

Essential Dates

Wednesday 1st March Social evening at the New Vic. from 8.30pm

Wednesday 5th April Social evening at the New Vic. from 8.30pm

Monday 10th April **RHS meeting—Exploring Round Hill's History**
Come and meet experienced local historians, and discuss with them how to start doing that research work you have often thought about doing. You can also find out what we have been doing with your money. 7.30pm Downs Infant School.

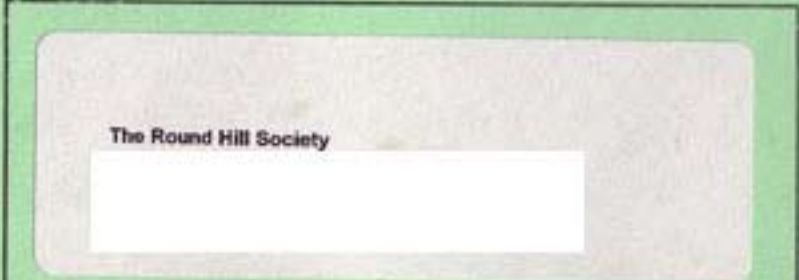
Wednesday 3rd May Social evening at the New Vic. from 8.30pm

Saturday 6th May Start of the Brighton Festival. Open House Exhibitions in Round Hill, weekends 12-6pm

Saturday 8th July Round Hill Street Party (provisional date)

Here is your **membership card**. You can cut it out, but its better to keep it on the newsletter where you won't lose it - unless you forget to put it on your fridge or noticeboard.

You may need to show this card at any RHS event - you will definitely need it to get a discount on your beer at the New Vic.



The Round Hill Society

ROUND HILL REPORTER

February 2000

No1



The above view of Brighton dates back to shortly after the arrival of the Railway to Brighton. The Round Hill Windmill is on the left. On the original print, sheep are visible grazing by the mill.

Cheap Beer for RHS Members • Round Hill's Lost Road • Rob Stephenson Talks Rubbish • Who are we? • Letters • Crime & Neighbourhood Watch • Dog's Mess • Your Membership Card • Community Noticeboard

A welcome from the Editor

Us Round Hill Residents have finally found a voice for ourselves. If last autumn's meeting and the number of members are anything to go by, the Round Hill Society (already shortened to RHS—don't confuse us with the Royal Horticultural Society) have a healthy future.

We can look forward to small but significant improvements to our environment and community spirit as a result of the Society's work. But jam tomorrow

will only come about by you being an active participant in the Society—if you don't like a direction we are (or aren't) taking then it is up to you to do something about it.

So read and digest this the first Round Hill Society newsletter, give what you can to the Reporter and the Society and make the most of living in Round Hill—it's the place to be.

David Hodd

You want to speak to the Committee?

Chair	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road	673511
Treasurer	Marian Gerrett	77 Princes Crescent	688009
Secretary	Vivien Powell	66 Richmond Road	276386
Vice-chair	Ray Knight	93 Princes Crescent	681965
Membership Secretary	Val Brooker	9A Round Hill Crescent	628028
Member without Portfolio	Robert Wilson	57 Round Hill Crescent	690983
Newsletter Editor	David Hodd	17 Round Hill Crescent	601019
Member without Portfolio	Margy Smith	82 Ditchling Road	686592
Member without Portfolio	Denise Elliott	60 Richmond Road	888216

Council says Round Hill residents too spaced out to need more frequent litter clearance.

Rob Stephenson reports on a peculiar decision the council made when deciding how often our conservation area should be tidied up.

Whenever litter appears, the Council is obliged to clear it up. How quickly they must respond depends on the litter category of the street and the amount of litter present. When lots of litter appears the Council must act more quickly, if there is just a little litter they have more time to act. The rules are set out in the 1990 Environmental Protection Act.

The Council decides the litter category. For our area only two categories are relevant:

- Category 2: high density residential mainly flats and terraced housing.
- Category 3: low density residential mainly detached and semi-detached houses). Category 3 has much more relaxed clean-up times than Category 2:

State of the street	Working time available to clean the street	
	Category 2	Category 3
Just a few small items of litter	12 hours	2 weeks
Quite a lot of litter, with some accumulations	6 hours	12 hours
Lots of litter, with big accumulations	3 hours	6 hours

The Council has decided that we live in category 3 – low density residential, being mainly detached and semi-detached houses. But just how detached and low density a neighbourhood are we?

The electoral roll identifies 911 separate dwellings in our area. In a search for the detached houses in Round Hill I found just 12 houses which were semi-detached or detached and

(Continued on page 4)

which had not been converted to flats. I doubt if many people in Brighton would say that Round Hill is characterised by detached houses as places like Westdene, or Coldean are.

The Round Hill Society is contacting the Council to tell us where the other 900 detached houses are, or whether they will re-classify us as a category 2 area.

We deserve a quicker clean up service when litter and rubbish

Round Hill Profile

Non Flat / Terraced Households in Round Hill Conservation Area:

Ditchling Road - 7 semi's

Wakefield Road - 1 detached

Prince's Road - 4 semi's

99% of the 911 households in the Round Hill Conservation Area are terraced houses or flats.

gets scattered over our streets.

In the meantime there is more we can all do to reduce litter around our streets. As they say, prevention is better than a cure.

- Don't put stuff out for the bin men or for Maggie until the morning it is due to be collected. Always use strong bags that are less likely to tear.
- Always take your rubbish home when out and about.
- Take large items to the tip.
- If you see someone dropping litter, pick it up for them and tell them they have dropped something that belongs to them.
- Recycle as much as you can: either use recycling centres, or use Maggie's door collection service.
- Compost what you can, or take green waste to the tip.

THE NATIONAL TRUST

DEVIL'S DYKE MEGABASH 2000

February 19th—20th, 10am—4.30pm

Hundreds of volunteers required to help restore the ancient downland landscape. Come and enjoy a fun day on the downs building bonfires and saving orchids. Phone 857712, or just turn up at the Dyke.

Social Evenings

The committee is anxious to meet regularly with members of the society. Since the Society aims to promote a sense of community we have arranged a series of pub evenings at The New Vic, on the corner of Mayo Road.

The main aim of these evenings is social. There will also be at least two committee members present on each evening. They would like you to flag up concerns and give and receive feedback on local issues.

The evenings will take place on the first Wednesday of each

month, beginning on the 1st March—see the diary on the back page of this newsletter for further dates. The sessions will begin from 8.30pm.

In order to tempt you further, Lucy, the licensee of the New Vic—and a society member—has kindly agreed to a discount of 10p on a pint of beer. But you will need to bring your membership card with you.

So come along, discuss local issues and set the agenda for action. Meet other locals and enjoy yourselves!

A Cautionary Tail

Milly was usually careful when she walked home from school and always kept one eye on the pavement. On this occasion she didn't notice the smear, spread by some other pedestrian's footwear, and could hardly be blamed for the small deposit transferred to the sitting room carpet.

It was just unfortunate that baby brother James managed to transfer some to a toy he was chewing. It was several weeks before James devel-

oped flu-like symptoms and the regular coughs that caused months of discomfort. When he started to use over-exaggerated head movements, and favour one eye, the doctor diagnosed a detached retina. Finally they identified the parasitic worm *Toxocara canis*.

The whole family is feeling angry and guilty, but the real culprit isn't even aware of the consequences of not cleaning up after her dog.

Who are We?

Well you've been to the meeting, seen the leaflet and paid the subs. David Hodd asks *Just what are you getting into exactly?*

The Round Hill Society is a residents' society for anyone who lives in the Round Hill area—that is the area designated as the Round Hill Conservation Area plus the area of Upper Lewes Road between the Wakefield Road junction and the northern Round Hill Crescent junction.

First and foremost the society is a means by which we can celebrate the neighbourhood we all call home. Look out for street parties, social evenings and other such get-togethers.

Do You live in the Round Hill Conservation Area?

The following streets are in the Round Hill Conservation Area:

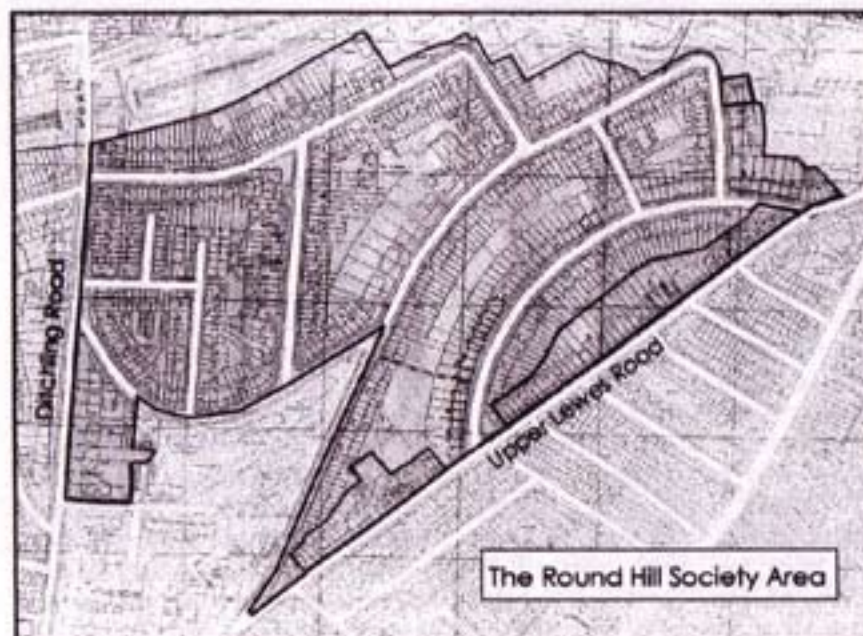
Ashdown Road	Princes Crescent
Belton Road	Princes Road
Crescent Road	Richmond Road
D'Aubigny Road	Round Hill Crescent
Ditchling Road— between Princes and Bromley Roads	Round Hill Road
Mayo Road	Round Hill Street
	Wakefield Road

This spring we will be encouraging hanging baskets and other ways of brightening up Round Hill. This will be just the first step in greening our neighbourhood: a lot needs to be done before Round Hill has half as much wildlife as places like Prestonville and even Hanover.

Anyone with half an interest in local history will no longer need to be daunted by the task. Under the umbrella of the Round Hill Society, local historians in the Round Hill Area can begin to piece together the story of our hill. These projects are always more enjoyable when there are others helping.

Talk to the Council

The Society is a voice for residents, a mouthpiece with which to raise with the council issues which concern us all. We have already begun to lobby for a greater degree of attention to clearing litter from the area, and of SITA's laid back approach to refuse collection over the Christmas period. As we go to press it is too early to have a response on these matters, but you can be assured



we will keep you informed.

Looking after buildings

The Society will also be putting effort into keeping the Conservation Area special. What most characterises our neighbourhood is the late Victorian housing, laid out in a very attractive and distinctive way when viewed from around the town. In particular we have several listed buildings, considered to be fine examples of Victorian town houses.

The worst way the Society can encourage greater care of Round Hill's architecture is by shouting to neighbours "You can't do that!" Instead in forth-

coming issues of the Reporter you can expect to see a series of articles about how we can best look after Round Hill's buildings.

The Society can only be a success with your active support. If you do not like a stance the society's committee is taking, then say so. If you have a good idea how we can celebrate the place then let's get celebrating! Now you know who we are, it's time to help the Round Hill Society however you can.

Round Hill 100 years ago...

Few people realise that one street in the area has disappeared during the last century: Lennox Road.

At Brighton's reference library you can find a map of the Round Hill Estate. Drawn up in the 1860's it shows the original plans for Round Hill Crescent and Richmond Road. The plans show two connecting roads, D'Aubigny Road and Lennox Road. Each road was 7 houses up from the north and south ends of the Crescent. Ash-down Road was not in the plan. This arrangement gave it a satisfying symmetry on the plans. However, Lennox Road was considerably steeper than Ash-down Road, and would have proved difficult to get a cab down.

Perhaps it was because Lennox Road is so steep that it had

such a short life—the hill here has at least a 1-in-4 gradient. This is steeper than any other road in Brighton today.

The 1860's plans for the estate never quite worked—the estate was designed to be as exclusive as Park and Hanover Crescents, but the area went a little down market over the years (Who of us today could afford to buy an entire 3 story balconied house? -or to put it another way, why else are nearly all the big houses in Round Hill turned into flats?)

By 1900 Lennox Road was called Lennox Passage. Nowadays it is not graced with a name although to most it is the cat creep. If we are to take pride in our community's heritage, maybe we should persuade the council to rename this lost road Lennox Passage.

THE NEW VIC WELCOMES ROUND HILL SOCIETY MEMBERS

Special offer for Society members 1st Wednesday in the month

10p off a pint of beer after 8.30pm—bring your members card with you.

Members welcome other times too. There's lots happening at your local, so be there!

11 Richmond Road, between Princes Crescent and Mayo Road.
Phone us on 675906

Crime on Your Doorstep

By Ray Knight

There has been a number of complaints to the Society regarding local crime—mainly concerning vandalism to cars and property. If you have been a victim of crime our advice to you is simple...

Call the Police

For your information, here is the telephone number and names of the Beat Police Officers who are responsible for our area:-

PC Jerry Hay

PC Barry Southerden

PC Steve Taylor

These officers are based at Fiveways (Stanford Avenue) and can be contacted on: 01273 540935. Another useful number is the Police Helpdesk on 01273 665619.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Round Hill Society is concerned about local crime. We are not a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. There are a number of policing issues that do give us cause for concern such as the lack of visible beat bobbies. We shall be pursuing this and other such issues.

If anyone is interested in starting a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Ray Knight has some information. Any Neighbourhood Watch Scheme needs a good active co-ordinator—someone who is a good organiser, with a bit of time on their hands.

If you are interested, you will get lots of support from the police. The Round Hill Society will also do what we can to help publicise the Scheme and its campaigns.

Benefits

It must be said there are real benefits from being involved in a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme—e.g. cheaper household insurance for all houses in the scheme, as well as the knowledge that other people are keeping an eye on your house.

If you are interested call Ray on 681965

Letters Page

Dear Reporter

Residents of the Roundhill 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.

Can anyone tell me please what it is that's so difficult about clearing up after one's own dog? Am I un-

usual 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?

More frequent street cleaning would obviously be helpful, but it would not eradicate the problem completely. Only the dog owners themselves can do that.

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

Name and address supplied

If you want to write a letter to the Reporter, write to David Hodd, 17 Round Hill Crescent, Brighton, or e-mail david.hodd@bigwig.net. We reserve the right to shorten letters in the interests of space when necessary.

The Round Hill Noticeboard

Can anyone recommend a good window cleaner?

V Powell 276386

If you want to leave a message for your neighbours put it here.

To get messages put up on this noticeboard, contact David Hodd at 17 Round Hill Crescent, e-mail david.hodd@bigwig.net. If there is space we will endeavour to put it up. We reserve the right to refuse or edit notices.

Do you run a Community group in the Round Hill area?

Why not tell people about it here?

The Round Hill Society welcome advertisers to this newsletter.