

Essential Dates

Wednesday 20 March Deadline for objections to Belton Road development - (see page 3)

Monday 25th March Social evening at the New Vic, Richmond Road, From 8pm

Sat/Sun 4th/5th May Brighton Festival open houses in the Round Hill area will be at No's 48, 57 & 66 Richmond Road; 41, 51 & 67 Upper Lewes Road; 31 Princes Road and 22 Belton Road. For further info you can pick up a brochure soon in local shops & pubs.

12 - 6pm
Sat/Sun 11/12th May
12 - 6pm
Sat/Sun 18/19th May
12 - 6pm
Sat/Sun 25/26th May

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 - why don't you put the whole newsletter on your fridge or noticeboard?

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



Round Hill Reporter

March 2002

No 8



RHS members go carol singing on a frosty night back in December - a lot of people turned out & a great time was had by all. For a full report, see page 4 inside

* Round Hill socials * Traffic news * History group news *
* Belton Road development plans *
* Community noticeboard * Your membership card *

A lot to report...

Hello and welcome to the spring newsletter - not that the weather's looking very springlike as I type this, you understand, but it is March now and it's all uphill from here on in, I'm sure...

There's a lot to report in this issue, including the news that the project to publish a history of the area is under-way (see page 6) and a decision at last on the hotly debated proposal to close Richmond Road (page 10).

But before you read either of those stories, I'd like to direct your attention to

page 3, where you are cordially invited to attend the first of the new quarterly RHS 'socials' next Monday (25/3) to meet some of your fellow members and, even more **urgently**, to our report on the proposal to build seven new houses & flats on the site of the old garages behind Belton Road.

People will, I'm sure, have differing views on the issue, with those directly affected most likely to be opposed to the scheme. The urgency is, if you do object, you need to do something about it **NOW** as the last official date for registering your views is **MARCH 20th**.

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	Mary Kalmus	83 Round Hill Crescent	674508
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 Portfolio	PamBlacknan	75 Princes Road	685478
Member without Portfolio	Suzie Sharp	67 Princes Road	882240

Come to the RHS social on Monday

There has been confusion in the past about where & when the RHS socials are, or should be, held. Several members noted at the AGM in November that Wednesday is a bad day, and requested we make it a Monday or Tuesday instead.

So, ever responsive to your requests, the first of our new quarterly socials will be held next **Monday, March 25th**, at the **New Vic** in Richmond Road, from **8pm**.

All members are cordially invited to come along and meet some of your fellow members.

There will be at least a couple of committee members around if there are any issues you want to discuss - but as it is, above all, a social, we can't promise to be particularly coherent after the first couple of pints...

We look forward to seeing some of you there.

Building plans - If you object, do it now!

If you live on the first block of Princes Crescent, the west side of Belton Road or the south side of Round Hill Road, you will almost certainly be aware that there is a largish plot of semi-derelict land which all your gardens back on to.

Privately owned, the garages on the land have for some years been rented out to locals needing off-road parking. However, recently the last few remaining renters were given notice to quit and a pair of large gates appeared across the entrance in Belton Road. The RHS have discussed this land, wondering if there might be any grants we could apply for to buy it for conversion into public green space, as we have so little

in this area. But events have overtaken us - the council has received a planning application to build seven houses and flats on the site.

Obviously, for those in adjoining properties, this will mean a lot of noise, disruption and loss of privacy, and many are, understandably enough, not at all happy. The development will also exacerbate the already chronic shortage of parking space in this densely populated area.

A decision will be made in April, but objections must be in by **March 20** - so if you want to comment, you need to do it **NOW!** A local resident organising protest is Susie Jolly, who can be reached on 621 633

Round Hill carols & candles

Vivien Powell reports on the winter solstice carol singing in December

The evening of Thursday 20 December was crisp and frosty. Would anyone turn up? I wondered. Surely they'd all rather sit in their cosy front rooms watching prime time TV...

Or perhaps the lure of Rob's secret recipe mulled wine would get the better of them. Or maybe, like me, they just fancied the idea of a whole load of people tramping the streets and singing seasonal songs.

So I set off, suitably wrapped up, lantern in hand, to the appointed place at the bottom of Ashdown Road, where several people were already gathered, including musicians, together with a pile of song sheets.

By the time we set off there was quite a crowd of us, including a good number of children. We elected this year to stop under lamp posts to sing so those without lanterns could read their song sheets.

The route was also much longer and took us about an hour, taking us along Round Hill Crescent, D'Aubigny, Richmond, Mayo,

Princes and Crescent Roads, finally ending up in Princes Crescent. We sang a couple of carols outside the New Vic and then went in with the collecting bucket, but the half dozen or so punters in there hadn't heard a note because of the music inside the pub! However, other good souls came out of their snug homes and tossed a few coins into the bucket.

We ended up, as last year, outside Marian's house in Princes Crescent where our (by now probably quite squiffy) chair, Rob, had the famous concoction brewing, ready to warm our cockles, along with some welcome mince pies and the opportunity to meet and chat with each other.

It was a definite improvement on last year and thanks must go to all who turned up and to the the valiant musicians Andrew Partington, Derick (Rusty) Curry, Ray Knight, Bing Lyle and Mary Kalmus, who made it a merry and memorable affair, to be repeated and maybe improved even more next winter solstice. Thanks also to the small Sharp child who carried the bucket!

NEW

Natural Health Centre in Round Hill Street

Acupuncture

Elaine Gibbons 01273 562676 Karen Coghlan 07799361939

Acupressure Massage

Karen Coghlan 07799361939

Aromatherapy/Massage

Vivien Powell 01273 276386

The Feldenkrais Method

Sabine Schmid 01273 559904

McTimoney Chiropractic

Michael Gibbons 01273 562676

Sports/Remedial/Relaxation Massage

Michael Gibbons 01273 562676

Reflexology/Touch for Health

Dhyani 01273 551002

Yoga

Rachel Miller 01273 241209 Lisa McRory 01273 696119

Unit 4, 20-26 Round Hill St, Brighton

Telling the Round Hill story

Andrew Partington reports on plans to publish the first book to chart the history of the Round Hill area

An untold story...

It seems strange that the story of this part of Brighton, with its landmark windmill and laundry industry, has never been written.

...But not for long

Now, that's all about to change, with plans well advanced to publish the first ever history of Round Hill. The Society's History Group has teamed up with local publishers Brighton Books and the pace of research is speeding up. And we need your help to make it a really good read - more details at the end of this article.

Memories of bygone days

There is so much to tell about Round Hill. Those of you who have read earlier articles in the Reporter will know that we have collected documents charting the very first buildings here, and that we have started to interview older people with memories of living in these streets.

Milk carts and trams

We are collecting details about what it was like to grow up here, to play in these streets, where people went to school, local shops (and pubs), and where they went to work. We

have heard about milk carts and lamp lighters, chicken feed and Sunday School outings, railways and trams, pills, rifles, coals and golf balls.

Brighton Books to the rescue!

But as we went on we realised that we simply didn't have the time, experience or skills necessary to convert our material into a 'proper' book. That is why we have linked up with Brighton Books, who specialise in just this kind of project. They will guide us in further research, add material they have already collected, and take on the job of designing and printing the final book. Without them we could not complete the task to a decent standard.

A huge project

This is a huge project (as those of us already involved know only too well). It will take time, but we are fortunate in having, in the History Group, people interested in research and interviewing. Others came forward at the Society AGM and we are grateful for their offers of help and for their interest. But we still need more - if this book is to tell the full story of Round Hill, we need the help of as many Society members as possible.

Which is where you come in

So now it's your turn - do you have a story about this area? What can you tell us about living or growing up here? Are there stories you were told by older relatives or friends?

Any useful contacts?

Even if you haven't been in Round Hill long yourself, perhaps you know somebody who's moved out of the area but who might be able to help?

Or old pictures we could use?

Do you have old photos, or pictures, that you would be prepared to lend us which we could use in the book (and which have not been printed before)?

Completing the jigsaw

Even if it seems small or insignificant to you, it might be the missing piece of the jigsaw for us. We cannot promise to use everything, but we will follow up any leads you can suggest (although perhaps not all at once, so please bear with us while we get to them all!).

How to offer help

If you think you can help, please get in touch with Katharine Crossley on Brighton 241120, BUT PLEASE NOT BEFORE 10.30 AM AND NOT AFTER 8.00 PM. Katharine will, at least for the initial stages, manage all the activity needed in pulling the project together.

Next steps

And what then? Once we have collected everything, we will write it up in draft, telling the history of Round Hill from its days as a grassy hillside through to the present day. When they are happy that the book is good enough to at least cover its costs, Brighton Books will take the draft, and pictures, put it into its final format, set it in type and send it for printing.

How long is a piece of string?

How long all this will take we do not know and can't predict at this stage. We are about to move into the second and more intensive phase of collecting material. We have not planned any publication dates yet, and nor will we until our research is done.

More news as and when

Having said that, we will keep you up to date with what's happening through the Roundhill Reporter and, when the time comes, we will let you know how to place your orders for the finished book.

Fingers crossed

Wish us luck! And please do get in touch with your stories and pictures as soon as you can.

Sweet memories?

Peggy Henderson, a member of the society's history group, sends this appeal for information.

I have received an enquiry from a gentleman regarding the history of a branch of the Legg family who lived in Round Hill.

Jack Legg had a sweet shop at 86 Lewes Road until his retirement in 1927. The shop is near the Lewes Road north Post Office. It is now a florists and for the last few years has been called 'Hearts & Flowers'. Before that it was for a time Alan Wilson's Private Library, run by Mr

Wilson assisted by his daughter.

Jack Legg's full name was John William Legg. He and his wife Edith Louisa (known as Edie) lived in Upper Lewes Road at number 51; I knew them as neighbours when I was very young.

If anyone has any more information about Mr and Mrs Legg, or the sweet shop, please get in touch with me c/o 51 Upper Lewes Road.

Upholsterer

Jonathan W Martin
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Home: 887433

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THURS- CHEESEMASTERS LOUNGE
FRI- CROOKED STYLUS (DARIUS)
SAT- THE OLD SKOOL DISCO

SUN 17TH MAR ST PATRICKS DAY LIVE MUSIC 7.30
THURS 28TH MAR MR & MRS COUPLES GO HEAD TO HEAD

31 RICHMOND ROAD

Traffic - finally something to report!

Following the extremely protracted debate over traffic problems in the area, events have at last taken a step forward - Vivien Powell reports

Proposed road closure

In December, a meeting was held at Brighton Town Hall to decide how to proceed with the proposed road closure in Richmond Rd. You may remember that the response to the questionnaire sent out by the council was excellent and about 75% of respondents agreed that there was a problem with rat-running in the area. However, not everyone agreed with the solution and it was a virtual 50/50 split for and against.

Council & RHS attendees

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Chris Morley, who is Chair of the Environment Committee and also happens to live in Crescent Road. Two officers from the Traffic Dept attended, as well as Councillors Christine Simpson and Rik Child, and 3 members of the RHS - Suzie Sharp, Colette Blackett and myself.

18 month trial closure

After discussing the pros and cons it was agreed that the road closure would go ahead on an experimental basis. People will have the opportunity to object to the closure during the first six months after installation, and if, at the end of 18 months, there are outstanding objections, a

council committee will decide if it is viable to retain it or not. The closure will be constructed as if it were permanent to avoid it being vandalised, there will be access for cyclists and it will be possible for emergency vehicles to pass through. It will be made attractive by installing planters and there will be 'No Through Road' or 'Road Ahead Closed' signs where appropriate.

RHS consultation

The society will be consulted on the design when the plans have been drawn up. It is likely to be done after the new financial year starts in April.

Low priority area

Although some people prefer other solutions to the problem of rat-running, such as one-way systems, this one is the cheapest and easiest to carry out. If we turn it down, it has been made clear there simply isn't the money available for anything else, and that this area is low on the Council's priority list for major traffic calming schemes. As the questionnaire results did show a majority (albeit a very slim one) in favour of the closure, let's see how it goes and hopefully look forward to some peace and quiet in our streets!

The Round Hill Noticeboard

For Sale

Myers single orthopaedic divan bed with storage drawer.
Excellent condition, little used.
£30 ONO
Please phone Vivien on
276 386

Social Reminder

The first of our new quarterly socials will be at the New Vic in Richmond Road next Monday, March 25th, from 8pm - do come along & meet some of your fellow members!

Council's Round Hill Hotline

Too much litter?
Rubbish not collected?
Abandoned vehicles?
Call the Round Hill hotline at the council on 292 300

Babysitter Available

16 years old, experienced with babies, basic first-aid, £3.50 per hour.
Call Vanessa
688 009

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 278 646