



THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

RHS Newsletter Editor
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Brighton

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ROUND HILL WALKABOUTS

This year the Round Hill walk, undertaken by members of the Round Hill History Group, became one of the Brighton Festival's many Fringe events. The walks took place on four Saturdays in May, the first on 1st May, attracting some 22 people for a tour which took place in glorious sunshine. The second tour was of only 8 people and on this occasion the weather remained dry but cool and windy, which was a problem when trying to impart information on some of the more exposed sites. However, the third tour exceeded all expectations, when some 30 people participated and the weather was once

more warm and sunny. The final weekend attracted 10 people.

Regardless of numbers involved, all participants found the tour interesting and all remarked that they had not realised how diverse a history the area had. Particular points of interest were the Tower Mill, the development of Sylvan Hall, the hidden house of Fern Villa in Wakefield Road (Lucy O'Shea kindly allowing access), Lewes Road Station, Cox's Pill Factory and Fisher's Golf Ball Factory. Participants on the walk were not just locals, or even Brightonians; some had travelled from

Southampton, Portsmouth, Lewes and parts of Surrey. These 'foreigners' were either people who had been born in the area, had families originating from the area (one group were distant relatives of Arthur H Cox and wanted to find out more about the location of his entrepreneurial activity), or were people interested in the development of a Victorian suburb.

The tours have definitely been a success, the only slight disappointment was the fact that a few residents felt the need to display their disdain for the tour by making cynical remarks to the participants whilst en route.

Chris Tullett

NEW WINDOWS FOR MAYO COURT

Mayo Court has recently had new windows fitted. When the complex was built, the windows had to comply with the planning directive to be in keeping with the original buildings of the area, and therefore look similar to sash windows. The replacements bear no relation to sash windows, with the opening light being at the top of the window.

It seems that, whether we're talking about windows, doors or street lamps,

there's one rule for the Council and another for all of us residents. If the Council condones replacement windows such as those at Mayo Court, then it must also allow similar replacements to our old, rattly, draughty sash windows on our Victorian terraces. Either that or rip the Mayo Court ones out again and replace them with something more 'in keeping'.

Vivien Powell

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer is almost upon us and this year BASS (Brighton Alliance of Sound Systems) will be celebrating the longest day of the year (21 June) with an event on the seafront. The event will commence from Black Rock car park at 8.45pm with a procession of colour, dancers and top Brighton samba outfit

Barulho leading the parade onto the beach, where there will be a variety of music, video projections, lasers and fire performers.

BASS is a non-profit making organisation dedicated to producing free events for the local community of Brighton and Hove.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

It often pays to contact your local councillor if you have an issue you need to be dealt with swiftly. We are in the St Peter's and North Laine ward and have three Green Party Councillors. They have split the area into three and our representative is currently Cllr Keith Taylor, whose telephone/fax number is 01273 291165 and his e-mail address is keith.taylor@brighton-hove.gov.uk. (apologies for printing wrong address in the last issue).



ROUND HILL REPORTER

Issue 16
June 2004

ROUND HILL CRIME FIGURES DOUBLE

Crime is on the increase in Round Hill. According to police statistics, the incidence of house burglaries and car crime doubled in the first quarter of this year, compared to the last quarter of 2003. The Round Hill Society committee invited the police to attend a committee meeting and let us know what they plan to do about the problem. Not a lot, it would seem. PC Louise Hays reiterated that our neighbourhood is on the periphery of the central Pavilion area which includes the centre of Brighton, so we rarely get police officers up here unless there is a specific

crime reported. PC Hays informed us that there are just not enough officers on the streets to include Round Hill in a regular beat.

As stated in the 'Reporter' in March 2003, there was then a recruitment drive in progress and it was planned to appoint Community Wardens from April 2003. Has anyone seen any of these? Some residents have noticed police cars in the area during the day, but it's at night that people get burgled and have their cars stolen.

It seems the only recourse open to us is a) to be extra

vigilant and make sure we've done all we can to secure our homes and our vehicles, b) report all crimes and attempted crimes and c) set up Neighbourhood Watch groups in all our streets. The Neighbourhood Watch team at the police have been contacted and they have sent us the information required initially to set up such a scheme. If anyone's interested in becoming the Neighbourhood Watch representative for their street, please contact me on 01273 276386.

Vivien Powell

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ROUND HILL CRIME STATISTICS

| OFFENCE | 01.10.03 to 31.12.03 | 01.01.04 to 31.03.04 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Theft | 3 | 1 |
| Theft from Motor Vehicle | 4 | 8 |
| Vehicle Interference | 2 | 5 |
| Burglary Dwelling | 2 | 5 |
| Vehicle taken without consent | - | 1 |
| Harassment | - | 2 |
| TOTAL | 11 | 22 |

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Police (non emergency) | 0845 6070999 |
| Brighton & Hove City Council | 290000 |
| Abandoned Vehicles | 293372 |
| Air Quality | 292440 |
| Street Cleaning, Recycling & Refuse | 274674 |
| Dog Fouling | 292400/292424 |
| Environmental Emergency (out of hours) | 292229 |
| Fire Brigade (safety advice) | 0845 130 8855 |
| Noise Complaints | 292400/292424 |
| Pest Control | 292170 |
| Planning advice | 292509/292202 |
| Roads and Pavements | 292200 |
| Street Lighting | 0808 100 3118 |
| Brighton & Hove Bus Co. | 886200 |
| National Rail Enquiries | 0845 748 4950 |
| Citizens' Advice Bureau | 0845 120 3710 |
| NHS Direct Helpline | 0845 4647 |
| Victim Support | 0845 303 0900 |
| Brighton General Hospital | 696011 |
| Royal Sussex County Hospital | 696955 |

The Reporter is published by the Round Hill Society to keep residents in the area in touch with local news, events and each other. Every effort is made to present a fair and balanced view, while aiming to accept any material from Round Hill residents. The opinions expressed in The Reporter are not necessarily those of the Round Hill Society.



SATURDAY 17TH JULY 2004 A DEFINITE DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES!

Anyone with sun dancing skills, please put them to good use and help to ensure we get a beautiful sunny day for our 3rd Round Hill Street Party on Saturday 17th July.

Brighton & Hove Council have awarded us a Festival Grant of £1,000 towards the cost of this event.

It will be held, as before, in Mayo Road and thanks must go to all the residents in that street who kindly remove their cars for the day and those who provide electricity from their homes. Remember that the road will be closed from 8am to 11pm. There will be 'Road Closed' signs at the top of Prince's Road and the junction of Richmond Road and Prince's Crescent.

The afternoon will begin at 2.30pm with dancing from the Morris Men and Women. There will be bouncy castles, face painting, lots of games and a lucky dip. There will also be circus skills on offer and, as they were such a success at both our



'Bodger and Badger' at the Round Hill Street Party 2000.

previous street parties, we have invited BODGER AND BADGER to appear again and this will be confirmed nearer the time.

To tempt your taste buds, a barbeque will be provided this year by the New Vic pub, who will also be offering reduced price Harvey's (Morris Men take note!) We'll also have popcorn, soft drinks and a cake stall. With lots of

LIVE MUSIC we should be dancing in the street until 10pm.

We're still looking for volunteers to help on the day, so don't be shy, give Marian a call on 688009 and help to make this our best street party yet!

A CONTINUING TRADITION

Street parties have been held in Mayo Road for many years. Below is a photo of a street party held to celebrate VE day in 1945. Unfortunately, no one exercised their sun dancing skills and so, due to the inclement weather, the party was held inside the Mayo Laundry (now the flats at Mayo Court). The tall young man towards the left of the photo is Mr J R Wooller, who very kindly lent us this photograph and who still lives in Mayo Road today.

Vivien Powell



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Residents only:

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DEADLINE FOR THE AUTUMN ISSUE

Please send your articles, letters, pictures, adverts, poems, anecdotes etc, to the editor at the address on the back page by **SATURDAY 14 AUGUST.**

This Newsletter doesn't write itself and it's a lonely job on my own! A team of people is needed to help with its production. If you can offer a little of your time and inspiration, please contact the editor on 276386. If you enjoy your newsletter, please make a contribution to it, otherwise you may lose it. There is a Newsletter planning meeting on Wednesday 4 August at 8pm at 66 Richmond Road. Please come.

STAIR CARE

When plans to build Lennox Street were abandoned over a hundred years ago, the Round Hill area gained instead the 'Cat Creep.' This flight of steps is a valuable short cut which anyone with reasonably fit legs can use to leave cars standing. On the way down, it offers a quiet and leafy passage between gardens with views across the town. On the way up it offers... a challenge.

The steps become not just less attractive, but dangerous without a minimum of maintenance and the Council seems to be reluctant to provide that. One or two street lights out is not too serious in most roads, but effectively closes the cat creep after dark. In spite of this, it can take ages for reported faults to be repaired. There is no priority given where less than six lights are out; no chance of that, since the steps only have four. Similarly a dumped mattress or split rubbish bag can make the difference between getting through or not.

The steps are swept less often than the fortnightly minimum claimed by the Council. Once a week would seem to be a more realistic minimum, but perhaps that will have to wait, as the oddly titled CityClean are in such chaos at present.

Meanwhile, keep 'phoning to keep the steps open; it does get results in the end. One day you might even speak to someone who has heard of them! CityClean for sweeping and fly-tipping. (Rubbish reported as fly-tipping gets a faster response). Street Lighting contractor 0808 1003118.

Peter Meakins

REGISTER OF TRADESPEOPLE

The following tradespeople are recommended by local residents who have used their services:

WINDOW CLEANERS

Col Scarratt Tel: 298060 (answerphone), Mobile: 07759 9699514,
e-mail: col.scarratt@ntlworld.com
Bishop Window Cleaning Tel: 07939 161904

BUILDERS/DECORATORS

Ian of Eastbrook Construction Tel: 594903, Mobile: 07881 992944
Mik O'Shea, 14 Wakefield Road, Tel: 698788
Preston Decorators (Prince's Road), Tel: 07976 893087
Rob Stephenson, 51 Upper Lewes Road, Tel: 673511
Peter Meakins 19 Round Hill Street, Tel: 571519

PLUMBERS

G J Saunders, 80 Melrose Ave, Portslade, Tel: 882827
Tim Packwood, 88 Waldegrave Road, Tel: 0770 325 3740

Please send your recommendations (or warnings!) to the editor at 66 Richmond Road, tel: 276386

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POST BOX



Dear Editor

I wonder if you would be interested in doing an article about crime in our area, as I feel people should be a lot more vigilant. I live in Mayo Court and our car park seems to be used for car thieves and house burglars to spend their evenings.

My partner and I moved to Richmond Road in 1999 and to Mayo Court in 2000 and since then we have had 3 motorbikes stolen, 4 cars broken into, 2 magnetic van signs stolen and even our son's quad bike has been taken from our balcony. This morning I found a huge pile of someone's belongings on our outside steps. These have now been reunited with their owner in Richmond Road who had his house burgled last night. Three of our neighbours have had their cars broken into in the past year and one has had his moped vandalised; he can no longer ride this due to the attempts to hot-wire it. I wonder if it is just my neighbours and I who have experienced this unacceptable amount of crime or if it is all around this area. I have written to the housing trust that owns our flats about installing some kind of security camera and await their reply.

I have a three-month old baby and am up a lot of the night feeding her, so every time I get up I check out of my window. So far I have seen two young men checking car doors and looking in car windows and have reported this to the police. I think people should take more notice when hearing car alarms and seeing strangers hanging around at night and call the police if they see anything suspicious.

The entrance to the industrial estate seems to provide a quick exit for the thieves, as it is often left unlocked. We found our son's quad bike down in the leaves by this gate.

I feel there is certainly a need for a neighbourhood watch scheme in this area.

Jane Dobson
30 Mayo Court

TRAFFIC INCREASE

You asked for ideas about how to deal with the 'problem' of the 25% increase in traffic at the bottom of Wakefield Road following the closure of Richmond Road. How about nothing? Is the increase in traffic causing any major problems? I don't think so. I have lived in Richmond Road for 14 years and it has always been a very quiet place to live, so I didn't understand why some residents wanted to close it. Why is it considered preferable to force traffic into queues outside other people's houses rather than let cars pass through our streets? Drivers who use this junction are aware of the layout and are careful and considerate, so please leave us alone now.

Sue Hart
22 Richmond Road (by e-mail)

We received a large postbag this quarter, mostly on the topics of traffic and crime, a selection of which appear on this page. Please note that where space is limited, letters may be edited.

A couple of letters have been received with no identification as to the author or their address. We are unable to print any letter of unknown origin. If you would like your letter included in the Newsletter, but would prefer your name and address to be withheld, please give your details but ask for them not to be printed. Those who fall into this category may re-submit their letters for inclusion in the next issue.

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TRAFFIC INCREASE

It was inevitable that the closure of Richmond Road would create more use of Wakefield Road, not least by local residents cut off from Ditchling Road. Whilst the closure has benefited the people living between the pub and Wakefield Road, it has forced those of us living below the pub into the traffic at the giratory, adding to the already heavy build up and taking, at times, 20 minutes to get from Downs School to Richmond Road. The best solution, now that the road has also been narrowed, would be to remove the central bollards and create a one-way system (as in other areas) thus allowing locals access to Ditchling Road whilst preventing the former traffic problems. It would also avoid problems with emergency services. Creating a one-way system just for Wakefield Road will unfairly isolate the lower end of Richmond Road even further.

In a previous newsletter there was comment about public refuse bins. In my experience these are noisy, smelly and attract vandalism. I would certainly hope that they will not be considered an option for our area.

Joan Coe
94 Richmond Road

Dear Editor

I do not agree that the best solution was found to the traffic problems in this area. Even in an area, for instance, like that between Southover Street and Elm Grove, complete closure of roads was not considered necessary. Any solution that causes considerable inconvenience to the majority is unsatisfactory. However, to backtrack

now is probably not practical. My main concern is to prevent further restriction of access to and from Upper Lewes Road for local residents and the suggestion that Wakefield Road become one way filled me with horror.

J R Wooller
1 Mayo Road



THE SWIFTS ARE BACK — SO IT MUST BE SUMMER! — JAN CURRY

My next door neighbours and I have always (well it seems like always) seen who can be the first to observe the first swifts of summer, flying high above our gardens. Well I saw half a dozen this morning — 10th May. They are the front flyers and the rest will arrive over the next few days. They have an arrow shaped silhouette with curving wings and a short forked tail.

When I first moved here, forty-seven years ago, they arrived on 17th May. I'm told they arrive earlier now, due to global warming. The sky used to be full of them; now if I can see twenty at any one time, I think I am really lucky.

Swifts are remarkable birds: no other bird spends so much time in the air. They nest in holes in walls or roofs, having mated on the wing. After raising their young, a swift may not land again until it returns to the same nesting site the following spring.



The young are fully independent as soon as they leave the nest and their first flight will probably last twenty-three months before they, too, will land to build a nest. They will have covered around 350,000 miles. They spend autumn in West Africa and then on to the Cameroons and the Congo, in East Africa, feeding and

sleeping on the wing.

And today they are in Richmond Road and Round Hill Crescent. What a journey. What will they find? Fewer insects than ever perhaps, because of all the insecticides used. Less nesting places, as most of us don't like even very small holes in our roofs, but at least more of us have ponds, so if not sprayed and killed on sight, flying insects, including aphids and midges, should be more plentiful and hopefully, the birds won't starve. They've flown all those thousands of miles — they deserve a treat!

PS Rob said he saw his first swift on 1st May this year.

Editor's note: Jan's wonderful garden deservedly won the national 'Wildlife Garden of the Year' award in 2003. The BBC have been filming there and Jan and husband Rusty have been invited to appear on BBC1's coverage of the Chelsea Flower Show on Friday 28 May with Bill Oddie. Jan has promised a write-up for the next issue.

The Natural History Museum has its own wildlife garden and a fantastic website which you can visit at www.nhm.ac.uk/ Do you have any interesting stories about your life in the Round Hill area? You may have a hobby you want to share, or want to offer gardening or household tips. You may just have a humorous quirky tale to tell. We'd particularly like to hear from you if you're new to the area—what are your initial impressions? Is there anything in Round Hill that you particularly like or dislike? Is there anything you'd like to see included in the 'Reporter'? Please send your offerings (pictures very welcome) to the editor at 66 Richmond Road.

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BRIGHTON AND HOVE TRANSPORT PLAN

The city is about to consult on its new Transport Plan which will guide investment in transport, from 2006 to 2011, for the whole city. I know this is a bit amorphous, but given the concerns expressed about parking and double parking, rat-running or not, playing in the streets, pavement condition, queuing at traffic lights, home zones, easy access to green spaces and the cost of bus fares to school, I think as many people as possible should express their wide and particular concerns directly to the Council as part of this consultation process. After all, if you don't participate you get what other people want.



Write with your views to

David Panter,
Chief Executive,
Brighton and Hove City Council,
New Local Transport Plan,
Kings House,
Grand Avenue,
Hove BN3 2LS

or e-mail
david.panter@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

The local Friends of the Earth group are planning to promote environmentally sound policies. If you'd like to be part of that, then contact chris.todd@zoom.co.uk.

Rob Stephenson

ROAD CLOSURE FINALLY COMPLETED

The closure of Richmond Road is now complete. The road signs that have been erected to warn of the road closure seem somewhat inadequate and inaccurate and we may need to have additional ones put up. It also seems that double yellow lines across the emergency access were not feasible and we've had to make do with single white ones.

Apart from this, it's good to see that a beautiful Rowan Tree has been planted on the north side, near the New Vic pub. As it's already in flower, it is

important to keep it well watered and Paul Thompson (pictured) has willingly volunteered his time to do this on a daily basis.

A brick planter has also been built by the Council and has now been planted with a Berberis, a yellow Sedum, a variegated Euonymus and a prostrate Rosemary, together with a couple of periwinkles for ground cover. Hopefully the John Innes compost and organic fertiliser pellets added to the appalling stuff provided by the Council will be sufficient for these plants to flourish.

Rusty Curry has volunteered to build

a community notice board to fit into the planter, which hopefully will be available soon, so if you have any notices that can't wait for the newsletter, they can be put onto the notice board.



Paul Thompson diligently watering our beautiful new Rowan tree

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A HISTORY QUIZ

QUESTIONS:

- What was sixty feet in height?
- What was crowned with a copper dome?
- What had sails thirty-two feet in length?
- What was built using fifty thousand bricks?

CLUE:

It stood on the summit of Round Hill, and was a landmark for miles around.

ANSWER:

Tower Mill, otherwise known as Round Hill Mill or Cuttress's Mill. This mill, built in 1838 and

demolished in 1913, crowned the summit of Round Hill for seventy-five years. It stood near the junction of Belton Road and Round Hill Road. Following its demolition, the bricks were used to build some of the houses in Belton Road.

(This information is taken from 'The Windmills and Millers of Brighton' by H T Dawes — Sussex Industrial History No. 18).

For more information on the Mill and the Round Hill District, look out for the publication of a book (Autumn 2004) compiled by the Round Hill History Group.

Rosemary Fittock



Photograph of Cuttress's Windmill courtesy of Roger and Marian Drake who live in the house shown with the man on the step.

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