



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 58
December 2014

Next year's Playsafe dates on page 4

Seasonal Singing on Thursday 18th December

6pm at bottom of the Catcreep/west end of Round Hill Crescent

We really hope lots of people, especially parents with children, will come out for 90 minutes in the week before Christmas to participate in what is becoming a traditional Round Hill event – singing seasonal songs under the lampposts of Round Hill, and taking collection buckets door to door to raise money for a good cause. This year the good cause is the First Base shelter run by Brighton Housing Trust.

Wrap up warm, bring a lantern or torch and your voices. We will provide songsheets and supporting musicians – so far a cello, a melodeon and a guitar are promised – and at the end of the singing trail we will provide warm mince pies and drinks (mulled wine or soft drinks) on Richmond Road beside the road closure at Mayo Road.

The route will be up Round Hill Crescent and left up Ashdown Road, left again onto Richmond Road and all the way along Richmond Road and Princes Crescent to Belton Road where we turn right and sing at several lampposts before returning by the same route to the junction of Mayo and Richmond

Roads for mulled wine and mince pies.

Additional Seasonal Activity

Why not get together with a few neighbours and arrange a window dressing event based on the advent calendar? Belton Road has done this for a few years now, and this year some houses in Ashdown and Richmond Roads are planning to do the same. Learn more on page 3.



A Belton Road window from December 2011.

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Round Hill Rubbish Update

The good news!

A plethora of protests ---via the Round Hill Society AGM, articles in the Argus, many individual complaints to CityClean and the effective intervention of Councillor Pete West--- have led to a transformation in the service to much of Round Hill. In Ashdown Road, D'Aubigny Road and Roundhill Crescent, rubbish that had been on the street for 4 weeks was cleared the day after our AGM. On each subsequent week to date rubbish in these streets has been collected according to the published schedule. Unfortunately, the picture is not so positive in Belton Road and its surrounds where, in early November, it was reported that two recycling and three consecutive rubbish collections had been missed, with significant "pile-ups" on the streets. What you said in responses to the questionnaires in the September edition of the Reporter:

1. Reliability of Rubbish and recycling collection.

Most were satisfied with the recycling collection service which was found to be much more reliable than rubbish collection, with frequent examples of missed or delayed rubbish collections, the worst cases

involving maggot-infested rubbish on the streets for 4 weeks. Rubbish collection was more reliable in the section of Richmond Road west of the road barrier at the old Victoria pub than in the parts of Roundhill to the east and south of the road barrier.

2. Communication with CityClean. Most respondents were dissatisfied with CityClean's record for "communication". The following comments indicate a spectrum of personal experiences: "Yes, prompt response"; "response satisfactory if I managed to get through, but not usually accessible"; "Not satisfactory. Slow response. No reason given"; "Have sent an email to CityClean, but I'm not expecting a response given the history!"; "Shirty response".

3. Suitability of Bins. Most were satisfied with their own bins, whether wheelie bins or binvelopes, but some residents have been unable to get wheelie bins in spite of frequent requests. One has been waiting for a year! There was general agreement that there are still too many black bags around and that several households would benefit from the issue of City Clean bins. Because Black bags are vulnerable to seagull and fox attacks, rubbish is commonly strewn over the streets.

4. Communal Bins: This question elicited the most passionate and lengthy replies. There was no support for communal bins. The question "Would you like communal bins?" was met with emphatic replies like, "No, No, No", "Definitely not", "Absolutely not" and "An ill- conceived idea", supported by many reasons for rejecting them. These included concerns about smell and noise, the encouragement of fly tipping and the creation of more rubbish on the streets ("dumping grounds") with implications for the spread of vermin. There was a perception that communal bins discourage people from cutting down on waste and that they are dangerous for road users and pedestrians.

5. Additional Comments Made: People should not leave recycling and rubbish on the streets all week as this creates difficulties for people with walking problems and encourages "micro litter"; "people who leave rubbish on the streets for a week should be fined as happens in London"; more dog bins are needed to cope with "overflow" and the location of dog bins needs to be re-thought:

Further ACTION

We are proposing to meet with the new Head of City Clean to present Round Hill views and press for an improved service.

We would like you to join us in another Round Hill Clean-up in the spring (date to be announced), along the lines of those successfully conducted by us, and supported by City Clean, in the last two years.

Sandy Thomas



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Advent Windows

Get your date number soon

Saskia and her friend Kate saw windows decorated as advent calendar scenes in Brighton and Chichester, and decided it would work on their road too:

"In 2009 we wrote a letter and posted it through every door in Belton Road to see how many people would be interested in taking part and explained to them how it would work. We asked them if they would display a date number (1st to 24th December) and suggested some ideas about how they could make the display. We also asked if anyone would be willing to contribute two numbers, in their upper and lower windows, in case we didn't get enough houses. The response we got was extremely positive. It was exciting to get everyone's notes back through the door and we worked out how we could spread the numbers through the street so it worked as a calendar. We then sent out a second note through individual doors with their specific number."

Saskia's younger sisters are promoting the advent windows this year. It has become part of the Christmas season and is celebrated with a street walk to share all the effort, and a gathering in a different home each year. As Saskia said, "The calendar has become a tradition for our street and allows everyone to be creative and unique in their ideas for their displays every year".

Cath Kronhamn, of the Round Hill Society, said, "We are delighted that this year, we're extending the Belton Road Advent idea throughout the rest of Roundhill. Whilst Belton Road will continue their long standing tradition, we're inviting all OTHER houses to participate.

If you'd like to get involved please contact Boo, Kate or Cath who will give you an advent number to place in your window. On that day in December you display your advent window in whichever way you wish to celebrate the season, and keep it up until January 5th. We already have lots of willing participants, but there is room for more.



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Whether you plan to join in or not, why not take a stroll around Roundhill one evening near Christmas Eve to admire the festive decorations and see how many numbers you can spot!



Another decorated window from Belton Road, again from their 2011 display.

Halloween Playsafe Event and Future Playsafe Dates

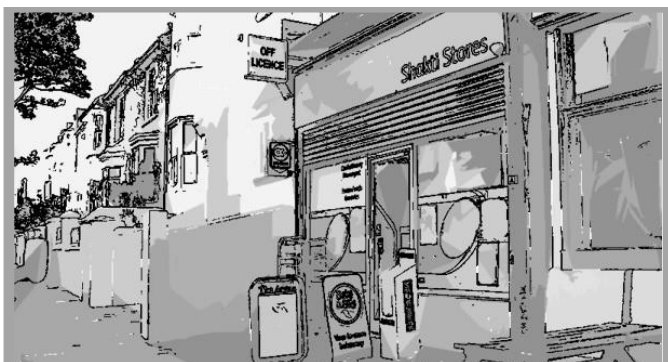
We held our third play safe on October 31st - timed to coincide with Halloween. Around 40 children came dressed to scare (and even a few parents joined in too) and along with the usual street chinks, scootering and football fun we also had 'devilish doughnuts', a gruesome lucky dip and spooky face painting. As it started to get dark the children lined up their lit pumpkins along the road which looked fantastic. After the play safe event the kids dispersed to go trick or treating around Roundhill - there were some great decorations and costumes and lots of treats too!!

Thanks to all who helped organise, but especial thanks to the residents of Crescent Road, the Stewart family (for organising devilish doughnuts) and Nick the Brush and family (for face painting).

We're already planning a number of Play safe events next year, and due to the success of the Crescent Road location we're thinking of alternating between there and Mayo Road (any thoughts?). Current dates for 2015 are April 12th, May 31st, July 12th, Sept 13th and Oct 31st (Halloween!).

To make these a success we really need some extra help so if you can spare any time to help put up posters, collect signatures or marshal an event then please get in contact with Kate, Cath or Boo (contact details on back page).

Check out the Roundhill website for more photos and a video of the devilish doughnut eating!!



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Round Hill in Bloom

A target for 2015?

Rusty and I, over the years have now and again, entered the annual City in Bloom Competition for Best Wild Life Garden. We are not particularly competitive but we felt the wild life that abounds in Round Hill deserved wider recognition. (Well, that was our excuse for dressing up and meeting gardeners from across the city who gather together for a drink and chat about all things green before various awards were given out.)

Incidentally, the garden still brings me great joy – sitting there just after dawn I still see wary foxes, tip toe across the dewy grass jumping over the pond rather than going the long way round, stopping to sniff the early morning air before scrambling over the wall, on route to their dens, probably in or under a shed in your garden, who knows?

Bats still flutter over head at dusk – three or four, not the small flocks that use to dart around here fifty years ago. Spider's webs, hung with watery diamonds are still being woven between and across the shrubs, this time of the year.

The birds that visit or live here and in surrounding gardens fill the garden with movement and song, there are fewer sparrows but more goldfinches and a family of blackcaps this year. A robin still escorts me along the garden early every evening – robins are the last birds to go to roost, the last bird to fill the closing day with song. All this and just six minutes from Sainsbury's we are so lucky to live on Round Hill.

Luckier still to live in Brighton with everything it's got going for it, not least its beautiful parks and green places. Brighton and Hove City in Bloom encourages and supports local communities to 'green up' as much as they can – allotments, gardens, window boxes, hanging baskets and street corner nature reserves or veg patches

Round Hill has some really lovely front gardens and basement areas – many small but beautiful. We also have street 'clean up' sessions carried out by Round Hill residents supported by the Council. We have lots of window box enthusiasts and doorstep pots. There are a few sad looking frontages and areas – if one of these is yours I would like to feel, if you are old and infirm, or young with little time and no transport, or someone with no interest in 'greening up' at all but wouldn't mind someone else doing it for you, you could contact me and there will be enough volunteers to come to your aid in an effort to make the place where we all live more beautiful than ever.

Please contact me if you would be willing to muck in or if you need someone to dig over and sow seeds for you, or if you want to know when to plant what. OK it's barely winter yet but every gardener knows spring won't be far behind. And they are planting daffodils, tulips even bare root roses to prove it.

Jan Curry

Gorillas in Our Midst?

Last year Round Hill Society members planted bulbs around the bases of the trees in Richmond Road. Then the guerillas arrived, Guerilla Gardeners, and planted up the areas around two more trees - in front of no.10 and the corner of Richmond & Mayo Roads.

Why not join the guerillas by adopting one of the other trees in Richmond Road. Plant up the base, meet the neighbours, have fun, do something a bit naughty and nice. Adopt a tree either with neighbours and family, or on your own, you don't have to be an expert, just someone who would like to help contribute to making Round Hill a greener and pleasanter place to live.

Take a look at the trees adopted by Janet and Russ (Richmond/Mayo Road) & Sue (outside no.10)

If you would like to adopt a tree email me at bar16har@googlemail.com or phone or leave a note (details on back page)

Thanks to Janet, Xavier, Roberta & Sue for inviting me into their homes and giving me information about the guerillas. And thanks to Sue's partner for the tea.

Barbara Harris

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Student Community Liaison

Issues and opportunities

At our committee meeting in November we met Andrew Keeffe, the University of Brighton Community Liaison and Housing Advice Officer. His job has two roles, and the first he described was related to building links between the city and the university. To this end he told us that we might be able to tap into a supply of student volunteers to help us with community events such as Playsafe and community clean-ups. Whilst this may be a useful option for a source of labour, it would be better, from a community point of view, to get on so well with the students living on Round Hill that we can involve them – resident students – in our community activities.

Andrew's second function is to address issues arising from students living in the community – many of these relate to the work of letting agents. Andrew noted that absolutely anyone can set up as a letting agent, there are no professional qualifications and no compulsory codes of conduct. Perhaps it is not surprising that they often seem to do the minimum of work in addressing housing quality and condition issues suffered by students. This paper has previously reported on work being done by Brighton University Student Union and others to draw attention to tenants' rights, and show up some of the worst agents (see page 7 of issue 56, on the roundhill.org.uk website). The Society is still looking at ways it might get involved in a project which might result in an improvement of some of the 'to let' housing on the hill (see for example the 'in Bloom' article on page 5).

The issue that resident's may feel most strongly about is student houses which generate noise, or fail to manage their waste and recycling effectively. Andrew finds this occupies more of his time at the beginning of term, and he suggests that neighbours respond quickly and calmly to an issue, trying to encourage understanding and reasonable behaviour. Many residents have found an even better approach, to introduce themselves to the new occupants as soon as they arrive, to offer help, loans of equipment that might be lacking, and advice on refuse and recycling. But if all that fails then Andrew is there to help. Find contact details for him and his Sussex University equivalent on page 8. Ideally Andrew would like to know which university the students are attending, or the name of the managing agent, but he will help without this information. Noise is a Local Authority issue but, as Andrew noted, Environmental Health staff are being lost as Government funding is cut, and the process of keeping a noise diary can be very offputting, and may be the wrong solution when a very loud and late party is going on. Even though it's an annual event it's best to meet you neighbours early, and build a good relationship.

Wedding Photography

by John Fowler

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Stained glass winner!

Barbara Harris showing the lovely stained glass panel she made as a result of winning a prize in Round Hill's summer street picnic raffle. Barbara won lessons with local glass maker Annie McCabe.

You can see Annie demonstrating and showing her work s at 'Partially Obscured', upstairs in the Open Market on 29 & 30 Nov, and 6,7,13 & 14th Dec. See also www.anniemccabe.com

It was a great prize and I really enjoyed making the panel, which is currently displayed in the living room but in the summer will be in my garden. Thanks Annie for your help and patience.



Wartime Memories of Yvonne Elliot

Yvonne died earlier this month

Sadly, we have heard that Yvonne Elliot who was over 90 has died recently. She had lived in the Round Hill since before the Second World War and in Princes Road for many years. It is thanks to her that there is a handrail at the bottom of Princes Road on the right hand side at the Ditchling Road end and I am sure that her letters (type-written by herself) will be missed in several Council offices!

I was able to interview her in November 2003 when she described some of her experiences in Round Hill during the war. Unfortunately these were not included in the local history book that was being produced at that time (Rose Hill to Roundhill: a Brighton Community) but here are some of them, in her own words.

Here is her memory of the bomb which destroyed the Franklin Arms in Lewes Road on September 20th. 1940.

"The blast came up and it blew out all the windows. We lived on the lower side of Roundhill Crescent, our back windows went but the people on the other side their front windows went and that was where the upper windows were literally framed in feathers. I

remember that we were laughing about that, it was about 12 or 12.30...The fire people said, "You can't go up there!" We said that we had to, we lived there and besides we've got the cat! So we went up there and we stayed there...We moved into Ditchling Rise in 1941, the 13th of January. 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!"

As a young woman in the war there was fun to be had though. Yvonne worked at Allen West on the Lewes Road and told me about the Allen West Rifle Club* that ran for employees.

"You went up beside the laundry in Crescent Road and it was behind there. I was deputed to make the tea. Some of the girls were jolly good, I could get it into the target but I never got it into the black... I got one of these as a booby prize [shows me an ashtray]. ...It was great fun, I used to go every Tuesday evening."

She also mentioned spending time outdoors.

"We had wonderful summers during the war but you couldn't get along the sea front, it was all full of tank traps. We were only allowed 3 days leave at a time so you couldn't go away. We used to go and sit at the back of the King Alfred and watch the dog fights, watching the tracer bullets going along the macadam road, it was all spurting up. We must have been crazy but we thought we were quite clever, it was fun lying up there in the sun, watching the dog fights."

Marigold Rogers

*This club was on the land between Crescent Road and Belton Road, which remains the subject of a significant planning application, being pursued under temporary Government legislation designed to encourage the creation of housing from unused office space – wrongly in the view of the Round Hill Society.

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www.roundhill.org.uk

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a forum for local info and advice

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The Round Hill Society Committee

Chair	Annie Rimington	8 D'Aubigny Road	01273 609086
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Treasurer	Carol Hall	36b Princes Road	01273 687636
Conservation	Ted Power	55 Princes Road	01273 933018
Community events	Kate Rice	33 Richmond Road	01273 673321
Community events	Boo Vaughan	21 Princes Road	07971 823014
Environment	Sandy Thomas	47 Round Hill Crescent	01273 699152
Community events	Cath Kronhamn	84 Richmond Road	cathrynchronhamn@gmail.com
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 :

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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

Local recycling facilities have taken a backward step as Sainsbury's has closed its ground floor space which used to have bins for all plastic bags and carriers, as well as somewhere to put the cardboard cartons made using cardboard and plastic laminates, sometimes with aluminium foil as well which cannot be recycled in our black boxes. As a city we have a terrible recycling rate – lower than the national average which is particularly bad for a city administered by a Green Party Council. Perhaps we need an action team which will go round the streets sorting out badly put out recycling and leaving a notice describing how recycling operates in Brighton. Of course this will depend on a resolution to all our waste collection/put-out services so that they take place reliably on published dates.

Police Contact Nos.

Emergencies

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- The offender is still there or nearby, or
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Non-emergencies

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

Alternatively, for non-emergency matters, contact Bonnie, our local CPSO on 07717 785 514 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 at all then please give me a call and I will do my best to help in any way I can' **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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