



THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

RHS Newsletter Editor
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BN2 3RN

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POST BOX



Dear Reporter

Residents of the Round Hill area may be interested to know that I have recently registered a complaint with the Council concerning the ever-worsening dog mess problem we see in our streets.

As a dog owner myself, I find it depressing to have to constantly weave my own dog past the piles of excrement littering the pavement, even more depressing (as was the case last night) to return from a walk only to find that yet again I have to leave my shoes at the front door.

Many dog owners seem to ignore the fact that fouling a footpath constitutes an offence that attracts a fairly hefty fine. Can anyone tell me please what it is that's so difficult about clearing up after one's own dog? Am I unusual in finding it a very easy thing to do? It takes less than thirty seconds. Isn't it the case that if every dog owner always removed their dog's excrement from the streets we would have no dog mess problem at all?

It is a fact that children can go blind from contact with dog's faeces. Would any dog owner want that on their conscience, just because they are too selfish to take their dog's mess home with them?

Please, fellow dog owners, let's not make our pets unpopular by our own actions. It's not fair on the animals and it's certainly not fair on our neighbours.

Name and address supplied

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

Chair	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road	673511
Treasurer	Paul Thompson	29 Richmond Road	883004
Secretary	Vivien Powell	66 Richmond Road	276386
Vice chair	Suzie Sharp	67 Princes Road	882240
Minutes Secretary	Colette Blackett	8 Round Hill Crescent	694811
Member without Portfolio	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	601320
Member without Portfolio	Amanda Evans	8 Belton Road	278646
Member without Portfolio	Denise Elliott	60 Richmond Road	888216
Member without Portfolio	Pam Blackman	75 Princes Road	685478
Member without Portfolio	Marian Gerrett	77 Princes Crescent	688009

The Reporter is published by the Round Hill Society to keep residents in the area in touch with local news, events and each other. Every effort is made to present a fair and balanced view, while aiming to accept any material from Round Hill residents. The opinions expressed in The Reporter are not necessarily those of the Round Hill Society.

YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS

Your contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. We will print your news, interesting stories, poems and articles on local history. Please write to the Editor (see address above).

Ideas for topics:

- First impressions of the area
- A local event you attended or are planning
- Wildlife report
- Problems with local red tape
- Environmental concerns
- Topical cartoons
- New arrivals
- Seen and heard
- Local ghost sightings!
- Your letters
- Etc.

HOTLINE

- Too much litter?
- Rubbish not collected?
- Abandoned vehicles?

Call the Council Hotline on 292300

DELIVERERS REQUIRED FOR THE ROUND HILL REPORTER

Just a small amount of time spent delivering to houses in your street would be very gratefully accepted. Perhaps you would like to be street rep and take the Reporters for people to collect from you. Help us to make sure the Reporter reaches every household in Round Hill. Phone Marian Gerrett on 688009 if you are able to help.

The Round Hill Society committee would like to wish everyone in Round Hill a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.



ROUND HILL REPORTER

Issue 10
December 2002

EVERYONE'S A MEMBER NOW!

At the AGM which was held at the Downs' Infant School on 21 November (see report, below), it was unanimously agreed to change the Society's constitution and abolish paid membership. This is so that every person who lives in the Round Hill area will now automatically be a member of the Round Hill Society, just by virtue of being a local resident.

So now every household in the Round Hill area will receive this newsletter (it is published quarterly) and everyone will have the opportunity to contribute their skills, time, energy, and opinions to the running of the Society, for the improvement of the area and social events such as street parties.

Now that you're a member, how would you like to be involved?

Help is needed to fill the columns of the newsletter, find advertisers, fund raise and deliver the newsletter. Even if you only have a small amount of time to spare, every little helps. Please contact the Newsletter Editor if you'd like to help (details on back page).

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And much more!

REPORT FROM THE AGM

On a miserably wet autumnal night on 21 November, at least 30 brave souls ventured from the warmth of their homes to the Downs Infant School hall for our third AGM.

Chair Rob Stephenson reported on the successes of the year such as last year's Carols and Candles event (see p. 4 for details of this year's), the street party which was a huge success, actually making a profit, and the late summer garden party for members. Grants had been received for the street party and the newsletter. Planning permission has been granted for housing on the site at the rear of Belton Road, despite objections by the Society and local residents. Rob felt that the most con-

tentious issues of the year were the proposed experimental closure of Richmond Road (see p. 2) and planning permission for roof lights.

Outgoing Treasurer Marian Gerrett reported a healthy bank balance, after receipt of grants and profits from the street party. (Many thanks to Marian for her work over the last 3 years. The street parties would certainly not have happened without her efforts.)

For the History Group, Andrew Partington reported that the history of the area is being written and it is hoped to have a draft with the publishers by the end of March 2003. Historical walks of the area have been very popular.

The proposal to abolish paid membership (see article above) was carried unanimously.

Election of officers then took place. (Please see back page for revised list of committee members.)

Barry Eliades was formally elected Newsletter Editor, but he can't do it all on his own and would like to get a Newsletter team together to produce the quarterly Reporter.

To round off the evening, Roger Dowty, the principal conservation officer at Brighton & Hove City Council, gave an interesting **talk and slide show** on the conservation issues in the Round Hill area, including those controversial roof lights!

This Newsletter doesn't write itself! A team of people is needed to help with its production:

- Writing interesting articles
- Interviews and local interest stories
- Creative content such as short stories, poems, cartoons, etc.
- Kids' section
- Graphic design
- Advertising sales
- New, fresh ideas.



AGREEMENT IN PLACE FOR RICHMOND ROAD CLOSURE

At a meeting of the Environment Committee at the Town Hall on 5 September 2002, the experimental closure of Richmond Road to through traffic was agreed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Mayo Road, initially on an experimental basis for six months, during which time road users and residents will have an opportunity to comment on the closure.

It was felt that the only weak point in the scheme was the junction of Wakefield and Upper Lewes Roads, as people who find they cannot get through the area will use Wakefield Road instead. It was therefore agreed that a traffic count should be taken at the bottom of Wakefield Road, both before and after installation of the road closure. The first traffic count has

now been taken and we have been assured by the traffic department at the Council that work will commence very soon, either by the end of this year or the beginning of next (calendar, not tax year!)

A full copy of the report on which the decision was based is available from the Round Hill Society; if anyone would like to see it please contact the Society Secretary Vivien Powell.

Let's hope that the benefits of this scheme outweigh any disadvantages and it helps our neighbourhood to be a more peaceful place to live.

This is a very emotive subject and residents are welcome to put their feelings in writing to this publication and we can have an open debate on this and any other subject that makes

you feel strongly enough to put pen to paper. Please address your letters to the Editor, details on the back page.

Once the scheme is in place, you need to direct your comments, both in favour and against the road closure, to the Council at the address below:

**Team Leader,
Traffic Management,
Environment Dept.
Brighton & Hove Council,
Hove Town Hall,
Norton Road,
Hove BN3 3BQ**

Please note that comments must be sent to the Council and not to the Round Hill society.

Vivien Powell

CONSERVATION GRADE ROOF LIGHTS

Many folk in the Round Hill area have expressed concern about whether they will be able to put a roof light in the front slope of their roof. The Council is not keen, but they look upon conservation grade roof lights more kindly. These are the style and size of roof light that the Victorians used, typically cast metal frames with relatively small individual glazed panels.

I have recently found details of two companies offering such roof lights, which some of you may find useful:

**The Cast Rooflight
Clement House,
Haslemere,
Surrey
GU27 1HR
Freephone: 0800 072 1747**

Their smallest roof light has an opening size of 60cm x 45cm and costs £300. They also do a side-hung escape

rooflight, 97cm x 64cm for £455. The products are made in cast aluminium, finished in polyester powder coating.

**The Metal Window Company,
Wychwood Business Centre
Milton Road
Shipton under Wychwood
OX7 6XU
Tel: 01993 830613
www.metalwindow.co.uk**

This company produces 'The Conservation Rooflight' in a range of sizes, from galvanised steel, polyester powder coated. As a comparison with the Cast Rooflight example above, there is a conservation roof light with opening window of 63cm x 46cm for £275. They do a side hung escape roof light, opening 93cm x 62cm, for something like £450—the catalogue pricing is not crystal clear to me.

Rob Stephenson

HATCHES, MATCHES & DESPATCHES

Congratulations to Tim and Claire of 68 Richmond Road, on the birth in November of their baby son, Thomas Winston Warnford.

If you have any announcements to make in these columns, please send your copy to the Editor.



Vivien Powell MTI, ITEC, NICHT (AAP)

Advanced Aromatherapy and Holistic Massage



The Albion Clinic
1 Albion Street, Brighton
Tel: 01273 628221
And
Unit 4 Natural Health Centre
20-26 Round Hill St, Brighton

Tel: 07801 784240
E-mail: vivien@vivienpowell.com



Bradleys Stores

off licence grocery newspapers indian foods

we don't have amazing special offers.
we have long term honest prices
come and see for yourself
Don't be a sheep!

**Kronenbourg
6 big cans £5**

**Stella 6 big
cans £5.59**

**Grants 70cl
Vodka £7.99**

**Red Bull £1.05
4 pack £3.99**

**Mango and papaya
juice £1.25**

**Pinapple and
coconut 95p**

**Sacla pesto
£1.69**

**home made
vegetarian
frozen curries**

massive range of
spices at silly prices

**Filippo Berio
extra virgin olive oil
750ml £2.99**

**olives, olives
and more olives**

**huge selection
of pitta and
naan breads**

**Twinning Earl Grey
50's £1.59**

**large eggs 6's 59p
free range large 6's 95p**

corner of Upper Lewes Road, St Pauls Street and Roundhill Crescent

NOTICEBOARD

WANTED

GOOD QUALITY MOUNTAIN BIKE for tall man. Phone 276386

DANIEL DERONDA - did anyone video the last episode? Would like to borrow it. Phone 276386

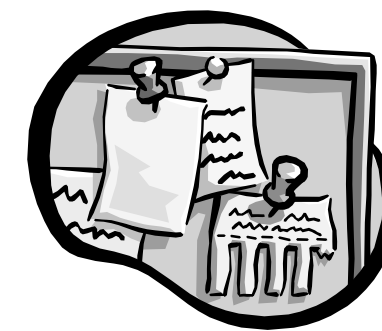
FOR SALE

Contact the editor for an entry in the next issue.

SERVICES

The babysitter who advertised here now has enough work not to advertise any more! Why not try an ad here.

Contact the editor for an entry in the next issue.



Advertising rates:

Full page	£100
Half page	£55
Quarter page	£30
Eighth page	£16
Sixteenth page	£10

Phone 276386 to place an advert or notice

Residents only:

Noticeboard (up to 30 words) £2

Schedule of Events

- Dec 19 - Carols and Candles event
- **Committee meetings** are held every month. If anyone has anything they want discussed by the committee, please phone Vivien Powell on 276386.
- **Pub Socials** seem to have gone by the wayside. Is anyone interested in getting together on a regular basis? If so, please phone Vivien.

VALENTINE'S DAY DEADLINE



Deadline for copy for the spring time issue of the Round Hill Reporter is **14 February 2003**. Please contact the Editor on 01273 276386 with any ideas or offers of help in producing the Reporter. Get the kids to help with poems, stories and pictures. More ideas on the back page.

LOST AND FOUND (free)

Contact the editor for a free entry in the next issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (free)

READING GROUP

Pam Blackman would like to set up local reading group. Criteria for book selection to be agreed as a group. A local venue would need to be found, or more likely agree to meet in turns in group members' homes. Or is there already a group out there looking for new members? Please e-mail Pam on pab10@bton.ac.uk or tel 685478.



BRIGHTON AND HOVE – A HEALTHY CITY? - by Rob Stephenson

Sometime next year Brighton and Hove aims to achieve 'Healthy City' status. This means that we have an opportunity to raise issues which can be broadly defined as related to health, and can expect the Council's Healthy City Team to consider acting on them.

At the moment the Healthy City Team, particularly the Health Development Adviser, Joy Dillon, are compiling profiles of every neighbourhood, including Round Hill. Joy is interested in everything which affects our

How healthy are you? How could the health of you and your family and neighbours be improved? Brighton & Hove Council wants your input.

health – from quality of housing and facilities for children, young people and the elderly, to access to public open space and health education covering such things as help with stopping smoking, knowing the advantages of breastfeeding, or the benefits of taking more exercise (perhaps walking to the shops or cycling to work).

But there is no point in trying to list all the things which you, dear reader, might consider to have a bearing on your health. Better that you should pass

information to Joy Dillon on those very things. What do you feel strongly about? What would improve your health, and the health of your family and neighbours? Is there a contribution you could make to improving the quality of life in this neighbourhood?

There is no guarantee of action, but at least if we raise issues they will be recorded and may be addressed in due course. We are not likely to be at the top of the list, but we might benefit from schemes established for the benefit of several neighbourhoods. Joy Dillon would like to hear from you and you can phone her on 296552, or e-mail her on joy.dillon@bhcpcnhs.uk.

In addition if you were to raise your concerns in this newsletter we might even be able to help ourselves. Please help the Round Hill Reporter become a useful tool in building a sense of community on Round Hill – use it to raise issues, about a Healthy City or anything else.

ADVERTISE HERE FOR £10!

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- THERE ARE OVER 900 HOMES IN THE ROUND HILL AREA.
- THIS PUBLICATION IS DELIVERED TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD.
- WITH AN ISSUE OUT EVERY QUARTER YOUR ADVERT IS SEEN FOR OVER THREE MONTHS.

PICTURE GALLERY



Here's an old picture of St Peter's Church, kindly donated by Ted Power of Prince's Road. In the background you can see the windmill on top of the Round Hill before the houses were built. Perhaps you have some old pictures of the area, or some memories of life on the Hill, that you would like to share with our readers. Please send your copy to the Editor, details on back page.



ROUND HILL'S GRAFFITI PROBLEM

Unightly scrawls, 'tags', graffiti and stickers deface many walls and surfaces in Brighton. These are often applied with spray cans or large felt-tipped pens and can be difficult to remove or paint over. Stickers apparently are particularly tenacious. Graffiti blighted surfaces are found throughout the city. In neighbourhoods that are heavily afflicted, graffiti contributes to an aura of urban decline and neglect. It is a manifestation of low-level criminality and disorder of the sort recently deprecated by the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary. The Round Hill area is relatively free of graffiti, though owners of properties with gable ends seem to provide vulnerable targets wherever these exist. We are fortunate to have the services of the Young Offenders Team to paint out graffiti at the top of the cat creep. The drab green of 'utility' boxes also seems to attract the attention of the spray can wielder.

Hardly a street sign, lamp-post, waste bin or recycling bin is free of graffiti ...

Householders or commercial premises whose properties are scarred by graffiti may find removing them a difficult and costly chore. If a surface is repeatedly tagged, the owner may decide that moving graffiti is a waste of time and money and they may give up. Whilst this response is understandable, it has the effect of making graffiti more widespread in a neighbourhood. The

impression is created that an area is some sort of graffiti gallery where residents and businesses are prepared to tolerate it.

Many of the graffiti which give rise to so much unfavourable comments from visitors or those whose neighbourhoods are afflicted, are found on Council-owned property, especially street furniture. One of the areas through which I walk into town sadly demonstrates this. Hardly a street sign, lamp-post, waste bin or recycling bin is free of graffiti in the area between Lewes and Upper Lewes Roads.

I raised this matter with the Council graffiti line (274674) but was told that only offensive graffiti could be removed. Not a helpful response—very few graffiti

contain taboo words or expressions. It is simply the presence and appearance of graffiti which many people find ugly and offensive. I took a series of photos of the ubiquitous graffiti that

deface the street furniture in this area and shared them with a Council officer from Cityclean and also asked our local MP, David Lepper, for his support in this matter.

I recently heard from the Council that Cityclean are undertaking an audit of the area in question. When completed, this will provide the basis for a systematic clean-up of graffiti on Council property in this area. How successful

this will be remains to be seen. I will update readers on their progress. Clearly the Council is ill-placed to lead a city-wide anti-graffiti strategy if it remains so remiss in keeping its own assets in excellent order. I believe the Council should have a programme of routinely and systematically removing graffiti from street furniture rather than simply ignoring them and allowing them to build up.



Much of the graffiti in the city is to be found on Council-owned property.

I hope Round Hill residents will take any measure they can to ensure the area remains relatively graffiti free. If they see graffiti on Council assets, including street furniture, I trust they will take the trouble to press the Council to remove them promptly.

Andrew McAlpine

WINTER SOLSTICE CAROLS PROCESSION—ALL WELCOME

This has now become an annual event and is now in its third year. We all congregate at a given point in the Round Hill area, all warmly clad, some bearing lanterns, a couple of buckets for collections and a pile of song sheets, then set off and stop under lamp posts to sing seasonal songs while some of the group collect house to house. At the end, we all congregate for mulled wine and mince pies in the street and get to know each other a little better.

This year's event will take place on **Thursday 19 December** and the route will be as follows: We'll meet at 6pm at the bottom of the



cat creep in Round Hill Crescent, walk east along Round Hill Crescent, up d'Aubigny Road, Richmond Road, Mayo Road, Prince's Road, Crescent Road and finally into Prince's Crescent where Rob will be ready with a pan of mulled wine at No. 77. There will be soft drinks for the children and mince pies too. Contributions are welcome towards the cost of the refreshments and any surplus from the collections will go to a local charity to be decided.

Musicians needed

Musicians make a huge difference to this event and you are more than welcome to bring your instruments and help lead the procession.



NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK

The Neighbourhoods Network is where active community groups from all across the city come together to make sure that their community has a say in the bigger issues.

The Network is new, but already 18 different neighbourhoods are taking part – The Round Hill Society is actively involved.

Representatives are involved from all the community groups which seek to represent their area and they ensure that their community doesn't miss out.

The government and other funders invest money in a range of schemes throughout the city of Brighton & Hove. The Network provides a forum for commenting on how those resources are used.

The Network provides the opportunity for communities to consider their common issues, needs and aims. It has elected representatives on to Brighton & Hove's most important partnership body – so, it can directly influence the decisions that affect our area!

The Neighbourhoods Network is a sub group of the Brighton & Hove Community & Voluntary Sector Forum and is funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit. It elects three representatives to sit on the Local Strategic Partnership (the 2020 Community Partnership). It is facilitated by the Trust for Developing Communities.

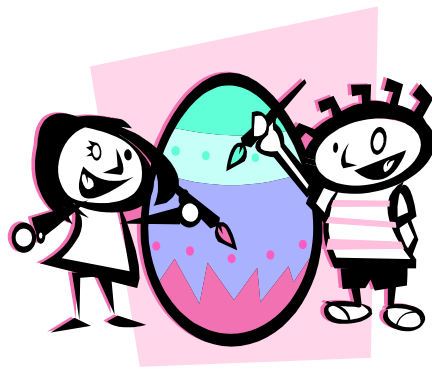
ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN - information supplied by Jo Offer

New Parents? Or new to the area?

Worried about what to do with the little ones during the wet winter months?

There are some great solutions just around the corner!

- **THE TOY LIBRARY**
9.30-11.45 Mon, Fri, Sat & Tues
1-3 pm term time.
St Gabriels, Wellington Road (off Elm Grove)
- **CANDY CASTLE**
Soft play for 1 to 10 year olds, £3 for 90 minutes, refreshments available.
Enterprise Point, Melbourne Street (off Lewes Road) 01273 276060
- **PARENT & TODDLER GROUP**
Tues 9.15-11.30 am £1 per family
Weds 1.30-3.30 pm £1 first child
50p per additional child,
refreshments provided.
St Martins Church Hall, Lewes Road.



If you have any information you'd like to share with the Round Hill residents about activities for children, favourite restaurants in Brighton & Hove, favourite things to do for all age groups, whatever, please send it to the Newsletter Editor. You might also like to pass on details of yoga/exercise/meditation groups, or details of a reliable plumber, carpenter, decorator or window cleaner!

We also want to start a page in this newsletter especially for children, so get your pictures, stories, puzzles etc to the editor.



Neighbourhood

The Network has already helped to bring about a policy that will ensure that 27 neighbourhoods will have access to a local community building or another facility that is accessible to local community groups.

The Network holds monthly meetings which are informal and welcoming and training sessions or workshops often included.

- **GREAT EXPECTATIONS**
Nursery shop with everything from washable and eco-friendly nappies, toys, buggies, clothes, slings and organic baby food.
Open 10 - 5 pm Mon - Sat on the Lewes Road.
Plus further afield via buggy friendly buses:
- **THE TOY MUSEUM**
under the bridge by the station
£3.50 adults, £2.00 children and pensioners.
Open Tues-Fri 10-5pm Sat 11-5pm
01273 749494
- **BRIGHTON MUSEUM & ART GALLERY**
For information about educational activities throughout the City, pick up a leaflet at the Gallery, the Pavilion, The Booth Museum, Hove Museum, Preston Manor or Foredown Tower. Or call the Children and Families Officer on 01273 292865



FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF ROUND HILL by Dinah Pryor

We thought it would be nice to hear from newcomers from the area about their first impressions. If anyone would like to contribute to this column, please contact the editor. Here's our first contributor, Dinah Pryor:

Peter and I moved into Prince's Road in September this year and I'm ashamed to say that up until that time we didn't know that Round Hill existed. We knew the Ditchling and Upper Lewes Roads of course and guessed that there must be something in between, but had no idea that such an interesting mix of houses, gardens and people could be found on top of the hill overlooking Brighton.

September was warm and calm and gave rather a false impression of the Round Hill climate. One balmy evening

we threw open our back doors to the garden for a house warming party. A week later a window box came crashing down into the courtyard, a small tree blew over and the wind left the fence leaning alarmingly.

At the same time we were beginning to learn something of the history of the area. We saw pictures of the windmill that used to stand on the opposite side of the road. This seems appropriate as Peter works in the wind energy industry. We also learnt about the washing lines strung out on the hill; neither of us have much interest in laundering however. But we rather like the idea that our house was once a refuge for 'fallen women'. The previous owners decided to give us this information only when we'd exchanged contracts!

Other first impressions of Round Hill are of many different kinds of houses and of secret gardens tucked away behind them and streets which may be crowded, but where the residents have the sense not to double park. The Herring Gulls are as prevalent here as anywhere in Brighton, but so too are many smaller birds. We've been thrilled by the scurry of Long-tailed tits and Goldcrests flocking around our Silver Birch trees. It'll be interesting to see what birds come when we put out the bird feeders.

Round Hill, like many parts of Brighton, seems a friendly cosmopolitan area with a distinct character. We're looking forward to events such as the Carols and Candles procession celebrating the solstice when we can meet more of the residents.

EARTH AS HARD AS IRON, WATER LIKE A STONE - Jan Curry on her award-winning garden

The garden looks pretty awful - a neck-breakingly dangerous muddy path leads past the seemingly lifeless pond covered in thin ice, through the shrubs hung with a few brown and withered leaves, towards the bedraggled hens and empty vegetable patches.

Winter is here and this is the National Wild Life Garden of the Year—it *has* looked better! Roll on the Spring! Having said that, there

are still berries on some of the shrubs and the winter-flowering cherry tree is in full bloom—what a sight in mid winter.

Two jays and a magpie (not the kindest of birds but beautiful to look at) joined the throng of visitors at the bird tables this morning. Sparrows are bathing in the bird baths (even on this, the coldest of days). Last winter there were only five regular sparrow visitors to this garden; this year there are a dozen. Nationally their numbers have plummeted, so we are fortunate. Who would ever have thought that the London 'sparrer' would be considered 'at risk' in many areas of Britain?

A robin sits on a branch so close to where I am standing, I could touch him. Unlike most birds at this time of year, he is singing his heart out. No sign of the frogs, toads, lizards, newts, slow worms and hedgehogs. They will keep their heads down until spring.

A couple of squirrels, however, have decided not to hibernate and they visit the garden regularly. Fun to watch, but I am glad they are not permanent residents because they will clear a bird table or peanut holder in a couple of minutes.

Thank you to all our neighbours and friends, who encouraged us to enter the Wild Life Trusts of Great Britain competition and who, I know, also provide food, shelter and water for the birds and creatures living in our back garden nature reserves, making the Round Hill such an interesting place to be.



Memories of warmer times—Jan's garden in mid summer.

Jackie Jones Jeweller

Learn to make silver jewellery.

Small classes, all tools provided.

Phone 673511 for full details.

