



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 65
October 2016

Halloween Playsafe on Mayo Road – Sunday 30th October 3 to 5pm – see page 4.

Round Hill AGM @ Richmond House

11am to 12.30pm on Saturday 15th October, top of D'Aubigny Rd.

A new venue, and new day and a new time for our community Annual General Meeting – if the weekday evenings have been bad for you in the past, or leaving the comfortable Round Hill environment more than you could face, we have the answer; it's a late-morning Saturday meeting right here in Round Hill. To be precise it's at Richmond House, the office block at the top of D'Aubigny Road now occupied by Brighton's drug and alcohol addiction treatment service - Pavilions. **The entrance is round the corner in the car park.**

We hope that a representative of Pavilions will be able to welcome us with a few words about their work, and their engagement with the local community and this will be followed by quick reports of our activities over the last year and the all-important election of your committee members.

WE ARE SEEKING NEW BLOOD on the committee, so if you might be interested and want to know more, please contact a committee member of your choice (see back page) and ask.

The long wall at the bottom of Wakefield Rd still needs a long-term solution, and we would like your ideas, perhaps even old photographs or drawings of past Round Hill which might be used to create a mural on one or two sections of the wall.



Wendy, Jan and Simon at our party in July – page 2



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Round Hill Society
by



July Garden Gathering



The 3rd July proved to be a good day for weather and pleasure, and well over 60 people shared it at the Round Hill Garden Gathering. Jan and Barbara organised tea and cake, musical interludes came from Michael and Liz (see page 6) and Simon and Peter (plus Wendy, Rusty and Jan), and people brought their own wine and food, and the Mayor came.

Crime statistics for Round Hill

	Burglary	Vehicle crime	Bike theft
April	0	0	0
May	0	1	0
June	0	1	1
July	0	3	0
August	1	1	1

The figures look fairly good for an area of 1000 households and a lot of passing traffic. Perhaps it's not surprising that the broken wing mirror in June was on the Upper Lewes Rd where footfall is high, with lots of late night revellers. In May a car was stolen in Mayo Rd, and the bike thefts were in Round Hill Crescent and Richmond Rd.

The August vehicle crime was a satnav theft, which is a good reason to take it indoors with you, unless it's built-in of course.

Our one burglary was via a basement window at the west end of Round Hill Crescent, and a male has been arrested and charged.



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Lost Elms of Round Hill

a potted history

If you walk slowly along the Upper Lewes Rd, on the north side you might spot a fairly regular change in the type of kerbstone. These signify where there used to be street trees which broached the kerb to occupy part of the road, as most of the present trees do. On the basis of this evidence there were once 19 elms on the north side. We have a lot fewer today.

Dutch elm disease has never really gone away, the beetles which spread it still bore into the trees and leave the spores of the fungus which is the disease. Last month the Council cut back all the side branches from two of the remaining elms on the road, and put up notices saying Dutch Elm Disease has infected them.

But its not always a disease that kills trees. Back in May 1994 the Council felled three elms on this road - two because they made the pavement uneven and one because it had filled an adjacent garden with its roots. None of this should be surprising given that they struggle to grow under tarmac and paving slabs.

Since then we lost another to honey fungus. Just one tree has been planted to replace these losses – perhaps we will be able to plant more on the sites where the two doomed trees now stand.



Left: one of the trees soon to be removed.

Below: Yellow notice warning of Dutch Elm Disease.

Right: Way back in 1994 the Urban Wildlife Group protested the loss of street trees

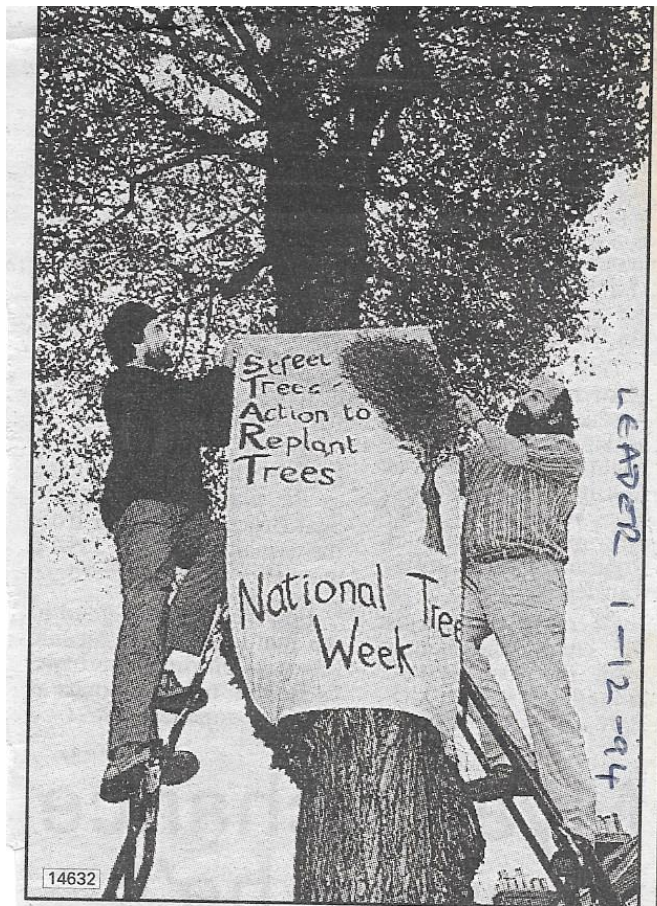



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★ MEMBERS of Brighton Urban Wildlife Group went tree climbing this week as part of their campaign to publicise the importance of trees in an urban environment.

Rob Stephenson (right) said: “In Ditchling Road half the trees have gone. In Upper Lewes Road only five of the original 19 trees remain.

“We are asking Brighton and East Sussex councils to protect our heritage of existing mature street trees and to plant new trees where old ones are lost, with the emphasis on local native species.

“Street trees provide leafy natural delight in the harsh, built-up world of tarmac and concrete. They even filter dirt and fumes out of the air.”

Pictured hoisting the banner with Rob is Phil Belden.



Ernest Beal VC

A commemorative plaque?

Ernest was born at 148 Lewes Road (where Mojo's café is now) which was the Beal's home. They owned the stationers in East Street trading as Beals. Local historian Geoff Mead had raised the idea, and it is a time when World War One is in the news, it being the 100th anniversary of that ghastly time. In March 1918 he led an assault on a German trench with fewer than a dozen men. He took the first machine gun post armed only with his revolver, and they went on to take three more, securing the line for that day. Later that day he went out into no-mans-land and brought back a wounded soldier. He was killed the following day by shrapnel. At the time of his death he was engaged to May Bundy of 37 Crescent Rd.

With help from the owner of 148, and Ernest's old school Society, and his Yorkshire Regiment there should be a blue plaque on the wall in recognition of this man before the centenary of his death.



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Halloween Playsafe

With the city's Mayor

Our regular street play event had a VIP guest drop by when our Mayor, Pete West joined us in July. A big thankyou to the many parents and Round Hill committee for their ongoing support at these events, and to the residents of Mayo Road and surrounding areas for moving cars and helping to negotiate the temporary road closure.

Our final street play of the year is our ever popular Halloween event which this year will be on Sunday 30th October, from 3pm to 5pm in Mayo Road. We're planning spooky games and will have a 'best carved pumpkin' competition. The Mayor enjoyed himself so much last time he joined us he's planning on coming back to act as head judge!! Come and join us in your most frightening costumes if you dare ...!!!

Below is Cllr Pete West, the Mayor of Brighton and Hove, with some of the children enjoying the safe freedom of Mayo Road in July.



Community Composting Scheme

An appeal for interested parties

We have located a site for a compost scheme, close to Richmond House in D'Aubigny Rd, and want to know if there are 10 households out there who might actively support one if we apply for grants to put it in place.

It would need your compostables and a little management time. If you are interested please contact Annie, details on back page.

Urban Foxes

Inspired by this year's foxes

There is no difference between an urban fox and a country fox, other than where it lives, in fact they often move between town and countryside. The idea that urban foxes are bigger than rural foxes (because they eat leftover curries and KFCs from our bins) just isn't true. Most of them don't eat out of bins, they aren't any bigger than rural foxes and generally only come near houses because people feed them (or leave food out in plastic bags, which they consider an invitation to dinner). In fact foxes eat a lot of rats, which in my view is very useful behaviour considering the explosion of rats. They also eat earth worms, insects, fruit, voles and feral pigeons.

The last estimate (1980's) put the urban fox population at 33,000 nationwide. Consensus among experts is that there has been no significant increase, largely because populations are recovering from a mange epidemic. Fox populations are remarkably self-regulating and most only live for two years.

Two young foxes in D'Aubigny Road this summer, which have become regular evening visitors.

It is incredibly rare for a fox to kill a cat. A typical urban fox home range will cover an area occupied by upwards of 100 cats, so they will meet cats every night and invariably ignore each other. But they will kill/eat chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs, so these pets need to be securely protected if left out at night.

Young foxes are very inquisitive and playful. Gardening gloves, shoes, balls and anything that smells nice that you leave in the garden are all favourite toys. Have you seen the poster of the lost Teddy Bear waiting to be reclaimed in the window of 103 Richmond Rd? He was left behind by foxes after playing in the back garden.

Never try to make a fox tame by hand feeding it, because the fox might then approach people who can be scared not knowing if the fox is being aggressive or inquisitive. But the occasional peanut butter and jam sandwich left out at twilight while you watch from a distance.....what's the harm?



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Weekend and evening appointments by arrangement

The Long Wall

Moving towards a solution

The wall at the bottom of Wakefield Rd and Upper Lewes Rd has remained mainly free of tagging and graffiti, thanks largely to the vigilant use of paint brush and roller by a resident of Wakefield Rd. We have found a muralist who can paint realistic images of places, and have asked him to price one, two and three separate murals each taking up about 18 feet of wall length.

They will not be cheap, but we would like to gather ideas for subject matter. Your committee seem to favour a historical theme – perhaps featuring parts of the Round Hill scene now lost. But we would like lots of ideas to flow in, and if you have images to pass on that would be even better. Contact a committee member (see back page) or use the Round Hill Noticeboard (on Facebook).

All ideas will be shared, initially at the Round Hill AGM on Saturday 15th October (see front page).

Imaginary Friends...

...are **Liz Ryder-Weldon** (vocals, wind instruments, percussion) and **Michael Coates** (acoustic guitar and vocals). We have been entertaining a wide variety of audiences in and around Brighton for several years, at various local rest homes, functions and private parties (including the 2016 Round Hill garden party). We mainly perform well-known songs from the 1960s and 70s, but throw in a few numbers from the 20s and 30s (and even some from the 21st century!), plus some original material. We'd be delighted to come and play for you.

www.imaginaryfriendsduo.co.uk
email: contact@imaginaryfriendsduo.co.uk
call 01903 761311



Pavilions community gardening

Many local residents along with clients and staff of Pavilions (B&H's drug & alcohol support service) on the corner of D'Aubigny continue to comment really positively about the lovely gardens which are steadily transforming the surroundings of Richmond House. These gardens are the result of hard graft put in by Pavilion staff and mentors alongside a band of local residents over days of work in July. Donations of plants were made by generous residents and Bridgette from 'The Garden House', Warleigh Rd. Compost and plants were also donated by Veolia and Sainsburys.

More ideas for improving the site are in the early stages of development with funding being sought by Pavilions in partnership with the Round Hill Society. These plans include creating a wildlife area and quiet space in the small copse to the north of the building and establishing a community compost scheme. If you are interested in helping with the gardening or have tools or plants you can donate, please contact Annie Rimington (annie.rimington@virginmedia.com) or Georgia Ramsay-Smith (gramsay-smith@pavilions.org.uk). Pavilions also welcomes donations of books, games and indoor plants for use in Richmond House. Just drop them into reception during opening hours. If you want to find out more about Pavilions' work, go to www.pavilions.org.uk.

Our four 'big planters' at the two entrances to Round Hill via Roundhill Crescent are being well looked after by local residents. Some have been bountiful with herbs and veg over the summer and others already beautifully planted up for the autumn. If you live nearby, please take a few minutes to contribute by watering them, especially in dry weather. Our special thanks to Ruth, Ruth M & Karen for their work.

New planting outside Pavilions



A Guide for new residents in Round Hill –cut out and keep

Household waste, recycling and other tips

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, see later). Please do not put refuse out in plastic bags because gulls and foxes will open them and scatter your trash. If you do not have a dustbin and lid then you can get a green wheelie bin from the Council by phoning 01273 292929 or e-mailing cityclean@brighton-hove.gov.uk. If you need a bigger wheelie bin because there are lots of you in the house you can ask for one – but please ensure you are not throwing away recyclable materials. Collections can be very early so it's best to put out the refuse late on Monday night, and (ideally) take you bin off the public highway after it has been emptied.

The Upper Lewes Rd is different – we don't have house to house refuse collection. Instead we are all responsible for putting our bags of refuse neatly inside the big black refuse bins on the north side of the Upper Lewes Rd. It's better to take small bags of rubbish several times a week rather than a big one which may not fit into the bin the day you decide to go.

Recycling is also Tuesdays, but alternate weeks:

October 4th and 18th, November 1st, 15th and 29th.

You should have one or more black recycling boxes. Put them out the night before collection day, and please take them off the pavements after collection. You will need

- one box for glass bottles and jars (washed, no lids),

and another for:

- plastic bottles (washed, no lids),
- newspapers and magazines and other clean paper,
- clean cardboard (flattened, A4 maximum size please),
- food and drink cans and aerosol cans (washed, no lids).

Batteries for small electrical items can be saved and put beside your recycling bin in a clear plastic bag. There is more on what can be recycled, and where, on the Council's website – search for Brighton and Hove recycling.

From time to time you may have useful items to get rid of. It's OK to put them on your garden wall or front step with a note saying please take, but please don't leave them overnight. You will have more success if you also tell local folk that the item(s) are available by putting the information on our **Round Hill Noticeboard Facebook** page. You might even find things you need advertised there.



Clothes drier dumped with recyclable cardboard.

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Round Hill Reporter
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On Facebook at both :

Round Hill Community Noticeboard

Round Hill Society Brighton UK

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	Barbara Harris	14 Mayo Road	01273 677610
Conservation	Ted Power	55 Princes Road	01273 933018
Community Events	Kate Rice	33 Richmond Road katepotter72@gmail.com	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

Veolia Waste Plant issues :

Smell, noise and dust 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

Non-emergency police reporting: call 101 if your issue is not urgent or you have a question, alternatively report a crime or incident on contactcentre@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Dog poo stencils *seem to be working*

A year ago the first dog poo stencils appeared on the streets of Brighton, creating media interest across the city! A pilot scheme, spearheaded by the Round Hill Society in response to loud and persistent complaints about dog poo in our area, gained the support of City Clean and was authorised by the council.

Much of the work has been executed by enthusiastic children who relish the stencilling itself and have developed their own three D images which you may have spotted. The work of stalwarts, Albert and Kaya, with further assistance from Tom, Molly and Ellie, were praised by our Mayor, Pete West, at the Round Hill picnic where he presented them with certificates in recognition of their important contribution to our community.

Anecdotal feedback suggests that the stencils have an effect, have led to cleaner streets and are popular with residents----some small children actually hunt for them on the way to school!

The stencils which fade are periodically refreshed —at least 4 times so far. Up to now, we have tried to provide stencils at the entrances to Round Hill and throughout the rather large area, with some concentration on certain key spots.



We have a willing and eager team but, in order to improve on what we do already, we would welcome additional volunteers to take on specific roads. If you are able to help, we can provide paint and stencils. (Contact either Annie or Sandy: details on the back page).

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.

Deadline for December edition 12th November

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