



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 57
September 2014

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENT RESIDENTS

Annual General Meeting 1st Oct

The Downs Infants School on Ditchling Road will host our next AGM, starting at 7pm and all finished by 9pm.

The formal reason for this notice is to give people time to consider standing for a position on the committee. There will be a vacancy or two, so it need not be competitive. Just contact the Chair or Secretary if you're interested.

Come to hear how we have raised money and spent it in your name, and what we plan to do next year – with your support. And have a glass of wine.

Rotting Food and an Inadequate Building

A representative from the Environment Agency has reported to residents who have complained about the stench from Veolia's waste transfer station that in his professional opinion the two causes are: 1) rotting food waste and 2) a building incapable by design of containing the odour. So: Food recycling or remodel the building, or both?

If the warm weather comes back be ready to report the smell on the Environment Agency hotline: 0800 807 060



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Round Hill Society
by

david
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ESTATE AGENTS

New Planters – planted up and finished off

Following their placement in mid-May the planters were filled with plants on the morning of our street party, Sunday 29th June. In all about 14 adults and five children came along to help, some even bringing plants of their own to add to those bought from Stanmer Nursery.

From the very beginning we had two resident volunteers, Ruth and Karen, watering the planters at the east end of Round Hill Crescent. Those at the west end initially had water but not enough. Now Massimo at Bradley's Stores is watering both the planters and as a result the greenery is looking happier.

We have suffered some vandalism – some plants have been taken and one planter received red painted 'environmental' graffiti. Spraying our planters with graffiti is a curious way to express concern for the environment – by messing it up.

If you have plants that would suit the planters please feel free to offer them, just contact a committee member, or simply bring them down and plant them on the morning of **Sunday 28th September at 10.30**. Come along anyway and help us to plant lots of bulbs to give us colour and interest next spring.

If you've seen the planters at all you will have noticed that they were set up on sloping ground, and until recently every one of them had a big space showing on the downhill side. By the middle of August Ashley Groom (the son of Chris and Tina who installed the planters for us) had made and fitted steel skirts to cover the yawning spaces, and they are now painted black to match the planters.



East end planters newly planted up.



New skirt fitted and painted

BULB PLANTING
10.30am Sunday 28th
September

Rescued by the Round Hill Society Website

I've been in the habit of using and appreciating the RH Society website as a very easy way of keeping abreast of local issues and developments - the current state of road works at the Vogue gyratory, bulletins clarifying the intricacies of planning applications, information about local events like the opening of the Open Market and so on. I've also been impressed by the comprehensive information about local amenities and what's on in Brighton - films, concerts, lectures and one-off events like the steam engine at London Road station.

But until three weeks ago I hadn't realized the website's wider potential. I was in a dilemma, wishing to buy a good second hand piano, but without any relevant knowledge or expertise. Having narrowed down my options to three, I felt reluctant to go ahead on a major purchase without a second opinion. I didn't know anyone to ask and was stuck - until it occurred to me to consult the website where I found a list of local piano teachers. I chose one living in Round Hill and within two days had received all the help I needed and had the piano installed in my house. In the same contact I found my new piano teacher! All thanks to the Round Hill Website. If you've never used it, do try it. It's an absolute trove of information.

Sandy Thomas

Level Events

Lantern Festival 3rd to 5th October

Three days of music, film shows, theatre events, circus skills, workshops for children and adults, fire show and lantern making and parade are being planned for early October

Over the three days big tents and stages will appear for specific events – details are still awaited, but a Friday night film show is planned. Three big tents will be offering events on Saturday 4th October plus a local market of stallholders set up along the east boundary path.

Sunday 5th October has Jazz/Soul music, and more film.

Meanwhile, on a rather sadder note, the fair and subsequent warm weather have conspired to make the lawns of the north level rather tatty, with oil-contaminated patches and re-seeded areas that have failed to germinate. On top of that there is a wealth of micro-litter in the grass - broken glass, crown corks and more. Efforts are being made to secure the use of CityClean mechanical sweeping and vacuuming machines to remove it all in time for the Lantern Festival.

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

Discussions, driven by corporations, started in July aim to open up investment opportunities for US business in the EU. Core to the plan is the removing of impediments to trade. Things like requiring open competition for back-up staff for, say local authorities, to ensure that other businesses have a chance to supply workers (typically on poorer terms of employment and lower wages). Or opening up school provision to US corporations, or lowering environmental standards which stop us importing hormone-fed beef or restrict farmers from growing GM crops.

Our Government could be sued (in private courts run by privately employed lawyers) if it obstructs open trade with laws like plain cigarette packs.

Learn more by searching TTIP plus World Development Movement or War on Want or Huffington Post or George Monbiot.

This advert placed by Rob Stephenson



breeze up to... Ditchling Beacon

on the 79 bus
any Saturday
or Sunday

**Only £2.90
return**

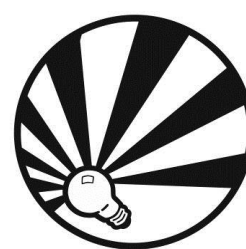
from any
bus stop on
Ditchling Road

kids go FREE
See leaflet for details

For times, fares, leaflets and walk ideas:
www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/breezebuses
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www.traveline.info
for journey planning

Brighton & Hove
City Council



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Round Hill Refuse and Recycling Issues

"Pavements covered in chicken bones!", that's how a neighbour remembers the streets of Round Hill 30 years ago. Have things improved since then? Perhaps it's no longer chicken bones, but nevertheless we struggle to keep pavements clear and clean.

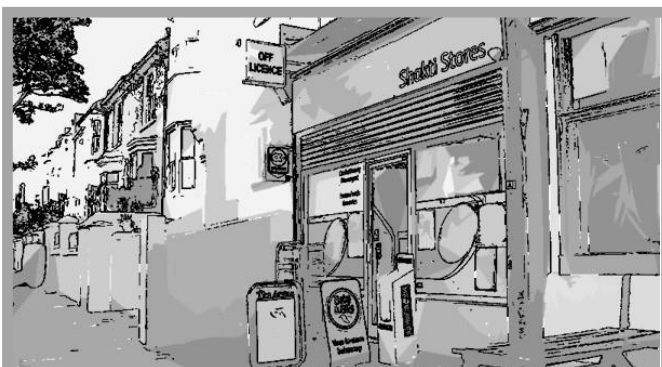
Residents are generally good at putting rubbish out on their scheduled collection days, but problems arise when collections do not take place, as has been the case on several occasions recently. This was highlighted in a recent Argus article which claimed, "Numbers obtained by The Argus show there were 631 reports of missed rubbish collections in Brighton and Hove in July – almost double the previous month." (19th August)

Missed collections, black sacks put out in advance of collection days (often for good reasons), overflowing refuse and recycling bins without lids and insecure binvelopes all encourage foxes and gulls to tear open bags looking for food.

Wheelie bins used properly (not over-filled with sacks) do reduce the spread of refuse through gull and fox scavenging. But, so far as we know, not all homes have been offered appropriately sized wheelie bins, and there is an issue of these bins being left on the pavement all week.

Some areas of the City have communal bins, but the communal bins on the Upper Lewes Road have been the scene of fly-tipping by selfish householders and landlords who would rather pass on the cost of disposing of larger items to us instead of paying for it or doing it themselves. In addition many people seem to have forgotten what should be put in the communal bins and what should be recycled (see What B&H Recycles).

Continued on back page



Shakti Stores

Your local Premier retailer

Open 7am-10pm daily

Your local convenience store and newsagent

Fresh organic bread and milk daily, large vegetarian and organic range, frozen food

OFF LICENCE – great selection of good quality wines

102 Ditchling Road
Established December 1983

What Brighton and Hove Recycles

Your black recycling box (with lid if you're lucky) can take flattened plastic bottles with or without lids, metal food and drink cans, newspapers and magazines and other clean paper and cardboard up to A4 size. Glass bottles and jars must be in a separate box.

All other plastic tubs, trays and boxes go in the refuse. Greasy pizza boxes go in the refuse.

Plastic bags go in the refuse. Cardboard-based drinks containers go in the refuse, but you can take them to special bins in Sainsbury's car park.

Wedding Photography

by John Fowler

Hi, I'm a professional photographer covering weddings in Sussex, Surrey, Kent, and Hampshire. My style is the increasingly popular mixture of contemporary, informal reportage shots along with the classic formal poses that are still a beautiful record of the day for everybody.

Packages from £200.
Upper Lewes Road, Brighton.
07970 887604

www.photogerrard.co.uk

Summer Street Party and Play Safe Event.

Having suffered badly with rain, cold and wind at the September 2010 and the June 2011 street parties no-one had been keen to organise another until this year – and we decided to do it on a much smaller scale, just in case the weather proved to be totally against us.

But it was a warm and sunny day on Sunday 29th June when we rolled out a piece of artificial grass onto the road just downhill from the Richmond Road rat-run barrier.

Bunting went up as did tables for cake, a plant stall and tea and soft drinks.

Meanwhile Mayo Road was closed off for our second Play Safe opportunity for children of all ages to take over the road, free from traffic, and suitably equipped with footballs, scooters and bikes, skateboards and roller skates, and boxes of coloured chalks children and parents made the most of the road all afternoon.

Local residents featured in the entertainments on offer. First up was DeciBelle, an all-female group of A Capella singers.



DeciBelle

Thanks go to Round Hill resident Jane Short for bringing other members of DeciBelle along to entertain us. Second up to the non-existent stage was Imaginary Friends, a duo in which the guitarist was Michael Coates, another Round Hill resident. They gave us half an hour of covers of popular songs.

Finally we had our third resident, Simon Scardanelli, entertain us with guitar and his own songs. He just

happened to mention his latest release, and if you missed it you can find it on his website – just run his name and Brighton through the search engine of your choice.

During all this entertainment, and for some hours afterwards, we had the choice several types of homemade cakes all provided for free by residents. We did put our raffle tickets beside the cakes, which might explain more than £90 in sales. But the prizes were good – a baking class at Anna's Kitchen, a glassmaking session from Annie Rimington and a £50 shopping voucher from Sainsbury's.

Ted and Jane had grown lots of basil and tomato plants and, and sold them to swell the Round Hill coffers; and a group of girls started to sell cups of deliciously sweet dark cherries (picked from their grandfathers tree I think) and donated the money to Round Hill.

Many folk brought chairs, wine and food from home and settled in for the duration, helping make the event a success.

Next Play Safe Events on page 6

Brighton Fashion Week

Sustain Debate Oct 10th @ 3.30pm, Sallis Benney Hall, Grand Parade

Who made your clothes and what conditions did they work under? Recent events have brought manufacturing conditions of many High Street brands into question. Join Caroline Lucas MP and other panellists to discuss the global clothing industry, and what we can do to prevent another disaster like the collapsed Rana Plaza factory where over 1000 people died. If you'd like to attend please e-mail info@bhft.org.uk

Meeting sponsored by Brighton & Hove Fair Trade Steering Group.

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Weekend and evening appointments by arrangement



Celebrating (at least temporary) Success

Huge student housing business refused permission on appeal

In April and May the Planning Inspector came to Brighton and heard all those concerned by the proposed plan to build an enormous number of commercial student bedsits on almost every square inch of the Richmond House site, destroying the green edge of the site, altering the character of that part of Round Hill permanently, and removing the important distant views both down Richmond Road and up D'Aubigny Road. In June she announced her decision – that the appeal by the developer against refusal by the City Council should fail. Later in the month we celebrated the victory with champagne generously provided by Ginan Citroni of Amplicon.



New Play Safe dates and locations

Sunday 5th October in Mayo Road 3-5pm

This is becoming a regular feature on Round Hill, and it will go ahead even if the weather is less than perfect – just come along dressed for it.

Bring bikes, boards, balls and stuff to make the most of having the whole road for 2 hours.

Friday 31st October top Crescent Road 3-5pm

Fabulous Halloween Play Safe Event – face painting, fancy dress, bring a lantern: pumpkin or painted jam jar.

Draw an A4 poster for the event – deliver your designs to any committee member by 31st September and we'll use them to promote the event.

Making life better for tenants

An opportunity to make a difference

In the spring of 2013 a group of politically active locals invited the non-profit group Movement for Change to a meeting in Brighton. Movement for Change specialises in helping groups to set up and run grassroots campaigns - a process called Community Organising. Together they identified a series of issues affecting people who rent houses in the city - and key to the problem seemed to be unhelpful managing agents. After considerable discussion and some training in campaigning methods a plan of action was created - called Home Sweet Home it began in July 2013.

A key issue was tenants' lack of knowledge of their own rights, so a working group including the University of Brighton's Student Union and the Residential Landlords' Association, worked together to produce a new guide which was published online, and has since been included on the city Council's website. As part of the campaign all 21,000 students at Brighton University will be made aware of this new guide.

The group carried out 'secret shopper' meetings with local letting agents, to visit houses being offered to students, check their quality and the level of service provided by the agents. This undercover operation tended to support the anecdotal information they collected in discussion with students, where poorly maintained, sometimes dangerous equipment was frequently mentioned, as were tatty furnishings, poor security to doors and windows, and inadequate heating. These poor facilities could be overcome if letting agents acted on behalf of tenants to bring about the necessary improvements, but in the main they do not act in this way.

This year they will expand their activities beyond the student tenant group of the first year, whilst seeking ways to raise the issues and bring about improvements in the service across the city. Local groups representing residential areas in the city might see benefits to getting involved with Home Sweet Home, as many issues about streetscape are linked to absentee landlords who weaken our communities by turning homes into profit-centres, and take money out of our communities often at the expense of the quality of our neighbourhoods.

Perhaps some residents of Round Hill would be interested in getting involved in a project which could make HMOs on Round Hill better neighbours. Home Sweet Home can be reached via the Movement for Change website, www.movementforchange.org.uk/home_sweet_home/.

Round Hill Writer Book Review - The Mule continues on his journeys

Round Hill author and professional cook Rob Silverstone has recently published his follow up to 'A Mule in Brighton, A Taste of The Downs', with 'A Mule Across the Water, Real Food in Sussex and Normandy'.

If you have lived in Brighton for a while you will love reading about many of our local quirky and hidden places and events - or if you are new to the City, Rob's informal diary/travelogue is a great introduction. In this book Rob extends his explorations by bike to include Upper Normandy; builds in fabulous recipes using local ingredients and adds some of his photographs taken on his travels.

An excellent read, the paperback is published by Vanguard Press and is available from Waterstones and other booksellers.

Annie Rimington





Round Hill Reporter
51 Upper Lewes Road
Brighton BN2 3FH

www.roundhill.org.uk

We Tweet.

Follow us at:

@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	609086
Secretary	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road	673511
Treasurer	Carol Hall	36b Princes Road	687636
Conservation	Ted Power	55 Princes Road	933018
Others	Deborah French	3 Mayo Court, Mayo Road	
	Kate Rice	33 Richmond Road	673321
	Boo Vaughan	21 Princes Road	07971 823014
	Sandy Thomas	47 Round Hill Crescent	699152
	Cath Kronhamn	84 Richmond Road	
	Adam Campbell	94 Round Hill Crescent	07889 148143
	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	601320
	Barbara Harris	14 Mayo Road	677610
	Maria Bonner	48 Richmond Road	383407

Veolia Waste Plant issues : Noise problems – B&H Council 01273 292256

Smell problems – Environment Agency 0800 807060

Report an illegally parked car in the CPZ on 0845 603 5469 and select option 3 for a traffic warden.

Student liaison officers: Sussex-Mark Woolford 678219.

Brighton- a.w.b.keeffe@brighton.ac.uk

(continued from page 4)

In addition, the wide variety of rubbish containers must make collections more difficult for City Clean refuse collection staff and it could be argued make Round Hill streets look untidy.

Finally when things do go wrong, it is very difficult to get up to date information and prompt action from City Clean. Their website isn't up to date regarding collections, telephone enquiries are frustrating ineffectual, with the average wait for an answer to an email seeming to be about two weeks.

The Round Hill Society would like to try improving the situation. We are proposing to:

- **Establish a working group to include City Clean, local councillor and Round Hill representatives to work together to improve the Council's refuse service to Round Hill.**
- **Gather residents' views about rubbish/recycling options. Included in this issue is a short questionnaire. Please complete it and return it to any committee member or go to the Round Hill website (www.roundhill.org.uk) to complete a copy there.**

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, or
 - You can report a crime or incident online:-
- E-mail: contact.centre@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Alternatively, for non-emergencies, contact Bonnie, local Police Community Support Officer on 07717 785 514 or e-mail andree.scovell@sussex.pnn.police.uk. I would encourage residents to make me aware of any suspicious behavior in the Round Hill area. If you have a question or need any advice at all then please give me a call and I will do my best to help in any way I can. Bonnie

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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by

