

Essential Dates

Wednesday 6th December Social evening at the Round Hill. From 8.00pm.

Thursday 21st December Winter Solstice candle-lit procession with carol singing, mulled wine and mince pies. Procession starts at the bottom of Richmond Road, near D'Aubigny Road at 7pm.

Tuesday 2nd January— Christmas Tree recycling point at the corner of The Level open.
Wednesday 31st January

Wednesday 3rd January Social evening at the Round Hill. From 8.00pm.

Wednesday 7th February Social evening at the Round Hill. From 8.00pm.

Wednesday 7th March Social evening at the Round Hill. From 8.00pm.

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.



ROUND HILL REPORTER

December 2000

No 4



Round Hill Society members turned up to the AGM where a number of guest speakers talked about looking after the wildlife on the Downs and on our doorsteps. Here Chris Todd talks of the need to keep our Downs public.

Planning Rules Change • Rubbish Latest • AGM Report •
Round Hill in Bloom • History Special • Social Evenings •
Xmas Candle Procession • Community Noticeboard •
John Bailey Haynes • Diary • Your Membership Card •

366 Busy Days

Well the first year of the Round Hill Society has come and gone, with many memorable moments for residents. I hope that you feel that the Society has had a number of achievements in the last twelve months and that this newsletter has proved interesting and relevant to you.

Alas, with one year gone, it is time for us to ask for you to renew your subscriptions. If you have not already done so then

please renew them. Without your support, we cannot be a community organisation. Whilst you are at it, why not buy a neighbour membership of the Society too?

This is my last editorial as newsletter editor. It's time to hand over to Amanda Evans, but I will be chairing vice in the committee from now on.

Have a good Christmas!

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	David Hodd	17 Round Hill Crescent	601019
Membership Secretary	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	601320
Minutes Secretary	Collette Blackett	8 Round Hill Crescent	694811
Newsletter Editor	Amanda Evans	8 Belton Road	278646
Member without Portfolio	Denise Elliott	60 Richmond Road	888216
Member without Responsibility	Ray Knight	93 Princes Crescent	681965
Member without Portfolio	Suzie Sharp	67 Princes Road	882240

Round Hill's Planning Rules to Change

Chairman Rob Stephenson reports on the Council's recent review of planning restrictions in Conservation Areas.

You may recall the somewhat heated consultation process earlier this year on what are called Article 4 Directives. The Council had employed consultants to prepare a report on the quality of our area and several others in the town, with a view to seeing if tighter planning controls could help to preserve the Conservation Area.

Report

The report makes interesting reading. The consultation received completed questionnaires from 105 folk (out of a potential 995). Of the 12 proposals put forward only three had a majority in favour:

- I would support alterations to front facades coming under planning control (changing windows, doors and adding small porches) – 67 for it and 38 against.

- I would support alterations to front roof slopes coming under planning control (changing roofing material, adding roof lights and removing chimneys) – 58 for and 47 against.

- I would support the construction, alteration or demolition of walls, gates and fences being brought under planning control (including creation of means of access to the highway) – 59 for and 46 against.

All the other ideas – specifying a palette of colours for painting fronts and rears of homes and shops, all rear garden constructions, altering rear roof slopes and hard surfaces in front gardens and in rear gardens – all got the thumbs down by margins varying from liny to extreme. It is my pleasure to report that the Council officers took note of these responses, and only proposed for implementation the three which received community support.

Notified

The executive councillor accepted the recommendations and we will soon be notified of the proposals – getting another opportunity to object if that's the way you feel.

It is worth noting that these proposals do not apply to buildings consisting of flats, as they already require planning permission for these changes.

More About Rubbish!

Communication continues with the Council for a better and fairer deal on rubbish collection. Vivien Powell reports on a meeting with Council officers.

David Hodd and myself had a meeting recently with two members of Brighton & Hove Council's Waste Management Team to discuss the thorny issue of zoning.

Pouring Rain

We trudged off in the pouring rain to meet Tony Curtis and Jenny Cooke in their offices in Bartholomew Square. While we were there, apparently the Council leaders were next door trying to arrive at some sensible agreement with SITA.

We were assured that the main issue on street cleansing is to ensure that residents are happy with the level of cleanliness. If the rubbish is collected regularly and the streets cleaned satisfactorily, there should be no cause for complaint.

Zoning

The Council's zoning system is to clear up problems in the cleaning up of waste. Only when there are complaints about the level of cleanliness does zoning come into play, so that the response time to the complaint is suitable for the type of area. David, like a dog

with an old bone, would not let the subject go until we were both satisfied with the explanation. Ultimately the Council's position was that SITA were falling so far short of the standard expected, that the system was not a useful tool with which to get effective litter clearance from SITA.

New Recruits

We were told that SITA were recruiting 18 new road-sweeping staff and the Council have asked SITA to make the Round Hill Area a priority. Once all the problems between them have been ironed out, the Waste Management Team assured us that our area will be regularly cleaned. I have to say that street sweepers have been more in evidence lately.

If you have a complaint about the state of our streets phone the Council's Area Team on 292300. This is the number to ring also if you see abandoned cars, graffiti, potholes etc. If you do have cause for complaint, it might be an idea to make a note of the response time for future reference.

Discovering Round Hill's History

The history group was formed in July following the first public meeting of the Society. Andrew Partington reports on progress so far on the oral history project and other work the group have been doing.

Letters in the Argus and Leader produced 8 replies from people willing to be interviewed (and one letter from a former resident, now in Australia). Pam Blackman co-ordinated the interviews. These have now been completed and the notes and audio tapes need writing up. Some photos have been lent to us by the interviewees, which we have copied onto computer files (by permission).

Documents

David Hodd worked with Peggy Henderson (who provided expert legal knowledge) to sort the documents and arrange their transcription into typescript so they can be analysed and read without risk of physical damage to the originals. This work is nearly finished.

Keeping the archive

The notes and tapes from the interviews, and the society's documents, need to be kept properly in an archive. We want to contact the local Records Office (or similar organi-

sation) to see how this should best be done.

Further work

We are keen to continue and expand our work. We would like (subject to approval by the society's committee) to have a budget for running costs, incidental expenses and to buy items such as small tape recorders.

We would like to publish the results of our work in due course. This may be on a web site or as a book - suggestions and offers of help in taking this forward are welcome.

Want to get involved?

Do you have old memories of the area?

Contact:

Andrew Partington—History Group co-ordinator
6 Richmond Rd BN2 3RN
tel 671011
e-mail apartington@pavilion.co.uk

Round Hill in Bloom?

Rob Stephenson reports on a scheme to green up the neighbourhood.

How do people passing through an area know it is a community, not just a collection of homes? One way might be by seeing a large number of planters, all of the same design and colour, in front of homes across the neighbourhood.

Grant

That was the thinking behind our application for a grant from the Shell Better Britain Campaign last year, to fund the construction, filling and planting of 50 window boxes and 50 doorstep planters. We now have over £900 for buying the materials (including recycled floorboards from the Brighton Wood Recycling Project) and making 100 containers.

We still need the labour to construct the containers. We have a budget for the work – and would like it to go to another community group – perhaps

Scouts, an after-school club or Youth Club. We may also need someone skilled in woodwork to supervise the construction.

Compost

We can get all the compost we need from a project that collects and composts 'green waste' from local Household Waste Sites. We hope that there will be 100 households in Round Hill who will pay £2 for a planter or window box planted with a selection of bulbs, but ready for your own mixture of seeds, seedlings and plants.

We need to hear from you if

- You have a group who might want to make the planters
- You would like to buy a planter
- You have any other ideas how to make the project a success

If so, speak to Rob Stephenson on 673511, or robs@pavilion.co.uk

New Committee Members

There is just enough space to say a quick welcome to Collette Blackett, Amanda Evans, Jan Curry and Suzie Sharp for joining the Committee—their

numbers are on page 2. Thanks should also go to Val Brooker, Robert Wilson and Margy Smith for their contributions over the last year.

The Round Hill AGM

Many of you turned up for the Society's AGM, but it was not just about voting in a new committee—Rob Stephenson reports.

Over thirty people attended the first meeting looking back at our first year of activity, and voted in new officers being similar to last year. The treasurer included her report which is enclosed in the newsletter.

Situations Vacant

Unfortunately, there were a few gaps: no membership secretary volunteered, nor did a newsletter editor. Since the AGM, Amanda Evans has volunteered for the challenging role [shome mishtake shurely?] of newsletter editor. Jan Curry who stood for committee has kindly offered to be the Society's membership secretary.

South Downs

Chris Todd, well known activist in local Friends of the Earth, described the threats to our precious South Downs, especially on the edge of town, and asked us to affiliate to the Save Our Downs coalition which is actively pursuing National Park status of all the land currently designated as within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The meeting agreed to affiliate, and pay £10 to the administra-

live body – Brighton and Hove Environment Forum. This should result in occasional pieces in the Reporter on the state of the campaign, and possibly requests for members to write letters.

Wildlife

The main event of the evening was an illustrated talk by Phil Belden, from Brighton Urban Wildlife Group, on attracting wildlife into our gardens.

After showing us how modern farming has successfully removed many wildlife habitats from our countryside – only 3% of the Downs is still wildlife-rich chalk grassland, over 75% of farm ponds have gone and hundreds of thousands of kilometres of hedgerows have been grubbed up since 1945 – he described how steps as simple as changing the timing of mowing could bring nectar and food plants back into our lawns.

The more adventurous of us can strip back the turf and plant suitable wildflower mixtures direct into the subsoil,

(Continued on page 8)

where low nutrient levels will help them compete against coarser grasses.

Simple but truly valuable steps include

- Cutting holes through the base of our brick and flint garden walls or close-boarded fences so that hedgehogs, frogs, toads, slowworms etc. can move more freely through the area
- Putting up nest boxes for local birds
- Planting a native species hedgerow to provide food and shelter for wildlife
- Creating a pile of small logs and woody stuff for shelter

and food for small mammals and amphibians

But, best of all, said Phil, is a pond – and all it needs is thick polythene plus some old carpet and newspapers – plus a certain amount of effort.

There was an enthusiastic discussion afterwards, and the idea of a Round Hill Wildlife Record was suggested. Perhaps marking sightings on a map to start with, maybe linked to garden observation diaries people may already keep, or be inspired to keep now. If you might be interested in this idea please let me know.

Rob Stephenson

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Carols and Candles Procession

A chance for you to join other members of the Round Hill Society in celebrating the Christmas season.

What better a way to mark the Christmas season than to exercise some good cheer among your neighbours. Bring a lantern and join us at on a stroll up Richmond Road.

The procession will gather at the bottom of Richmond Road (by D'Aubigny Road) at 7pm on 21st December, and from there we will march slowly up to Strop Crescent. Here we shall stop for mince pies mulled wine, and a chance to sing a few seasonal solstice carols.

All you need to do to get involved is to bring your family and friends. Bring a lantern—if you can't come along to Sue Parlington's lantern making workshop, then put a candle in an old jam jar, and tie securely to a strong stick.

Remember that Same Sky's Burning of the Clocks Festival won't take place until New Years Eve, so there's no point in planning to go to that instead.

See you there!

New Social Meetings

Following a year of social events each month at the New Vic Pub, changes to the schedule are underway from this month.

As usual we will have a social evening on the first Wednesday of the month. But from the 6th December, the social will be at the Round Hill pub in Ditchling Road. As before, committee members will be present from 8pm, and Jeff Coleman, the Landlord will give you 10p off a pint of beer to members and their friends. There will also be

a pub noticeboard about what's happening in the area.

The Society's committee would like to thank everyone at the New Vic for their support for the Society over the last 12 months—not least in helping with the street party. The move of the Society's social reflects a need for us to promote community spirit in all businesses in the area. I am sure many of you will continue to patronise the New Vic and thus help both your locals.

David Hodd

John Bailey Haynes Memorial

History researcher Peggy Henderson appeals for help in restoring a memorial to a much loved local figure.

John Bailey Haynes was dedicated to working among Brighton's poor for over 50 years until his death in 1902. He was active in many Christian projects: Christian Aid, Good Samaritans Society, Sunday School Union and the Boys Brigade. He purchased the Christ Church in New England Road from which he conducted his ministry.

Comforted the Sick

He was a friend to many of the dignitaries of the town as well as a friend to the poor man and woman in the street. It is however as a Scripture Reader, visitor and comforter of the sick for which he will chiefly be remembered. An obituary of the time said "he probably paid more than half a million visits to the homes of the people and witnessed over 2000 death-bed scenes." Many considered him as a free doctor, lawyer and arbitrator.

Thousands at his Funeral

As a sign of his esteem nearly three thousand people attended his funeral and hundreds of friends in all parts of

the world expressed their loving sympathy to his family.

He had a particular connection with our part of the town. He lived at 24 Park Crescent, and his family owned two houses in Upper Lewes Road.

Memorial Damaged

Sadly his memorial was damaged when it was removed from Christ Church (which was knocked down) to the Extra Mural Cemetery off Lewes Road.

In view of the high regard the people of Brighton had for John Bailey Haynes, it is only fitting that this memorial to him should be preserved.

If you can help, then send your donations, payable to "The John Bailey Haynes Memorial Fund" to

John Bailey Haynes Memorial Fund
53 Upper Lewes Road
Brighton
BN2 3FH

Or contact Peggy Henderson at this address if you would like further information.

The Round Hill Noticeboard

Mince Pies Needed for Candle Procession

If you can make some mince pies to share at the carol procession, then call Suzie Sharp on 882240.

Council's Round Hill Hotline

Too much litter? Rubbish not collected? Abandoned Vehicles? - Call 292300

Babysitter Available (15 years old)

Experienced with babies
Basic first aid £3/hour.
Tel: Vanessa 688009

Website Wizard Wanted

The society are looking for someone ready, willing and able to set up the Round Hill Web Site. If you are that person, e-mail Rob Stephenson robs@pavilion.co.uk

To get messages put up on this noticeboard, contact Amanda Evans. If there is space we will endeavour to put it up. We reserve the right to refuse or edit notices.

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 Amanda Evans, 8 Belfon Road, 278646