



THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

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HISTORY CORNER

'SMALLPOX CASES IN BRIGHTON'

So ran the headline in the Brighton and Hove Herald on the 30th of December 1950. Britain had been free of the disease since 1935 so this news was unexpected and potentially very frightening. Apparently the infection was brought from India by an RAF man on leave at his fiancée's house in Kemp Street. Her father, a taxi driver, had already died and several others were ill.

To quell public fears, the paper quoted the Brighton Medical Officer of Health who said that all known contacts had already been traced, but anyone who felt worried should go to their doctor for vaccination. He assured the readers that there were ample supplies of the vaccine. He did not, however, explain the complicated procedure that had to be carried out. Firstly, the taxi had been traced and disinfected. Then the relief driver was vaccinated and kept under observation and, finally, all the people who had ridden in the taxi were contacted. Some of the clients were now as far away as Devon,

Scotland and Northern Ireland, so the search was nationwide.

By the next week there had been a second death and yet more cases. Over seven thousand people had already been vaccinated. The paper reported that there were thought to be two main centres of infection.

Bevendean Hospital was where patients were assessed before being sent to isolation hospitals. Unfortunately there were now several cases among its employees. Therefore it was placed in quarantine: staff and patients were locked in for the duration and all supplies had to be delivered outside the gates, to minimise the spread of infection.

The other problem was the Tivoli Laundry in Crescent Road, in the Round Hill. Two of its workers had already been diagnosed with smallpox, caught no doubt from the soiled linen of a regular customer, the deceased taxi driver. Consequently the delivery vans and premises had to be fumigated but business was allowed to continue as usual. Unfortunately, as the days went by, more staff became

PEDESTRIAN ASSOCIATION

Sounds, well... a bit pedestrian, but membership of the newly formed Brighton branch of the Association can be your chance to help promote safe, enjoyable use of Brighton streets on foot and influence the City Council's Walking/Transport Policy.

For further information contact Suzanne Hinton on 01273 321794 or see the Association's website: www.livingstreets.org.uk



ill. A second fumigation had to be carried out and, admitting defeat, the laundry was closed for two weeks because those remaining could not cope with the volume of work.

Thankfully, the outbreak was short-lived and no new cases were found after the 22nd of January. A total of thirty-five people contracted the disease, of whom ten died. Six of the dead were nurses or other employees of Bevendean Hospital, and two were laundry workers from the Tivoli.

That smallpox did not spread outside Brighton was due to the co-ordinated efforts of local medical workers. About fourteen thousand suspected contacts had been visited, and more than seventy thousand people were vaccinated in less than a month.

Jenn Price

This is one of the topics being researched for inclusion in a forthcoming book on the history of the Round Hill. If you have any comments, or indeed memories of the smallpox outbreak, the Round Hill History Group would like to hear them. Jenn can be contacted on 600993.



ROUND HILL REPORTER

Issue 12
June 2003

ROUND HILL CRIME STATISTICS

PCs Louise Hays and Matthew Ebling attended the April Round Hill Society committee meeting and brought some interesting and very local crime statistics with them. They are two of our Community Police Officers (see the last issue for more details of beats) working to Sergeant Richard Hamlin, the Neighbourhood Police Team Co-ordinator. Apparently the Government designate some crimes as Priority Crime, and these are burglary, vehicle crime and drug supply crime. The table compares the first quarter of this year with the same period last year, for the streets between and

including the Upper Lewes Road and Princes Road. There are just about 1000 dwellings in our area, so it is possible to compare our burglary rate with that of the whole of Sussex. The Round Hill rate is 10 burglaries per 1000 dwellings, whilst the Sussex rate for the same three months this year is 3 per 1000 dwellings (taken from the Sussex Police website). We can also compare all reported crimes for the first quarter of this year.

Round Hill rate per 1000 dwellings for all reported crimes: 55
Sussex rate per 1000 dwellings for all reported crimes: 21
Having read these figures you might like to consider upgrading your home security. There is a home security advice service based at Hove Police Station, contact them on 0845 6070999.

Rob Stephenson

	Reported crimes	Priority crimes (burglary, vehicle & drugs)
Jan to Mar 2002	46	19 of which burglary was 5
Jan to Mar 2003	55	26 of which burglary was 10

Inside this issue:

Crime Statistics	1
Slim Your Bin Update	1
Morris Dancing	2
Real Nappies	2
History Walk	3
Children's Page	4
Questionnaire	5
Artists' Open Houses	7
Post Box	7
History Corner	8
Round Hill committee	8
Pedestrian Association	8

And much more!

SLIM YOUR BIN CHALLENGE UPDATE

Brighton and Hove Council have accepted our offer to provide a street of rubbish reducers and recyclers for the October Challenge. Thanks to three (so far) residents of Round Hill Road who responded to the plea in the last Reporter, it seems that we may get a few more of the 11 households in the road to join in a two week challenge.

The challenge comes in two parts, the first week is just living normally, with the extra step of weighing the refuse created during the week. This provides the baseline

measure to compare with the second week, when all possible waste reduction and waste recycling ideas are taken up. Over the next few weeks the three volunteers will try to talk to their neighbours, and get them to join in. Sadly the homes have very small gardens, often turned into patio and sitting out places, with little bare soil - making the benefit of composting rather small. Perhaps we could find a keen composter nearby who would take the vegetable waste from Round Hill Road for their own compost heap?

It's only fair to mention the other volunteer for the Slim Your Bin Challenge - from Crescent Road, whose number I couldn't make out on my answer machine - sorry, but I felt Crescent Road was rather large to get a high percentage of participants.

Rob Stephenson



Win the latest Harry Potter book in The great Round Hill children's picture competition! See page 4 for more details.



PULL THE OTHER ONE? IT REALLY HAS GOT BELLS ON

Forget the jokes and the jingle bells - the dance form (or art form) of Morris Dancing has been around for six hundred years. And it's alive and well in Brighton.

This summer Brighton Morris Men have already raised £300 for charity, organised a day of dance as part of Brighton Festival and travelled to France as part of a town twinning event.

No one is quite sure where Morris came from. It seems to have started as part of royal entertainment (including acrobats, music and costumes with bells), then moving into Tudor guild processions and eventually becoming a people's folk art. By the 18th century many villages had their own local team, who danced (for money) at harvest time and held friendly contests with teams from neighbouring villages.



A hundred years ago Morris had all but died out, but collectors of song and dance recorded what was left and the tradition was kept alive.

Today (for Brighton Morris Men at least) it's as much street theatre as tradition. We still perform the old dances (and get up at dawn each May Day to dance at

Hollingbury Camp), but we are making new dances as well (and writing new tunes).

Why do we do it? Lots of reasons:

Exercise; a great way to get stress out of the system; a chance to show off in public; good beer (preferably Harveys) and good company, and the feeling that deep down there is something special about Morris and its strange history.

What we lack in technical perfection we make up in energy. As our programme puts it: traditional dance - with attitude!

To find out more, check out the web site at www.brightonmorris.co.uk email me at pblobably@macmail.com or drop me a line at 6 Richmond Road. We always welcome new dancers (no experience needed) and musicians.

Andrew Partington

IS YOUR BABY SITTING COMFORTABLY? THE REAL NAPPY DEBATE

Another Real Nappy Week has come and gone, raising awareness of the huge range of non-disposable nappies on offer. As a family that uses them we thought it would be a good opportunity to highlight some pros and cons.

There is nothing new in using 'real' nappies but over the past few decades they have evolved to become much easier to use and more comfortable for baby to wear. There are lots of different ones on the market but the principle is the same - to re-use. Of course the by-product of this is that they are a more ecological alternative to the 'disposable'. More and more people are using and recommending them, here are some reasons why:

Firstly, disposables are not what they say on the packet - the very first one is still hanging about somewhere. It is estimated that they will take 500 years to disintegrate and at approximately 4,500 nappy changes per child, that's a huge landfill problem.

Expect to pay out an initial sum of around £280. This will buy all the washable nappies you'll need for the

whole of your baby's nappy wearing life (and that of any subsequent children) AND includes £150 to allow for laundry costs over 2.5 years. Compare that with the £1,000 that you could expect to pay for 'disposables' over the same period.

There are no gels in a washable, so you'll probably change your baby more often. There are no chemicals to worry about however, and the potty training toddler is more aware of being wet.

So, what about all the extra work? We have to wash our 20 Motherease nappies two or three times a week but of the many loads a young family brings, the nappy load is strangely satisfying! They soak in a bucket with a few drops of tea-tree oil, then go in the washing machine at 60 degrees. Hang them out on the line, dry them overnight on a clotheshorse, radiator or airing cupboard or use a tumble drier. It's another routine in a life of routines but we never run out of

nappies and they will be used again by the next baby.

Alternatively, Cotton Bottoms is a laundry service that does it all that for you! The Maternity ward at the Royal Sussex uses it.

And the mess?...just put a biodegradable liner inside to catch any solids and flush it all away.

For more information and advice pop into Great Expectations on the Lewes Road, or for a mail order brochure call Little Green Earthlets on 01825 873301.

The Gates family, Richmond Road

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A NEWCOMER'S EXPERIENCE OF THE ARTISTS' OPEN HOUSES

Armed with the excellent guide we set off one very wet and blustery Saturday afternoon to do a circular tour of the open houses in the Round Hill area. We started with the houses along the Upper Lewes Road, moved on to Round Hill Crescent and then finished with Richmond Road. We'd heard that the open house in Belton Road was well worth a visit but unfortunately wasn't open on this particular weekend - a new baby had arrived unexpectedly before time (people visiting the previous weekend had enjoyed the added pleasure of seeing the baby as well as the artist's work!)

I moved with my 2 teenage sons to the area from Abingdon in Oxfordshire last September and had no idea of the amount of talent on my doorstep! I was impressed by the range and diversity of work being shown. Here is a taste:

Jewellery of all kinds and amazing tiaras. **Paintings** in many different media (including a cherub and harp,

lily pads and a fish all made of beautifully-coloured paper pulp). Many were of local places (a wonderful painting of the west pier from under the iron girders and of the cement works in Upper Beeding caught my eye). **Drawings, etchings and screenprints** of all kinds. **Sculptures**, including hubcap sculptures and sculptures from mosaic and glass pieces, I especially loved the cat, being a cat-lover myself. **Mosaic** pictures (Punch and Judy and the Pavilion caught my eye).

The **stained glass** pieces were beautiful and effective even on the dull day that we visited. I was particularly taken with one of the pier as I thought the different blue and green glass used for the sea very special. When I got home I looked at the plain glass panel above my front door with new ideas in mind! I must also mention the beautiful **furniture** on display and a carved lime fire surround.

There were **metal work** pieces, including candle-holders which I found very tempting to splash out on! **Clay and ceramics** - working with dyslexic people, I was particularly drawn to 2 pieces of

ceramics which dealt with 'communication beyond the limits of language'.

I have only mentioned a selection of the artwork on display in the hope of giving you a feel of the exciting creativity of the whole venture. I haven't mentioned particular names as I would then want to mention everyone! All the houses were so welcoming, even though we were having to leave wet umbrellas in hallways and were dripping rain throughout the houses. Tempting home-made cakes and teas were offered.

Finally I must comment on the work and the upheaval of people's lives (some with very young children) that must have gone into clearing whole areas of their houses to display the works of art.

I shall definitely make sure that I keep the weekends free for next year's event.

Lynne Smith, Roundhill Street

POST BOX

Dear Editor

Car parking here on the Round Hill is a problem, as it is all over Brighton. However, I have noticed that the car parking facilities which are provided behind Mayo Court are not fully used. Maybe the possibility of renting these spaces could be investigated?

I have also noticed that the parking spaces adjacent to the industrial building in D'aubigny Road are not fully used either and again, it would seem that there might be some way to utilise them.

Yours sincerely

Marigold Rogers
50 Prince's Road



DEADLINE FOR THE AUTUMN ISSUE

We actually managed to get this issue out before the stated deadline! Thank you to everyone for their varied and interesting contributions. Please keep them coming in - children please note the picture competition, and lots more planned for the future. Please send your articles, pictures, photos, letters, cartoons, comments etc to the editor at the address on the back page by the end of August. Thank you.

Vivien Powell MTI, ITEC, MIGHT (AAP)

Advanced Aromatherapy and Holistic Massage

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

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

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YOUR NEW NATIONAL
LOTTERY AGENT

BARTOLI'S RESTAURANT

Bartoli's restaurant has been a feature of the Lewes Road since autumn of 1996, and is run by Baba and Mahmoud Bartoli. Mahmoud trained in catering back in the 1970s, and worked in catering for about a decade until the mid-80s, when he took a degree in Physics at Queen Elizabeth College, London, graduating in 1984 and becoming a secondary science teacher. Baba used to be a beautician, then managed Ladies Jaeger in Worthing for nine years, but by 1996 both decided it was time to stop working for others and try opening their own business.

Their non-smoking and fully licensed restaurant is now very popular – if you want their Sunday lunch (and I certainly recommend it) it's wise to book a table and specify which roast you want – and their outside catering work is expanding. Situated on the corner of Lewes Road and St Paul's Street.

Opening hours: Wednesday to Friday, noon to 3pm and 6 to 10pm; Saturday 11.30am to 10pm (last orders at 8.45); Sunday 11.30 to 8pm (last orders 7.45).

Rob Stephenson

ADVERTISING FEATURE

If you would like your business to be featured here, please contact the editor on 276386

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**'DOING THE ROUND HILL WALK, OY!'**

No, this isn't a notice about a new song for a future gathering of the Round Hill Society (RHS), but an invitation to come on the next Round Hill Walk scheduled for 16th July. Several tours of the area have been undertaken to date, and it was felt that another would be in order to cater for those who were unable to attend previously or were newcomers to the area who are interested in its history. The walk is an offshoot of the work of the History group of the RHS (which is intending still to produce a booklet on the area by October 2003), and in particular of Rosemary Fittock, a member of that group, who from previous research put the itinerary together.

The circular tour starts from the New Vic pub in Richmond Road, and as it progresses around the area you will get an insight into its high class beginning as part of the Rose Hill Park and Round Hill Park

development, through to its current situation. The tour indicates the sites of the Golf Ball Factory, the Laundries that were so prolific in the area that it was sometimes known as Laundry Hill, the Lewes Road railway station, Forfars' Tower Mill dating from 1838, the elusive Lennox Road, and also, just out of the area, the tour takes in the history of Dog Kennel Road. Notable houses in the area will be pointed out to you, as well as some of the background to the different stages of development. You will need your imagination to understand the opulence of Sylvan Hall, and to realise how 101 Round Hill Crescent was a building pioneering women and children's health care in Brighton.

The walk proceeds from Richmond Road via Princes Road to Ditchling Road and Hollingdean Lane, thence back to Round Hill Road, Belton Road and Sylvan Hall to Round Hill

Crescent and eventually the New Vic, where, after a good hour and a half's exercise 'up hill and down dale', you can refresh with your favourite tippie (mine's a Harvey's).

Interested?

Then don't forget the date:
Wednesday 16th July at 7.00 pm

*Chris Tullett
Round Hill History Society*

**Learn to make
silver jewellery**

Small classes, all tools
provided.

**Jackie Jones
Jeweller**

Phone 673511
for full details.



The playground swings were removed temporarily because the swing frame had become loose in the ground, but I'm pleased to report that the whole playground is at present undergoing refurbishment and the swings will be replaced as soon as possible.

Thank you for your interest in the park. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.'

Alan Griffiths can be contacted on 01273 292060 and his e-mail address is:
alan.griffiths@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Vivien Powell

**ALL CHANGE IN PRESTON PARK**

As the Round Hill Area does not have its own open space for recreation, many of our residents use the facilities at Preston Park and it was recently observed that the pond in front of the Rotunda in Preston Park had been filled in with bark chippings and that the swings for older children had been removed. We wrote to the Council and received the following response from Alan Griffiths, The Grounds Maintenance Inspector at the Environment Department:



'Unfortunately due to an extensive water leak we have taken a decision to temporarily fill the pond with chipped bark. We took this decision because the pond will hold no more than a few inches of water. As this ornamental feature, along with the Rose Garden and the Rotunda Café building, is due for restoration as part of the Heritage Lottery project, we felt in the short term this was the safest action to take. The restoration work is planned to start next autumn or winter. The low water levels were likely to cause a number of problems, especially to any aquatic wildlife that found its way into the pond, particularly in hot weather! With its straight sides and overlapping paving slabs around the edge, this formal pond was never really designed for wildlife, but there are other ponds in the park, such as the Rock Garden pond and the small wildlife pond at the north end of the park.'



CHILDREN'S PAGE

WIN THE NEW HARRY POTTER BOOK!

In future, page 4 will be devoted to the children of Round Hill. To kick off a programme of exciting activities, we're offering great prizes for a picture competition in two categories — under 7s and 7 to 11s. The prize for the 7 to 11s will be the new Harry Potter book. So get those pencils, pens and paints out and get painting! Send your pictures to the editor at 66 Richmond Road. Don't forget to include your name, address and phone number.

Look In the next issue in September for details of more exciting competitions.

We'd also like to hear from children and parents in the area about what it's like living in Round Hill and we'd love to read your stories, poems, cartoons etc.

If you have any ideas for the children's page, please let us have them. Editor's e-mail and phone numbers on the back page.



This Newsletter doesn't write itself!

A team of people is needed to help with its production.

If you can offer a little of your time and inspiration, please contact the editor on 276386

HOTLINE

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

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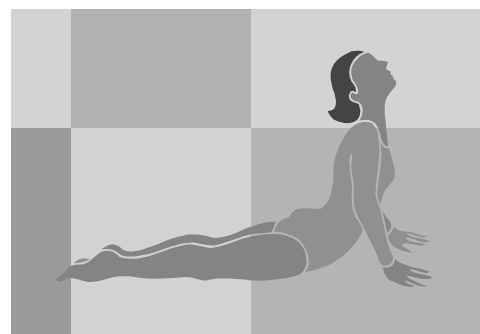
For appointments
 Tel: 01273 562676
 Mobile: 07949 674524

Yoga timetable at Unit 4, Round Hill Street

Mon	18.15 – 19.15	Beginners/intermediate yoga with Rachel Miller
	19.30 – 21.00	Yoga for pregnancy with Karen Wykes
Tues	10.00 – 11.30	Yoga for Pregnancy with Karen Wykes
	18.15 – 19.30	Beginners/intermediate yoga with Emily Furman drop in
Weds	18.00 – 19.30	Intermediate yoga with Rachel Miller
	19.45 – 21.15	Yoga with Chris Mc Hugh drop in
Thur	11.15 – 12.45	Yoga with Peter Blackaby termly intermediate
	17.45 – 19.15	Drop in with Cara Bowen
	19.30 – 21.00	Drop in Yoga with Peter Blackaby intermediate
Fri	10.30 – 12.00	Drop in with Jo Avison yoga and relaxation

To find out more about these classes you can contact the teachers on the following telephone numbers:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cara Bowen 326281 | Chris McHugh 564509 |
| Karen Wykes 705062 | Emily Furman 608901 |
| Rachel Miller 241209 | Peter Blackaby 559904 |
| Jo Avison 552341 | |



QUESTIONNAIRE

This is the third Reporter to be delivered to every household in the Round Hill area, and we thought it was time we found out a bit more about our community so that we can tailor the Reporter and local activities to suit your needs. It's your newsletter and your community, so it's important that you have an opportunity to air your views. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions and send it to the editor at 66 Richmond Road. Photocopies accepted if you don't want to spoil your

1. Your details

Name

Address

Household details:

No. of adults Children under 18

How many years have you lived in the area?

Number of cars in the household

2. Newsletter

What do you think of the newsletter?

Dull Average Great

Can you help with the newsletter? (Y/N)

If yes, what sort of help could you offer?

What would you like to see included in future issues?

3. Pubs in the Round Hill area

How often do you go to a pub in the area?

Never Very rarely

More than once a month Once a week or more

What would you like local pubs to offer?

More music Less music

Food Quizzes

Smoke free area Quiet nights

Other

4. Green Spaces

Do you ever make use of the Level for recreation?

Never Very rarely

More than once a month Once a week or more

What do you like or dislike about the Level?

5. Security and Policing

How secure do you feel living in the area?

Not very secure

Don't know

More or less OK

Have you been a victim of crime(s) in the area? (Y/N)

If yes, what type of crime(s)?

Mugging Reported? (Y/N)

House burglary Reported? (Y/N)

Car theft/damage Reported? (Y/N)

Other

How do you feel about the level of policing in the area?

Dissatisfied Don't know Satisfied

What improvements, if any, would you like to see?

7. Rubbish/Street Cleaning

Do you use a dustbin? (Y/N)

Or only use bin bags? (Y/N)

Are you satisfied with the street cleaning? (Y/N)

8. Richmond Road Closure

How do you feel about the road closure?

Very dissatisfied

Don't care

Very satisfied

How has the closure affected you?

Thank you for completing the survey.

Now please put it through the letterbox at 66 Richmond Road.

We will share the results with you in a future issue of the Reporter.