recent cast iron post is outside 64 Crescent Road. It was ordered by the Council just before the Wolverhampton company of Edwin Preston ceased trading in 1981.

Our three oldest lampposts were probably erected to replace damaged bollard-style posts – two (east end Round Hill Crescent and east side Belton Rd) are Beehive-style lampposts made for Hove Council during the 19th century, and perhaps the oldest, near 12 D'Aubigny Rd, is in the form of a simple classical column.

Rob Stephenson



An original gas lantern on a bollard-style post in the Upper Lewes Rd, about 1916. Courtesy of the James Gray collection/Regency Society.



BLEECO switch box.



The base of a bollard-style lamppost with maker's label just visible

Planters as a Gateway to Round Hill

A possible way to celebrate our community

We are planning a bid to the council to install and plant a series of raised beds/large containers at the junctions of Round Hill Crescent and Upper Lewes Rd (where the road has been narrowed). Initial ideas include relocating the bike racks and planting hardy herbs, flowering shrubs and spring bulbs.

It would really help our bid if a couple of residents who live close to these locations were willing to water the containers during very dry spells. If you could help or if you are interested in being part of the team planning this project, please contact Annie or Rob (see back page for contact information).



Planters for Round Hill: It's a poor drawing, but it gives the idea – and the sturdy planter below offers more detail.



Richmond House

Developer's Matsim have joined with Mortar Developments to submit a second proposal to demolish Richmond House and build a 138 student accommodation block with the entrance on Hughes Rd.

All the design information can be found on the Council's website and local residents concerns can be viewed at www.roundhil.org.uk.

As this is a Major Development, the application will go before the Planning Committee with a target date for decision of 20th Nov 2013. So there is still time for you to have your say if you haven't already.

Sash Window Restorations (Sussex) Ltd

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Two local
recommendations





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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 Kronhamn	84 Richmond Road	

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

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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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