



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 60
June 2015

The other RHS is urging you to green up Round Hill – see page 7 – there are prizes!

Playsafe street closure and Street Party Event

Sunday 12th July on Mayo Road and Princes Road

The Round Hill Playsafe street closure programme has been in place for over a year now. For each event we have agreed closures with the necessary proportion of resident, and we thank them for their support. **Playsafe is from 3pm to 5pm on the 12th July on Mayo Road.**

In addition the Round Hill Society has raised money for the folding barriers and high visibility tabards used by volunteer stewards at each short closure event. Every event has been well attended by children and parents.

Not every child in Round Hill has access to big open outdoor spaces for local play, and playing out with neighbouring children is an important part of growing up and socializing. A poll in 2007 found that 71% of adults had been able to play out on their streets everyday when they were growing up, but this was true for only 21% of their children. Rent, mortgage cost and work force families to live in places that are less than ideal. The Playsafe scheme can help adjust the balance a little in the right direction. Streets are a big part of the public space in our city, it would be

a mistake to allow them to be solely used for the 40% of car owning households across the ward. Please help by parking away from the closed areas on the day – there will be reminder notices on local cars and through letterboxes nearer the time.

We only close streets for two hours for play and are careful to choose streets which are not necessary for traffic circulation. There are other ways around our hill. Some deliveries might need a slightly longer walk, but there will be adults present who can help, just ask.

Speaking of which, if you can help by wearing a tabard for two hours (3 to 5pm) please contact Cath, Boo or Kate (see back page).

The **street party** event will overlap the Playsafe action, and will be beside the road closure on Richmond Road from about 1pm to 5pm. Last year we had picnics, produce sales and music – hopefully similar things will happen again. If you would like to help, or would like to bring a stall, please contact Carol or one of the other committee members listed on the back page.

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Historic Round Hill in Pictures



This is Ray's second hand furniture shop on the Upper Lewes Road, at the junction with St Mary Magdalene Street. Note the poster for the Gaiety Cinema which once occupied part of the petrol station on the Gyratory.



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Dishwasher Fire

Night-time risk

It all happened a few months ago but the message to be learnt from the incident makes it worth relating to a wider audience.

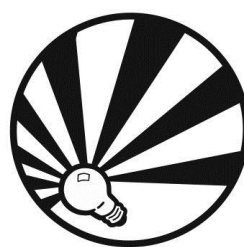
Mum put the dishwasher on before going to bed. The two children had gone upstairs earlier, dad was away overnight. All was peaceful, until sometime after 1am when the 11 year old son shook mum awake, saying the house is full of smoke. Mum was already suffering from smoke inhaled whilst asleep, but soon had both children out onto a flat roof, and was calling for help.

The next door neighbour helped them down to safety and another neighbour called the fire brigade. Firemen in breathing apparatus soon had the offending dishwasher disconnected and out in the front garden, but getting the house clean and redecorated took several months, and for a while the family had to move out while wiring, plumbing and water damage were put right.

This is not an isolated incident. Every year over 3700 domestic fires are caused by faulty electrical appliances such as dishwashers (460/yr), tumble driers (500/yr), ovens (350/yr) and even fridges and freezers (together about 300/yr). Fire safety officers recommend not starting dishwashers, tumble driers or washing machines before retiring. They also draw attention to the over 30% of smoke alarms which fail to operate in the event of a fire, either because the battery has been removed or is dead, or the alarm is not in a position to detect the smoke.

Just to add to the worry, it seems that every year manufacturers publish notices about faulty equipment, advising owners to contact their supplier. It is the case that many such owners do not hear of the warning, or fail to act if they do hear, and so continue to live with risky machines.

And the moral of the story is: Don't sleep (or go out) whilst the machine is running, and make sure the smoke alarm is well-sited and working.



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Rubbish at Recycling

Big bins attract too many recyclables

There have been big bins on the Upper Lewes Road for nearly a year now and we have noticed a particular sound as sacks are dropped in – it's the crashing of bottles and jars. Lots of people are dumping their recyclables with their refuse. The bins have no information on them about what should go in, so here is a possible design:

THIS IS A REFUSE BIN

IT IS **NOT** FOR VALUABLE MATERIALS WHICH SHOULD BE RECYCLED:

NO glass bottles	NO newspapers
NO food or drink cans	NO glass jars
NO plastic bottles	NO magazines

Use your recycling box and local recycling banks for all the above items.

Clean your cans and bottles first, flatten plastic bottles.

This bin will then fill more slowly – less mess on the road.

Fewer resources will be used.

And you can help slow down Climate Change.



Brighton & Hove City Council



Round Hill Spring Clean

Not a huge turn-out for this event on 22nd March, but once again City Clean provided a wire-cage pickup and two helpful guys (Eduardo and Kevin) to take away the refuse, weeds and overhanging vegetation cut down by volunteers.

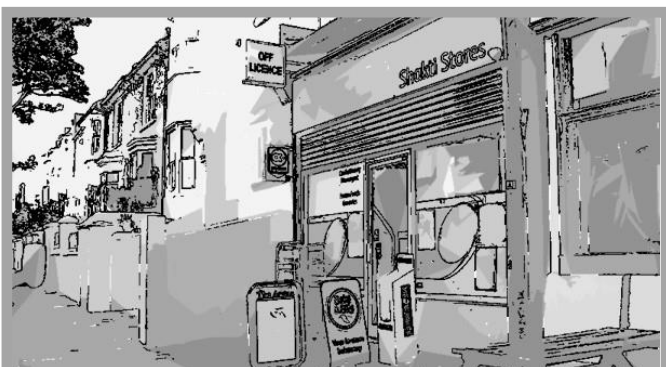
Resident Adam Campbell brought a tray of herbs from his Western Road shop which were planted around Round Hill by keen young volunteers, including into the four Round Hill Crescent planters.

One big benefit of our clean-ups is that the Council's graffiti team come round in advance and paint out lots of tagging. As to litter, some escapes from unlidded bins. If you have an old and lidless dustbin but would like a tall green hinge-lid bin the Council will provide, even in



Adam and other volunteers posing prior to planting.

these hard times. Just call them on 01273-292929 and ask.



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Wedding Photography

by John Fowler

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Tackling Substance Abuse - a New Use for Richmond House

Starting in September – A public meeting coming sooner

In mid-March a few residents heard that there was a new plan in the air for Richmond House. A planning application notice was attached to the building and a total of three households in Round Hill received letters from the planning department. We have to assume that this level of publicity is the legal minimum the Council is required to meet – but the fact that two of the addresses were vacant at the time of notification did not help the flow of information outwards.

Fortunately the Council and the private company which delivers this bit of our Health Service proved more forthcoming when your committee approached them for a meeting, which took place on 26th March. Cranstoun – the lead charity in the partnership – came to the meeting with written answers to a list of concerns expressed by residents. It is true to say that, prior to the meeting, many of us were strongly opposed to the idea of a drug treatment service in the middle of Round Hill. It is also true that by the end of the meeting all of us felt much better towards the concept, and optimistic that we could forge a good working relationship with Cranstoun.

In summary, the services to be offered at Richmond House will be for individuals who have chosen to try to kick their habit. This suggests that they want to re-enter normal society and will

therefore be avoiding the least socially normalised section of the drug and alcohol abusing community. This should ensure minimum intoxicated behaviour. Some clients will be attending activities because a court has required it, this is the group which may behave badly. There must be a 'return to court' sanction for use in any such unacceptable cases.

On numbers of users and times of use Cranstoun told us that they will run small group sessions primarily between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday, and 10 to 1pm on Saturday. It is unlikely that group sessions will extend beyond 6pm. There will be 1-to-1 sessions on 2 evenings per week up to 8.30pm for working clients. There will be set hours when the centre offers 'open access' to clients, but intoxicated clients will not be admitted (and it is assumed they will not approach whilst in that state). Cranstoun do not expect more than 8 to 12 clients to use the drop-in service at any one time. In addition no drugs or needles will be distributed from Richmond House. The times, numbers and other details in this paragraph are all qualified by the term 'initially'. We hope to create a liaison group to monitor performance, and pursue issues.

Wendy Taylor of Cranstoun is planning a public meeting for residents; details should be on an enclosed leaflet. The Round Hill Society is keen to support a liaison group to monitor progress.

Crime on Round hill – a quarterly summary

Bonnie Scovell, our Police Community Liaison Officer, attends most of our monthly meetings and tells us of crimes committed here. Since January we have heard the following:

Early January – child's bike stolen from D'Aubigny Road.

15th Jan – Burglary in Princes Rd, access at rear, broke glass in back door and turned the key in the lock.

Early Feb – Bike stolen from shed in Crescent Rd.

8th Feb – Recycling bin set on fire.

18/19th Feb – Burglary in Crescent Rd, access via rear.

31st March – Bike stolen from railings on Richmond Rd.

14th April – Woman knifed on Upper Lewes Road, man in custody.

20th Apr. – Theft of a drill from a van in Round Hill Crescent.

24th Apr. – between 8pm and 9.30pm a burglary in Crescent Rd, front door not double locked.

2nd to 5th May – theft of vehicle parts from car in Belton Rd.

6th May – 10yr old child assaulted by older group of 5 or 6 boys in Round Hill Crescent.

Hanover Osteopaths

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Sleeping problems

Chronic fatigue

Digestion problems

Jasmina Cordal BSc (OST) ITEC

Registered Osteopath

01273 687072

07816 288 632

Weekend and evening appointments by arrangement



Stinking Refuse

A possible new approach

Many on Round Hill and other places close to the poorly designed Veolia refuse transfer station have suffered the stink of rotting refuse for many years. The single skinned building open to the air is nothing like the cutting edge refuse transfer station technology needed to handle and store such foul smelling waste.

At the last committee meeting we heard that some new legislation might help challenge this local nuisance. A Community Protection Notice under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 requires a person or body to desist in doing something which causes a public nuisance, or take action to cease causing such a nuisance. It sounds just the thing, though it may be too good to be true. It might require the Council to issue the notice to its own agents (Veolia) which would have huge cost implications, which might fall on us, the people of Brighton and Hove.

The problem ingredient in the waste stream is rotting food. Perhaps a food recycling scheme would help? It would have to be used by 60 to 80 percent of households if it was to effectively reduce the smells, and we are nowhere near that in any other form of recycling. Cllr Pete West has another suggestion: – that those of us with gardens get a specialist composer that can take all food, and in which it rots quickly to make compost. The Green Johanna is available for £40 from the Council (half the normal retail price) – learn more from the Council website.

Meanwhile we are planning to get more organised, by establishing a Veolia Watch team which hopefully will include governors from the much affected Downs Infants School and possible representatives from other residential areas suffering the in the same way. Veolia have said that they are not the only source of smelly, rotten materials, City Clean has a depot where dirty refuse lorries are stored and cleaned, and they might be the source of some incidents. How can we distinguish the sources? If you'd like to help contact any committee member.

An Issue that has Gone Away

Hundreds of Objections received

The Brighton Evening Argus of Wednesday 14th June 2002 reported:

Residents' Disgust at Green Light for Housing

and went on to tell how 60 letters of objection had been sent to the Council plus a petition of 136 signatures had been sent to the planning committee objecting to proposals to build four houses and two flats on the site of disused garages in Round Hill.

The planning committee gave the go ahead to the Cyprus-based applicant 10 votes to 2 against, even after local residents claimed that it would be an overdevelopment of the very small site and would result in overlooking of surrounding homes.

The homes have been up and occupied for many years now. I have visited one of them during an Open Gardens event in support of Sussex Beacon, and they seem to fit in really well, and nobody appears to be overlooked. Sometimes the outcome is better than predicted.

Round Hill Community Noticeboards

We have just applied for a small grant to buy four metal exterior notice boards complete with locking front door glazed with tough clear plastic.

In a cart before the horse manner we are now seeking places to mount them – ideally at gateways to Round Hill or at key central passing places within Round Hill.

That could be your garden wall, or the end of your house. The boards are A3 in size and landscape in format, so about 42 centimetres side to side and 30cm top to bottom.

Until now we have stapled notices in thin plastic wallets to the many telegraph poles on our streets, but a more permanent and tidier solution might be better – can you help make it a reality? If so please contact a committee member (see back page).

Greening the Round Hill Streets

A Round Hill Challenge 22nd - 26th June 2015

The Royal Horticultural Society (the other RHS) run a scheme called 'It's Your Neighbourhood' for community groups to use to:

- Create cleaner and greener surroundings
- Increase recycling & environmental awareness
- Encourage a greater sense of community.

Our small projects this summer are intended to move in that direction.

This summer, following on from the last summer's installation of 4 big planters in Round Hill Crescent and winter's successful decorated Advent Windows, the Round Hill Committee hope neighbours will join in together to make our streets look even brighter with street-side flowers and vegetables, planted pots on front door steps, window boxes, hanging baskets, flowerful front gardens and blooming basements.

There will be a surprise award to the winners of the following categories:

- A young person between 5 and 15 who grows the tallest flower or bean in a pot or the best mixed herb and salad planter.
- Someone who grows something beautiful in the most original container.
- The house or basement frontage that has the most eye catching display of all.
- A poem or photograph (original) about the Round Hill area*.

Happy Gardening.

Meanwhile, on the Upper Lewes Road, north side, between the ends of Round Hill Crescent lookout for the houses that are growing sunflowers in their front gardens to make a show for passers-by.

*Please send these to Jan at 58 Richmond Road, before the 26th June. They will be judged by Committee members.

The Future of the Long Wall

Plants, plain paint of agreed art?

Back in January the long retaining wall running along the Upper Lewes Road and up Wakefield Road was painted with a range of big murals. The young folk who did this thought they had permission from the Council, though this proved to be false. A lot of angry responses led to CityClean quickly painting over it.



Here is Darren painting over the graffiti.

Not everyone was against the artwork, here is a note from one resident in Round hill Crescent:

"I just wanted to say that we were delighted to see such a fantastic work of "urban street art" in our area. How it cheered everything up, how talented the graffiti artists were. Not only that but it was kind of in keeping with the tatty rental landscape of the Upper Lewes Road area. When it was covered up by some revolting cream paint I felt very sad, and would have been upset if my teenager/child had done that work of art."

The blank canvas left by Darren has now attracted more graffiti. How should local residents respond? Repaint with anti-graffiti paint so it can be cleaned (by who?); commission some designs and select one or more; plant interesting climbers in the pavement to give a changing seasonal view and make tagging harder?

The hardest part is deciding how to move forward, but a gathering of points of view sounds like a good start. Please submit opinions to any committee member (see back page for them).



Round Hill Reporter
51 Upper Lewes Road
Brighton BN2 3FH

www.roundhill.org.uk

We Tweet :

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@RoundhillSoc

Yahoo Roundhill
Community Group: a
forum for local info and
advice (Google or find
link on website).

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	Carol Hall	36b Princes Road	01273 687636
Conservation	Ted Power	55 Princes Road	
Community Events	Kate Rice	33 Richmond Road	01273 673321
Community Events	Boo Vaughan	21 Princes Road	07971823014
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	601320
Environment	Barbara Harris	14 Mayo Road	677610

Veolia Waste Plant issues :

Noise problems – B&H Council 01273 292256

Smell problems – Environment Agency 0800 807060

Illegal parking in the CPZ

Report it on 0845 603 5469 and select option 3 for a traffic warden.

Student liaison officers:

Sussex-Mark Woolford 01273 678219 M.A.Woolford@sussex.ac.uk.

Brighton- Andrew Keefe 01273 641894 a.w.b.keefe@brighton.ac.uk

Fun and Games on the Level

Tai-Chi at the MacLaren Pavilion every Monday
between 12.30 and 1.30 – taster sessions, inside if
wet.

The Fun Fountains will be on every day between
10am and noon and 2pm to 6pm, so if it's hot you
know where to be.

Saturday Play Sessions until the beginning of
August – free – 11am to 2pm.

Level Funday – 13th June 10am to 7pm

Thursday morning Gardening Group – contact
parksprojects@brighton-hove.gov.uk

A possible Book Group for early evening meetings
in one of the Pavilions on the Level. If interested
e-mail with preferred evenings and suggested
titles to parksprojects@brighton-hove.gov.uk.
The Round Hill Book Group is currently full and
has a waiting list.

Signs of Spring

A neighbour heard his first swift this year on the 9th
May and my garden is full of Hawthorn in flower, as
well as apple, holly and lilac. There are bluebells
around the pond, but the celandine and primroses
have finished. A blackbird appears in the garden
searching for more grubs and caterpillars to add to
an already full beak – must be a nest of chicks
nearby. But the oddest sign of warmer and wet
weather is this strange organism. It has common
English names like jelly star, witch's butter and
mare's eggs.

It grows in wet places around the world, and has
gained many names because it just appears. The
oldest English name (1440) is sterre slyme, or star-
slime in modern English.

Its proper name is Nostoc commune and it's a
cyanobacteria which can photosynthesise and fix
nitrogen from the air. And it can survive long
periods of drought. And it grows on my flat roof
and washes off in heavy rain in the spring.



It is translucent and green and is eaten in China
(where it is called Tian-Xian-Cai or Vegetable of
Heavenly Immortals), Korea, Philippines and
Taiwan where it is called yu-lai-gu or post-rain
mushroom. I have not tried eating it yet, and I'm
not sure I will.

A description of Nostoc from 1640 puts me off:
'[Nostoc] may be the excrement blown from the
nostrils of some rheumatic planet'
Rob Stephenson

Police Contact Nos.

Emergencies

Call 999 if:

- A crime is being committed now, or
- The offender is still there or nearby, or
- People are injured or in danger.

Non-emergencies

Call 101 if:

- It's less urgent, or
- You have a question

You can also report a crime or incident online:-

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

Alternatively, for non-emergencies, contact Bonnie 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 then please call me and I will do my best to help." **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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