
Essential Dates

Saturday 23rd June Members garden party at 60/62
Richmond Road, 2pm (for more info
see page 3).

Wednesday 4th July Social evening at the Round Hill.
From 8.00pm.

Wednesday 1st August Social evening at the Round Hill.
From 8pm.

Wednesday 5th Sept. Social evening at the Round Hill.
From 8.00pm

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

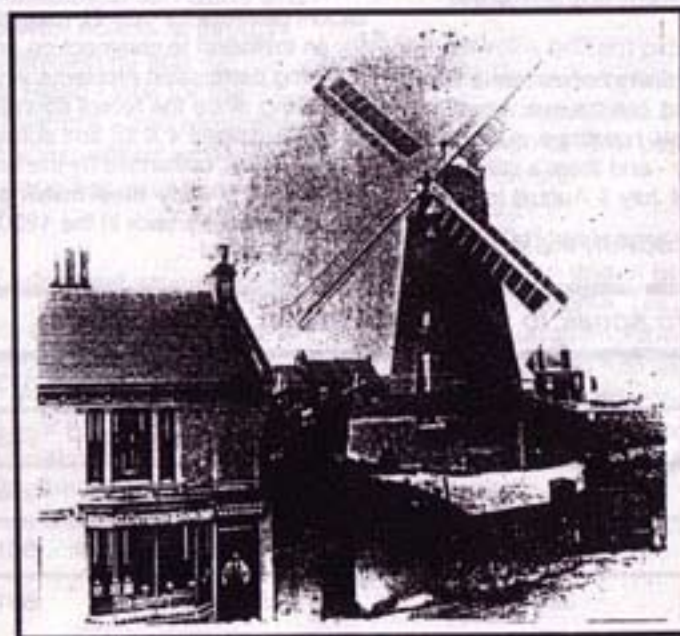
You may need to show this card at any RHS event.



Round Hill Reporter

June 2001

No 6



The Round Hill mill, which was one of the largest windmills in the country. Situated at the top of Round Hill Road & Belton Road, it was built in 1834 and changed hands several times before being bought by the Cutress family in 1879. The mill was dismantled in 1913 and many of its 50,000 bricks were used in the construction of 14 new houses, which remain on the site in Belton Road today. The mill may be long gone but is not forgotten, since it is still featured on the many shopfronts and bags of Forfars bakeries.

Garden Party details * Round Hill in Bloom latest * Fascinating local history update * Planning Permission problems * Community noticeboard * Your membership card *

0788 1821954

Happy days are here again

A warm and sunny welcome to the June newsletter. I don't want to tempt fate, but after the wettest year on record (April 2000 - March 2001) and the terrible flooding that hit so many areas, summer does seem to have finally arrived - for the first time this century!

Not that it's actually *hot* as I write this, you understand, but the sun is out, there isn't a gale howling and above all at least it's dry - and there's still most of June and all of July & August to come...

...all of which hopefully bodes well for

the Round Hill Society garden party next Saturday (June 23), when we'd love to see you all - for full details see facing page.

Other delights in this issue include info on how to order your Round Hill in Bloom planters for only £2 (pages 8 & 9); an invitation to comment on any planning permission problems you may be having since the recent council rule changes (pages 4 & 5); and some fascinating stuff, unearthed by the history group, on the early street building plans for our area way back in the 1820's (pages 6 & 7).

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 | Colette 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 |

It's Party Time on Saturday June 23!

Look out for balloons

The members summer garden party will take place on Saturday 23rd June in the extensive gardens of two RHS members, Jan Curry and Denise Elliott. Access is through the gate between 60 and 62 Richmond Road - look for the colourful balloons - and remember to bring this newsletter with you as the back page has your 'membership card'.

Fizzy wine and strawberries

We plan to start at 2pm and go through to 6pm. Please bring a little cash with you for the raffle, any games of skill we might arrange, and any donations you might care to make for the drinks. There will

be strawberries and fizzy white wine to start and a choice of wine, beer or soft drinks to maintain the party mood.

Pictures & planters

Vivien Powell's brilliant pics from last year's street party will be on display and you will also be able to view the range of RHS planters, and place your orders.

Kids welcome

Please leave the dog at home. Your children are welcome, but please keep an eye on them - there are ponds and climbing frames to enjoy, but supervision for safe use is your responsibility. Join us in hoping for good weather, and then join us on the day...

Vivien Powell MTI, ITEC, MICT

HOLISTIC MASSAGE
& AROMATHERAPY



The Albion Acupuncture & Chiropractic Clinic
1 Albion Street, Brighton BN2 2NE
e-mail: v.powell@bigfoot.com
Tel: 01273 628221 or 07801 784240

Planning Permission Problems

Rob Stephenson reports on problems arising from the recent changes in planning permission requirements

Questionnaires

Last year the Council arranged questionnaires and a public meeting with a view to bringing various changes to whole houses in the Conservation Area back within planning control.

A heated debate

You may recall it became quite heated at times, and the residents of Round Hill were undoubtedly the most outspoken on limiting the issues to come under planning control.

Three out of twelve

Ultimately only three of the council's 12 proposed issues gained the majority support of Round Hill residents, these were:

Alterations to front facades (ie changing windows and doors and adding small porches).

Alterations to front roof slopes (ie changing roof material, insertion of roof lights and alteration or removal of chimneys).

The construction, alteration or demolition of walls, gates and fences etc.

Special character

Whilst the Round Hill Society agreed that bringing these changes under planning control would help to maintain the special character of the area, we did not expect an extreme interpretation such as seems to be happening with one resident's discussions with the Council's planning department.

Loft conversion

He wants to build a room in the loft. There is no problem with a dormer window at the rear, but he has been told that the department will vigorously oppose an application for a rooflight in the front roofslope. Such a rooflight is the common method of meeting fire regulations, as a means of escape to the front street.

No rooflight, no conversion

Without this rooflight the conversion becomes impractical. The only alternative way of meeting the fire regulations would require the construction of walls around all the staircases in the house - destroying the internal appearance and feel of the home.

A suitable style

The Committee of the Round Hill Society believe that a suitable style of rooflight could be found, which would fit with the concrete roof tiles already on the roof, allowing the loft conversion to proceed.

Clear guidance

We also believe that the Council should now provide clear design guidance for the Round Hill Conservation Area to help residents wishing to make minor changes to

the exterior of their homes, especially since these changes to planning control have come about without all householders being informed of them.

Let us know what you think

We would value comments from other members of the Society. Please contact Rob Stephenson with your views, on 673511, at 51 Upper Lewes Road, or via robs@pavilion.co.uk

Ninelives Project

Rob Stephenson reports on Brighton & Hove council's Ninelives initiative

9 volunteers, 9 weeks

You may have seen that the Council is looking for nine volunteers to take part in a programme of lifestyle change over a period of nine weeks starting this autumn.

Living gently

The theme is how to live more gently on the planet and yourself. Each volunteer will tackle three areas of their lives, one each from economic skills (financial planning, job satisfaction, clever shopping) social skills (controlling stress, using free time, better eating) environmental skills (using less fuel, reducing waste, safer home and garden)

Why not apply?

Why not consider becoming one of the volunteers? You'll receive expert advice every week, and have the opportunity to record your progress on video, which will appear on a special website (www.ninelives.tv), and be reported in the Brighton & Hove City News.

Sustainability

The message is sustainability - creating a better life whilst using fewer resources. To learn more pick up a leaflet from the library, the Town Halls or on local buses. Closing date for applications is the 3rd of July.

The Road To Round Hill

Documents owned by, and lent to, the Society's history group give fascinating glimpses of the very earliest days of Round Hill as a built up area. Andrew Partington, the group's co-ordinator, reports.

Our story begins way back in August 1826 with a tantalising reference. In that month Thomas Read Kemp, the man who created Kemp Town and one of the joint Lords of the Manor of Brighton, made an agreement with three other men over land in what was to become Round Hill.

No details yet

We do not yet have the details of that agreement, but it must have covered most of our area, because we have found references to it in documents from both the Upper Lewes Road and the top of Ashdown Road.

December 1842

Thomas Kemp drops back out of our records in December 1842, before any houses were built here. What was his involvement? Why was he making deals in Round Hill at the same time as he was launching his huge development at Kemp Town on the other side of the city?

Dog Kennel Road?

By 1867, building plans for Round Hill - then part of a larger area known as the Tenantry Down or

Brighton Estate - were well under way. The land was parcelled up into lots and Round Hill Crescent, Richmond and Crescent Roads, Princes Crescent, Princes Road and Mayo Road are all listed. There is also mention of a Dog Kennel Road - does anyone know where that is or was?

Boundary fences

The developers planned Round Hill to the smallest detail. Every building plot was measured and staked out. Anyone buying a plot had to put up a boundary fence, no higher than five feet at the front and six and a half feet at the back. No temporary buildings were allowed, except for sheds and workshops to store construction materials.

Upmarket use only

The streets were for upmarket residential use only. Unless by special agreement, it was strictly one house per plot. Hotels, taverns and beer-houses were banned, nor could any house be used as one. Only on the Ditchling Road and Dog Kennel Road could shops be built. Anyone wanting to use the house as a workshop had to get permission from the developers first.

Houses from £150

Even the prices were set down in legal agreements. Excluding stables, the minimum costs per house were:- Round Hill Crescent £400; Ditchling and Dog Kennel Roads £150; Richmond and Crescent Roads and Princes Crescent, detached, £250 each, or semi-detached £450 per pair; Princes Road and Mayo Roads, detached, £150 each, or semi-detached £250 per pair.

Ashdown Road

But Round Hill was not built up overnight. In September 1890, local builder Thomas Miles bought up several plots in Richmond Road to put in a new road, Ashdown Road. This is the first appearance of Ashdown Road we have found so far - it was not on the original plan for the area (by this date called the Round Hill Park Estate).

Too steep for carriages

And one road that was on the first plans did not last long. This was Lennox Road, planned to run down the hill from Princes Crescent to Round Hill Crescent. The boundary walls were put in - and one still survives along the whole length of the road - but the street is no longer there. We think it is because the hillside is so steep just here that carts and carriages would have found it hard to get up and down safely. If you want proof, take a look at the Cat's Creep (the steps

between Princes and Round Hill Crescents) for that is where the lost road used to go. For whatever reason, houses were built across the top and bottom of Lennox Road. Look at the buildings and it is possible to work out where the infills are, especially at the Round Hill Crescent end.

Upper Lewes Road

While all this was going on, the Upper Lewes Rd was also being built up as other parts of the Tenantry Down estate were sold for building land. In 1850, there was only one house recorded. This was Rose-hill Cottage, occupied by a Thomas Turpin. The information comes from Folthorps Brighton street directory of 1850, which calls the road Gypsey Lane. By the 1856 edition there are 3 new properties: Sylvan Lodge, Verbena Cottage and Round Hill Villa, while the road has become Upper Lewes Road.

A final question...

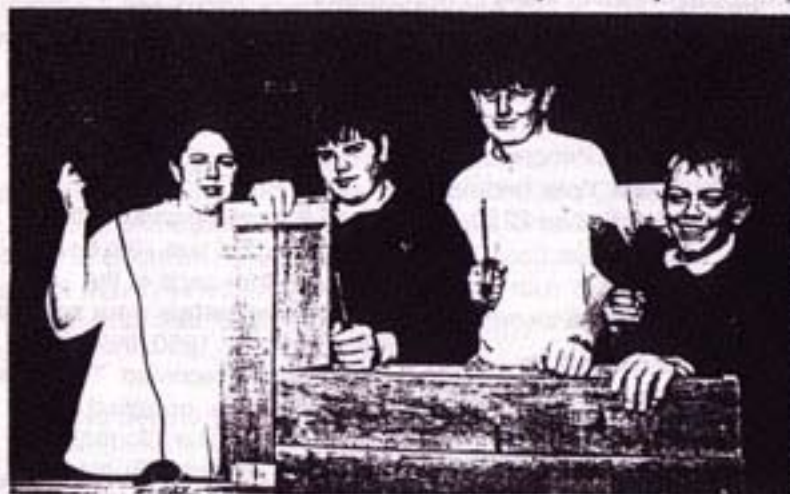
And one last question: why do our documents call the same road 'Upper Lewes Road formerly called the Old Shoreham Road'? Maybe that is something for further research.

Get involved

If you can fill any of the gaps in our knowledge, or would like to get involved with the history group, please contact Andrew Partington at 6 Richmond Road, tel 671011 or email partington@apple online.net

It's all coming up roses in Round Hill

The Round Hill in Bloom scheme is gathering pace - the first batch of bargain priced planters are out there and more are on the way. **Rob Stephenson** reports.



L-R: Dorothy Stringer High School students Darla Hadjuk, Harry Cooper, Charlie Tomkins and Jamie Hitchings

Valiant efforts

Thanks to the valiant efforts of Technology teacher Andy Cutler and six of his year 10 students at Dorothy Stringer, we have taken delivery of the first sixteen large planters, which measure roughly 28 x 10 x 10 inches.

Round Hill logo

Most have been stained and had the simplified Round Hill logo (drawn by member Andrew Haig) applied as a stencil, and been taken to those who ordered them.

Smaller designs

Smaller designs are now in production, one is an eleven inch cube and another is a real window box, 24 inches long by 5.5 high and 5 inches wide.

Compost

Delivery of compost for the planters is taking a little longer due to shortage of transport. A huge heap of compost was delivered to my allotment last month and some has been sifted and delivered to a few lucky folk. I hope to sieve more and

bag it during this month (now that the election is out of the way) and will be seeking someone with a vehicle to help me collect and deliver it to planter purchasers.

Making your planter last longer

If you are already the proud owner of one of the first batch, you might like to experiment with making it last longer. We have had conflicting advice on whether to line them or not, and we did not want to use a toxic preservative, so they have had no internal treatment.

Linseed oil

One eco-friendly preservative, suggested in a recent gardening maga-

zine, is to paint the inside with boiled linseed oil (also sometimes sold as Teak Oil), or alternatively you could try one of those plant-friendly wood stain/preservatives that are often used on fences.

Order your planters now!

Thanks to a grant from the Shell Better Britain campaign, the planters are available to Round Hill residents at the amazingly low price of £2 each (inclusive of compost). If you would like to order any of the styles mentioned above and be part of the efforts to brighten up the area, please let me know - you can phone on 673511 or e-mail robs@pavilion.co.uk

For a tapwasher or a new boiler, call

Floline Trading Ltd

Brighton's first Independent
Heating and Plumbing Trade
Supplier

36a Princes Road Brighton BN2 3RH

Telephone: 601475/6

Open Monday to Friday 7.45am to 6pm. Saturday 8am to 4pm.

Rural Round Hill - not so long ago...



As you can see from the picture above, where you're sitting now, reading this, cattle and sheep would have grazed more recently than you'd think.

150 years ago

As little as 150 years ago, when perhaps your great-grandparents were alive, this area was still Downland, part of that beautiful stretch of countryside we know and cherish. As a Society, we value our heritage and what is now left of the Downs and actively support their conservation.

Foot & Mouth

Although, mercifully, there have been no outbreaks in Sussex during

the recent Foot & Mouth epidemic, much suffering has nonetheless been caused by the measures taken in the attempt to limit its spread.

Conservation

Our hearts go out to all those who have been affected, farmers and others involved in the preservation and conservation of our countryside, as well, of course, as the livestock.

Raising awareness

Perhaps one good thing to come out of it has been to raise people's awareness of countryside issues - let's hope we all remember and that it leads to more debate about the way forward on rural matters.

The Round Hill Noticeboard

Wanted

A room in a family house, with use of kitchen and bathroom, for quiet, mature woman.
Circa £35 to 40 pw.
Please contact Robert Stephenson for further information, on 673511.

Seeking New Artists

We are looking for new artists to exhibit work in our 'Beyond The Level' Open House during the 2002 Brighton Festival.
For more info, call Vivien on 276386

Council's Round Hill Hotline

Too much litter? Rubbish not collected? Abandoned vehicles? Call 292300

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 any 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 on 278646