

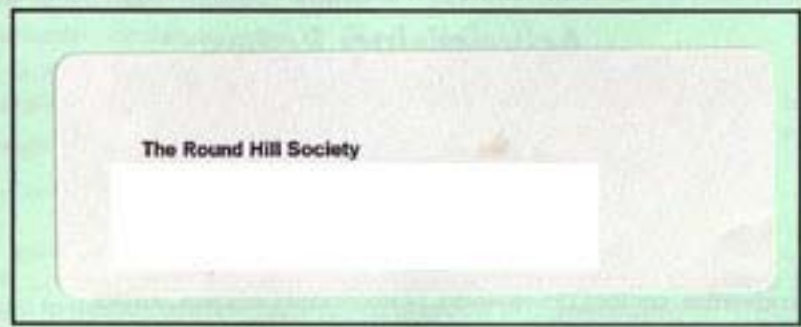
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Essential Dates

Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th May	Last weekend of the Brighton Festival. Open House Exhibitions in Round Hill, 12-6pm
Wednesday 7th June	Social evening at the New Vic. From 8.30pm
Wednesday 21st June	Council Meeting on proposed protection measures to conservation areas, St Augustine's church (provisional)
Wednesday 5th July	Social evening at the New Vic. From 8.30pm
Saturday 8th July	Round Hill Street Party from 2.30pm to the evening
Wednesday 2nd August	Social evening at the New Vic. From 8.30pm

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.



ROUND HILL REPORTER

May 2000

No2



Princes Crescent around the turn of the last century, was one of the pictures shown by Jacqueline Pollard in her talk to the society. Number 85 had not yet been built. Note how none of the houses have their rendering painted - a feature widespread not just in Round Hill, but across Brighton.

Conservation Area Changes • Street Party • Cheap Prints • Council Officer Writes Rubbish • Rats Running • Letters • Money • From the Archive • Traffic Survey • Community Noticeboard • Your Membership Card •

Finding Common Ground

A couple of issues are coming up which have the potential to get us neighbours disagreeing with each other. As with most things in life the best way to deal with it is to get talking and find the common ground—this is the approach which the Society intend to take.

The first (and the one more relevant to our everyday lives) concerns traffic. I know I get incensed when I see people parking their cars on the pave-

ment, but then finding a place to park here is often frustrating. I know these are just two of the traffic related problems the area endures.

The proposed changes to conservation area restrictions will stop many of us from sitting on the rubble wall or tasteful blue fence and stand up for heritage or individuality.

Get talking, and get partying at the Street Party in July

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

Round Hill DIY under threat?

If you want to stone-clad the rear of your house, then move quickly: the council are considering tightening up the planning protection of Brighton and Hove's conservation areas writes Rob Stephenson.

If you want to add another floor to your house, or remodel your Victorian home into a high tech steel and glass 'machine for living' you will need planning permission from the Council - and in a Conservation Area the Council will be most concerned with the impact of your proposals on the overall character of the area.

If you have an unlisted family house and you want to put in uPVC windows, replace your roof with tiles of a different colour, fit a glass frontdoor, or even demolish your garden wall to create a hardstanding for your car you can just go ahead and do it.

Changes considered

The Council is considering changing the rules so that these and other 'permitted developments' come under planning law, and would need planning permission. They say this would help to protect the character of the Round Hill Conservation Area. They could even consider bringing in

stricter controls on fixing satellite dishes and the colour you can paint your house - even if it is not listed. They have already done this, after consultations, in central Hove.

The Council will conduct a consultation process during the summer to gather the views of residents. Your Society officers have had some informal talks with members which have indicated general support for more controls.

Pot calling the Kettle Black?

Members also highlighted the need for the Council to consider the impact its works have on the character of the area - for example replacing paving slabs, our distinctive black paving bricks and stone kerbs, with tarmac and concrete or adding modern lampposts where once stood cast iron ones.

Whatever your views, make sure you make them known to the council. The council are arranging a public meeting in June for this—further details on the back page.

Council Officer writes rubbish on litter clearance

Developments have been afoot in keeping our streets clean. You may recall in the last issue of the Reporter that the council didn't clear our streets often because we are an area of low density housing.

Following a series of letters between the Society, local councillors and council officers, the council have said that the area will be litter picked more often—and it is true to say the cat creep for instance is much cleaner than it was. But they "did not think there was a need" to reclassify us as a high density residential area. At first, this seems fine—we have achieved cleaner streets. With

extra litter picking being done as a favour, we are vulnerable to changes in the future—cut backs, or even a change of staff could put us back to our old position of too infrequent litter clearance. Wouldn't residents from a low-density residential area quite rightly demand equal treatment?

Neither our councillors nor the society's committee are satisfied with this unaccountable approach to cleaning our streets—you can expect more developments on this matter, in the mean time you can enjoy seeing Street Cleaner David Burt more often on Round Hill.

Members get old prints at a discount

No doubt many of you who attended the meeting on the 10th April will have enjoyed the talk and slides on the history of the Round Hill area. All the slides shown were from original photographs, and many of these can be purchased from 36 Queens Road, Brighton.

The Round Hill Society is

pleased to announce that members can now purchase photographs and prints of the Round Hill area. Furthermore, the proprietor, Robert Jeeves will give a 10% discount to members of the Society. This discount relates to photographs and prints of the Round Hill Area.

Rat-running on the increase

Cars using Round Hill as a cut through to avoid busy main roads look to be on the increase following the changes to the road layout in the London Road area. Vivien Powell reports.

The Council has now published the results of the 'Before and After' study of the London Road Area Traffic Management Scheme. The study was conducted last May and shows a decrease in traffic in London Road, which was one of the aims of the scheme, but an overall increase in traffic of 40% in the Round Hill and Ditchling Rise areas.

Ditchling Road and Upper Lewes Road were installed.

Unfortunately, the survey was conducted before the entry treatments went in, so in theory it doesn't tell us anything about the effects they may have had. In practice, however, many of us will have noticed a distinct increase in traffic levels since the introduction of the London

Site Location	Flow Direction	Before	After	% Difference
Round Hill Crescent	Eastbound	663	771	16%
Round Hill Crescent	Westbound	480	680	42%
Ditchling Rise	Eastbound	1042	939	-10%
Ditchling Rise	Westbound	749	1009	35%
Ditchling Road	Northbound	4029	4594	14%
Ditchling Road	Southbound	4361	4917	13%
Rugby Road	Eastbound	713	846	19%
Rugby Road	Westbound	768	744	-3%

Entry Treatments

This would appear to indicate an increased use of these residential areas by 'rat-runners'. It was because of this potential problem that the entry treatments at all the junctions with

Road Traffic Scheme.

Meeting Council

The representatives of Round Hill, Ditchling Rise and Rugby Road areas met Cllr Pete West

(Continued on page 6)

to discuss the next step. All felt unhappy about the volume and speed of traffic and a letter has been sent to the Council to ask what they plan to do next to address the problems in these residential areas.

The traffic survey questionnaire (see next article) which we sent round to all households in the Round Hill area will be a useful tool with which to discuss any amendments to the traffic

management scheme.

The council's official report, or an abridged version on the scheme can be obtained from Environmental Services. For those with a technical mind, there are some useful points to pick at in it, and it does also say "The Roundhill [sic] area is included on the Council's list of areas for future traffic calming schemes."

The Round Hill Traffic Survey

Thanks to everyone who filled in the recent traffic survey. Many members identified traffic as one of the biggest issues concerning them when the society was set up—so perhaps it was about time that we began to gauge people's opinions, not just on rat-running, but on parking (on or off pavements), speeding, and cycling.

Large Response

The survey results are still being collated—but you will get a full report in the next issue of the Reporter. We have received about 120 responses, which represents around 15% of the households in Round Hill. This is quite a high response rate, so we can but forward your views to the council.

Incidentally we should point out that the one way system described in the questionnaire is not one which the committee endorse (although there may be individuals in it who do). The one way system was proposed by a resident, and we thought we would test reaction to it.

Whatever trends, opinions and ideas are contained will be put together in a report. We will ensure that the report is balanced and a fair representation of the views of Round Hill residents. We will ensure that it also lands on the right desk at the council. In the Prestonville area of Brighton, a similar survey had a direct impact on the traffic scheme that the council devised for that area.

Round Hill Revelry

The afternoon of Saturday July 8th is an essential date in the diary for every resident in the area. Marian Gerrett reveals an afternoon with your neighbours you won't want to miss.

To celebrate the formation of the Round Hill Society, we are planning a street party for all residents of the area. We have applied for a grant from the council to fund it, and should hear if the application is successful within the next few weeks. This will cover the cost of the live bands, bouncy castles and various games and activities to enjoy. Even without the grant, a more modest party will be held, and we will have to pass a hat round on the day.

The event will be held in Mayo Road, conveniently located next to the New Vic pub, who are supporting us and will apply for a licence extension on the day. Come along at 2.30pm, when most of the activities will begin. The party will be opened by Simon Fanshaw at

3pm. The evening will have a barbeque and a live band for dancing in the street!

Planned activities at the street party include:

- Live music
- Bouncy castles
- Children's entertainer
- Popcorn
- Barbecue
- Parachute Games
- Guided history walk

As you might imagine, there will be lots to organise, so if you can help either on the day or in preparation for the event then please call or drop a note to Marian, 77 Princes Crescent 688009 or Rob 51 Upper Lewes Road 673511.

Vivien Powell MTL, ITEC, ICHT

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Gathering Grants

One of the first tasks for the Society has been to gather funds to help make things happen—that way your membership fee will go further.

The Society has received about £1700 from the Millennium Lottery Grants Scheme. This is to purchase a photocopier, paper and ink—the next newsletter will be entirely printed in house.

Ninety Three Pound Archive

£200 of this award was to conduct history research of our area. Following a near unanimous decision at the last general meeting, £93 of this was spent acquiring an archive of old documents on the area.

We have also submitted a claim to the Shell Better Britain campaign for funds to provide window boxes and flower tubs to those that want them in the area. As well as encouraging

civic pride, the project will make a difference to the wildlife of Round Hill: there being no green space here, we need to make lots of smaller spaces in our gardens and on our streets.

We are awaiting a visit from a Shell representative who will investigate the application before we know whether we have been successful.

Party Money

Brighton and Hove Council have a small grants scheme. We have submitted an application to contribute to the street party in Mayo Road—but we will not be know if the application is successful until 8 days before the event.

You might be able to help supplement grants—perhaps you are able to purchase office gardening or party things cheaply. If so let us know.

THE NEW VIC WELCOMES ROUND HILL SOCIETY MEMBERS

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

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!

The Round Hill Archive

David Hodd reports on the Society's new archive of old documents

At a recent auction of post-cards of Brighton and Hove was an odd lot of legal documents relating to the development of some of the houses in Upper Lewes Road and Round Hill Crescent. All 53 conveyances, mortgages and wills were bought by the society with Millennium grant money.

We need to transcribe many of these documents—if you can help with this mammoth task, let me know. It is fascinating seeing documents 150 years old, which talk of developing plots on the Round Hill Park Estate, and what sort of home or business could be built where.

Early glimpses suggest legal wrangles over who owns 24

and 25 Upper Lewes Road. Just to make the documents come alive, we have a plan of one of these houses, marking how its drainage should be arranged. The sale of an orchard behind Lennox Road (now the Cat Creep) is also included.

Preserving the Archive

In the future these documents need preserving, maybe they should be kept at the Records Centre in Lewes rather than in someone's attic, but first all you history enthusiasts need to get in touch and unravel the story the documents tell.

I must also thank residents who have donated other papers to add to this archive.

Situations Vacant

Do you have an interest in looking after the Round Hill Conservation Area? The Society need someone who can represent residents on the council's Conservation Areas Advisory Group (CAAG). This group monitors council activities and policies to ensure that all the conservation areas in

Brighton and Hove are conserved properly. Meetings are every three weeks, on Council premises, during the daytime.

Marie Sansford has been doing sterling work for the Round Hill Society attending CAAG, but no longer has the time to attend—can you help?

Letters Page

Dear Reporter

Neighbourhood Warden

I am writing to you with a suggestion that I would very much like the Round Hill Society to seriously consider. It is the need for a neighbourhood warden. This would be a mature and responsible individual who would have an active and visible presence within the Round Hill area. The warden could undertake a wide range of practical duties which may include: Dealing with and reporting litter; Dealing with illegally parked and abandoned cars; Dealing with noise; Reporting vandalism to trees, street furniture etc.; Recycling schemes.

The possibly more important role however is that of the warden acting as a general caretaker and information exchange agent. The warden would know who lives where and serves as a friendly and useful neighbourhood watch can

handyperson on our streets. Householders may wish to negotiate extra duties or not as the case may be.

The Labour Party have initiated the idea of Wardens on estates and some London Parks have now revamped "Parkies" back. The intricate nightmares of employment contracts and funding is a problem waiting to be solved. I am confident however that this could be overcome. Getting the "right" person for this job would be critical, but the major advantages of service and security that the Round Hill residents could enjoy would serve as a shining example to other communities that would benefit from this element of care and controls. It would also create a rather nice job...

Yours for consideration

John Denman

Princes Crescent

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

Wanted: Small Garden Shed

Will dismantle and remove

Phone 600993

Wanted

Reliable cleaner to clean two neighbouring houses in Princes Crescent. 2 hours per house per week (pref Fridays). Phone Jenny 681965 or Penny 620001 after 6pm.

Babysitter Available (15 years old)

Experienced with babies

Basic first aid £3/hour.

Tel: Vanessa 688009

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 find Magpie Recycling a little expensive or boxes too big?

Why not share a green box with a neighbour.

Advertising Rates

The Round Hill Society welcome local companies interested in advertising in the Reporter. Here are the rates:

Quarter Page £5

Half Page £10

Full Page £20

To advertise, contact David Hodd, 17 Round Hill Crescent, 601019.