



**THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY**

RHS Newsletter Editor  
66 Richmond Road  
Brighton

Phone: 01273 276386  
Email: news@roundhill.org.uk

A warm welcome to Terry Tidman, who joins the committee in September.

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**HOT READS**

Stories, like music, can take you anywhere; however, it must help to read books about steamy, humid and generally HOT settings when it's at least warm outside.

The **Round Hill Readers** (now 9 of us, still all women) have recently voted a book 5 stars! It was the first time in our 18 months of meeting that this has happened. It was also the first time that all members present at a book discussion agreed, and perhaps it wouldn't be so much fun if that happened every time. (N.B. there were only 4 of us present due to competition from a certain football match televised the same evening, and at least some of the absentees disagreed with our vote BUT since they weren't actually present...)

The book was **Love in the Time of Cholera** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez and it is definitely one of those 'hot reads' best read when it's hot outside (the book is as much about the spirit of the Colombian city of Cartagena as it is about the human characters who inhabit the pages). It was only written in 1986 but almost instantly became a

classic, though I don't think that influenced our response.

We read it in June and the month before, chose **Talking to the Dead** by Helen Dunmore (partly because she was one of the writers in this year's Charleston Festival). **Talking to the Dead** is set in the countryside near Lewes during one of those mythical hot English summers, so again this would make a great choice for a summer read (and for fans of Charleston, Isobel's garden in the book was based loosely on the garden at Charleston).

We are currently reading **Middlesex** by Jeffrey Eugenides and will discuss it at our next meeting which is end of August. For September we have chosen **Brick Lane** by Monica Ali. If anyone is reading either of these books and would like to come along to the discussion please contact me for more details.

Pam Blackman: tel 685478 (e-mail pab10@bton.ac.uk)

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.



**ROUND HILL REPORTER**

Issue 17  
September 2004

**STREET PARTY THE BEST YET**

In spite of the spectacular thunderstorm on the morning of Saturday 17th July, the Street Party went ahead as planned and the rain held off all afternoon.

The Brighton Morris Men kicked off with their exuberant traditional dancing, and Bodger and Badger entertained us in their inimitable style, as ever. All the stalls and activities were busy, with something for everyone, from hook a duck and lucky dip for the little ones; a bouncy castle,



roll-a-penny, badge-making and crafts and a book stall which proved very popular. Face painting, as always, was a great success with all age groups and the popcorn

and cakes sold quickly. There was the opportunity to try your hand at circus skills, and the 'Rethink Rubbish' bus came along to educate us in the art of recycling our rubbish. Chris Tullett mounted a fascinating history display and Rusty Curry did a brisk trade on his 'pick a card' stall to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.

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**And much more!**

**WHAT, MORE DEVELOPMENT IN ROUND HILL?**

There is a wildlife haven on the borders of the Round Hill conservation area which has recently been earmarked for development. Although no planning application has yet been submitted (as we go to press), watch this space — because it won't be long! Already application has been made by developers to fell and prune trees within the area and this action should act as an alarm call to all residents in Round Hill. [A tree preservation order has now been imposed on the horse chestnut next to the gate — Ed.]

The area is located behind back gardens on the lower north side of Prince's Road, adjacent to the railway line. As yet, there is no road access

into this area and it may be difficult for many residents to visualise the space as it's currently hidden from the street. I say 'currently' because of course ultimately, if development takes place, it could become very visible, both from the immediate area and certainly for rail travellers. An action group has been formed and is supported by the Round Hill Society, which is committed to campaigning for the best interests of the area as a whole.

What do residents believe to be the 'best interests'?

This is not just about trying to block a development for the sake of it. Though Round Hill benefits from being built around a hill, it does sometimes feel pretty claustrophobic, especially as we

have no communal open space and in the last 10 years, at least 2 similar plots of land have been built on, though this plot is much larger and contains a number of mature trees which are home to masses of birds. The trees also act as a screen/buffer from the two industrial estates adjoining our conservation area.

The plot in question would be large enough to form, for example, a community garden, if that's what people wanted and if we mount a successful campaign. Please voice your views through this newsletter and let us have a debate... and community action if deemed appropriate.

*Pam Blackman*



## STREET PARTY BEST YET (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Later in the day, there was a variety of live music from some great talent, namely Naked Voices, Olly, Tom Powell, and the Informers.

Thanks must go to all those who helped both before and on the day, with particular thanks to the residents of Mayo Road who, as well as being helpful in many ways, were most co-operative in



*Circus skills in action*

moving their cars (which is more than can be said for a few others). Thanks also go to the donors of raffle prizes, particularly local plumbing company Floline, who donated the money for a DVD player.

An estimated



*A happy young 'spiderman' fresh from the face painters*

300 people attended and from the profits raised, donations were given to the Brighton Morris Men (who had appeared free of charge) and the local branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. We also presented Marian Gerrett with a bouquet as a 'thank you' for all her hard work in organising this popular event.

*Vivien Powell*

## ROUND HILL: THE FORGOTTEN SUBURB? BY STEVE BUSTIN

I'm sure you're all used to it by now. Jump in a taxi, try to register with a dentist or respond to any enquiry about which part of town you live in, and the answer 'Round Hill' is met with blank stares and a follow up question: "Where's that?"

As a newcomer, not only to Round Hill but also to Brighton, it was the arrival of the Spring edition of the Round Hill Reporter that alerted me to the fact that this shiny new house we'd moved into was anywhere other than 'the area between The Level and Fiveways, near the BP garage'. Suddenly the realisation dawned that those window boxes with RHS printed on them that we'd so admired, didn't come from The Royal Horticultural Society, but from The Round Hill Society and that the property marketing people had reason to call our new little road (officially Belton Close) Round Hill Mews.

Yes, that's right. Not only am I a shameless DFL (I'm told that's the correct epithet/insult, standing for 'Down From London'), but I live in Round Hill's latest arrival, the new-build on the block, Belton Close, a new 'mews' development tucked away between Belton Road and Round Hill Road. I'm aware that probably makes me a pariah about these parts: my partner and I have been told about the planning rows, the boundary disputes (still on-going) and the loss of some

garages to make way for the houses. All I can say is that we're delighted in the house and very happy to be living in Round Hill - even if no one does know where it is.

The Close is unusual. Not only is it a private road, with possibly the oddest shaped car park in town, due to a listed tree being preserved, and are modern houses surrounded by beautiful period properties, but they actually have proper gardens - with grass - unlike the courtyard gardens so typical of the area. I'm aware when I get the lawnmower out that we never hear mowers droning from neighbouring gardens, nor do we ever see sprinklers doing their thing.

It's also been a challenge gardening at the top of a hill so close to the coast. We lost several 10 ft sunflowers that were close to flowering, in the gales a few weeks ago, and mowing up hill is certainly a good workout for the back muscles. We're getting to grips with the slugs and snails grazing their way through our carefully nurtured plants and flowers, and are cursing the caterpillars for reducing our lettuces to shreds. Any effective tips gratefully received!

Having been here for six months now, we've enjoyed exploring Round Hill and its environs, and taking advantage of what the area has to offer. We've

developed an addiction to the homemade Samosas from Shakti stores. We rejoiced when we discovered Eastwood's Garden Centre, and are now mourning its sudden demise. We're looking forward to the arrival of Famous Moe's Pizza at the bottom of Ditchling Road, and supporting local businesses has suddenly become a lot easier with the arrival of The Fiveways Deli - OK, not strictly Round Hill, but a delicious uphill detour!

The Brighton Festival gave us a good excuse to explore the area, following the 'Beyond the Level' Open House trail, and in fact I found a birthday present for my partner from a local artist on Upper Lewes Road. We managed to miss all the Round Hill guided walks, but will be putting them in the diary as soon as the 2005 Festival Fringe guide hits the streets. We'll also be buying a copy of the rumoured history of the area, when it is published.

As a Conservation area, Round Hill deserves to be better known, and with its beautiful curved roads, gentle and not-so-gentle slopes and the prettily painted houses, it could almost become a tourist destination in its own right. That, however, would probably detract from its peace and charm. Perhaps it is best that Round Hill remains unknown, undiscovered and undisturbed!



## DEADLINE FOR THE WINTER ISSUE

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

**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 every quarter at 66 Richmond Road. Please phone for details.**

## WALK FOR HEALTH



There's been a lot in the papers and on the TV recently about how important it is to be active. You may have heard the 'Walk for thirty minutes five days a week' slogan, or sent off for the Pedometer offer on the back of Kellogg's packs. Maybe you want to be more active but don't know where to start - or would like to make new friends. If so then Healthwalks could be for you. Healthwalks are short social walks held across the city and surrounding countryside. They range from less than a mile to three miles in length, and are free and led by trained Volunteer Walk Leaders - so there's no danger of getting lost! Everyone can walk at their own pace, and they're a great way to meet new people.

Regular walking can halve your risk of a heart attack or

stroke, reduce the risk of developing Type II diabetes and certain types of cancers, improve your blood pressure and reduce your cholesterol. It's also really good for improving mobility and preventing (and controlling) osteoarthritis and osteoporosis. Walking is also an excellent fat-burner - a mile walk will use up the same number of calories as a mile jog.

So why not try out a Healthwalk for yourself? The nearest weekly walk for the Round Hill area is Bevendean Downs. You can catch the 49 bus to Widdicombe Way in Moulsecoomb then walk through the alleyways up to Bevendean Crescent - or you can park on the Crescent itself. The walk group meets at the path between 116 and 118 Bevendean Crescent every 2nd and last Monday of the month at 1.30 pm. For more details of this walk, or a copy of our full Led Walks Programme please contact Corinna on 01273 292564 or e-mail: healthwalks@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

## 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

Is there any news on whether Round Hill is to get the communal bins being introduced by Brighton & Hove Council? I only ask because lately I feel that areas of Round Hill are beginning to look more like a refuse dump. Maybe I'm wrong, but then I live in a basement flat where the pavement by the entrance steps to my property seem to have been designated a 'bin-bag' area.

It wouldn't bother me if the bags were put there the evening before the rubbish is collected, but as I left for work this morning (Wednesday) there were already three bin-bags chucked on the floor. To make matters worse, the seagulls pick open the bags and scatter stinking rubbish around the pavement/street. Then, on top of all that, somebody else in the area obviously agreed with my viewpoint and decided to tidy up the street - unfortunately as the bags were outside my property they must have thought that I put them there and decided to dump them on my entrance steps. One of the bags was split open, which meant that I had loose garbage all over the place - which wasn't mine in the first place!

I've now put them along with my rubbish in my outside bin to stop the seagulls getting at them.

I for one will be keeping my fingers crossed for communal bins, emptied 6 times a week, to be introduced in Round Hill soon - at least then that will make paying council tax a bit easier to swallow.

Stuart Cairns  
11a Mayo Road (by e-mail)

[As far as we're aware, there are no plans currently to introduce communal bins in this area. We can all do our bit to help by putting our rubbish in a dustbin and only leaving any bags out on collection days. - Ed.]

Dear Editor,

I thought that since none of your printed letters in the previous newsletter were from residents living on the streets most affected by the traffic increases, you should print this!

Residents of Wakefield Road/Prince's Crescent now have more traffic than ever, mostly I note, 'rat-runners' originating outside the Round Hill area. Some of it exceeds the speed limit or drives carelessly and prevents children playing safely on the streets as they did in the past.

Since traffic in the UK increases at about 2% per annum, it seems inevitable that, as main roads like Ditchling Road become more congested, 'rat-running' through residential areas will further increase. Traffic calming or one-ways are a possible solution, but all of us residents can help by using public transport, walking or cycling, especially for local journeys.

Bruce Jonas  
16 Wakefield Road (by e-mail)

Dear Editor

Writers of letters in the previous issue criticising the road closure have my sympathy as I too did not agree that it was needed and consider that it was railroaded through without proper consultation.

However I was astounded to read that some people complain that they now have to drive to the Downs School via the gyratory. Surely with all that we know about the effects of increased traffic and pollution on schoolchildren and of lack of exercise on children and adults the solution to this problem should be to walk. Shouldn't cars only be used for journeys that are impossible to do on foot, by bicycle or by public transport?

Marie Sansford  
35 Round Hill Crescent

Please note that where space is limited, letters may be edited.

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. Letters sent anonymously will not be printed.

Dear Editor

I find it ironic to say the least that the 3 correspondents in the last newsletter who bemoaned the new traffic system are all living in parts of the neighbourhood who have benefited the most from quieter, safer streets.

Not so where I live, overlooking the junction of Princes Crescent, Wakefield and Richmond Road, where we now have a serious rat run through Wakefield road and Princes crescent in both directions. Both these roads are dangerous with blind bends and in the case of Wakefield Road, not enough room for 2 way traffic.

I have personally witnessed at least 4 incidents where cars have screamed around the corner of Princes Crescent into Wakefield road, misjudged the turn and smashed into parked cars in the process. None of the drivers stopped and were going too fast for me to be able to take a registration number. Far from being "careful and considerate" these drivers are a dangerous menace.

Something must be done about this new rat run: I would favour blocking off Wakefield Road altogether and keep Round Hill completely free of boy racers and white van drivers before someone is seriously injured or killed.

Yours faithfully

Penny Denman  
89 Princes Crescent

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## NOTES FROM A WILDLIFE GARDEN — JAN CURRY

Thank you for all the lovely comments we received from our neighbours (and further afield) about our garden's six-minute 'slot' on Chelsea Flower Show. The teasing and cutting down to size came from my family, so I wasn't allowed to become too big for my boots! A few weeks on, it just seems like a dream.

It was great bring invited into the Flower Show early, before the huge crowds arrived. The show gardens had just been watered and spruced up and looked and smelled fantastic. Admittedly, some just looked bizarre, but each and every one was a tribute to the designer's creativity and their glorious choice of shrubs and flowers.

At eleven o'clock, I was due to be interviewed by Jenny Bond in a wildlife garden designed by a group of girls from Burntwood School, London. Thousands of school children across Britain had sent in designs for a wildlife garden sponsored by Daihatsu, hence the



amazing bird feeder and water feature made from new car exhaust pipes! - the rest of the garden was planted very naturalistically, providing a variety of habitats for wildlife. It looked really stunning and the Silver Award the girls had received was truly deserved.

Yes, I did feel scared that I might get tongue-tied and not be able to answer

or speak coherently to Jenny Bond, but she was very relaxed and immediately put me at ease. The Producer deemed the interview to be fine first go (they said they had allowed time for six retakes if necessary — gosh, that would have been embarrassing!)

Rusty and I were then taken to lunch and met many of the celebrities who present Chelsea and other BBC gardening programmes. I will avoid name-dropping! At 12.30, we went to a studio to watch the transmission and for the first time we saw the film of our garden that had been made a couple of weeks before, and also the interview that had taken place just an hour earlier. Scary — the producer and cameraman had assured me it would all be OK, but I had endured a fortnight convinced I was going to look and sound an absolute idiot, so it was a relief to see that, yes, it was all right and our garden looked really good.

It was a once in a lifetime sort of day.

Apologies for printing a picture of a swallow instead of a swift in the last issue. Well I specified 'swift' and that's what my search came up with! So sorry, Jan. — Ed.

## SO YOU WANT SOLAR PANELS? READ ON

Is there a conflict of interest between the aesthetics of a conservation area and the immense saving in terms of money and fuel resources, by installing solar panels? Ros Alder and Clive Baldwin relate their experience.

We moved to Princes Road in 1995. Our house has a south-facing garden, so we considered having a solar panel at the rear. We couldn't afford one at the time, but as it was an old property that required complete replumbing, we installed a twin-coil tank in readiness. So, nine years later, after much consultation with various companies in Sussex, and equipped with the promise of a "Clear Skies" government grant of £500, we decided to go for it.

Next came the hurdle of applying for planning permission, necessary in a conservation area. Most of a whole day was spent filling in the application form, drawing side and rear elevation views of the roof to scale, assembling composite photographs looking toward and from the house, and writing a supporting letter. Oh yes, and four copies of everything are required.

It seems expensive for something that may be turned down and there are hidden

costs such as buying copies of the site location plan (£24), on top of the usual application fee (£110).

If it all goes ahead, we will let you know if it was worthwhile.

### Exterior House Painting



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Rob Stephenson - 673511



## LOCAL HISTORY UNFOLDS

On page 5 of the June issue of the 'Reporter', we featured an old picture of the windmill, courtesy of Roger and Marion Drake who live at 32 Belton Road. An aunt of theirs was born in that house, and sent us her recollections.

The person standing in the doorway in the photo was Mr Woodhead, who was born in June 1894, with his two sons and one of his three daughters. Mr Woodhead was a foreman pattern maker at Brighton Railway Works, later to be known as the Southern Railway. His father worked on one of the first steam engines, The Rocket, with Robert Stephenson.

The house had a clear view down Round Hill Road to St. Saviours Church and for this they paid an extra shilling a week rent. The Cuttress

family, who owned the windmill, also owned several of the houses. These were eventually sold and Mr Woodhead's son-in-law bought No. 32. In later years the property was sold again, this time to the grand-daughter's husband's nephew, who is still living there today.

Local shops were Weekes, a grocer at the corner of Ditchling Road and Round Hill Road; a few houses away was Soames, a greengrocer's; Giggins at the corner of Prince's Road was a baker's, all baking being done on the premises. Half way down Belton Road was a small turning where there was a nursery. The elderly lady would pick her tomatoes fresh for each customer. Between Belton Road and Crescent Road was a laundry - every day there were many lines of washing hanging to

dry. Winklemen and Crumpetmen walked the streets on Sundays ringing a handbell and people would purchase their Sunday teas.

The gas street lights were lit each evening and extinguished in the morning by the lamplighter. Horses and carts delivered coal and wood, and bakers' carts and milk drays with their churns trundled around the streets. There were no cars or buses - everyone walked, and later there were trams.

The houses had few of the modern day conveniences, having only a copper for heating water and a mangle for wringing out the washing. You took your bath in a tub in front of the stove. The toilet was outside and there were only oil lamps or gas lights - electricity was not installed until the late 1940s.

## HISTORY BOOK LAUNCH

The long-awaited book on Round Hill, produced by the History Society, is to be launched at the Round Hill Society's AGM, to be held during the 3rd week of November. As we go to press, we don't have a precise date, but look out for a flyer through your letter box during October and make sure you get to the AGM to secure your very own copy of this fascinating history.

## OVERHANGING GREENERY

You know, if your trees or shrubs are encroaching on your neighbour's land, they have the right to cut them back and chuck the cuttings onto your garden. Well, if your neighbouring land is Council-owned, like a pavement, the

Council has to get your permission to cut back the greenery before they can take action and if you're an absentee landlord or out at work, this can prove difficult. So here's a plea to all those property owners

with green stuff obstructing the foot-path: please get your pruners out and make some space for pedestrians! Thank you.

Vivien Powell

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## ROUND HILL COMMUNITY E-MAIL LIST

A new e-mail list has been created for residents of Round Hill. It is designed to be used as a community resource for exchanging ideas, information, requests, advice or anything that is pertinent to all those living in Round Hill. The list will help to fill the 'gaps' between editions of The Round Hill Reporter and act as a quick way of disseminating information and encouraging discussion.

Uses for the e-mail list might include:

- Notification of local crime incidents
- Advising residents of local events
- Asking whether anyone can recommend a cleaner, a babysitter, a gardener or a builder
- Offering items for sale/give away
- Recommending local businesses or services
- Asking for advice on local planning, social or school issues from other residents
- Offering seedlings, cuttings or advice for other gardeners
- Local artists holding exhibitions.

Local businesses are welcome to join the list, but must not send advertising mails. They may, however, make occasional announcements such as new services, special offers for residents etc.

The e-mail list is free to join, by simply sending an e-mail to

Roundhill-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

You can also join by visiting <http://groups.yahoo/group/Roundhill>, where you can view messages already sent to the group, and a list of current members.

If you're concerned about receiving numerous e-mails, by visiting the site above you can select to receive a daily or weekly digest (i.e. all the mails collated into one e-mail) or just to read

the mails on the site above rather than them being emailed to your inbox. You can also unsubscribe at any time by sending an e-mail to Roundhill-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Once you've joined the group, you can send a mail to all the members by addressing it to Roundhill@yahoogroups.com - it really is that simple!

The list won't be 'moderated', meaning that mails sent to the list won't be vetted first. It is hoped that the list will be self-governing, but anyone sending irrelevant, offensive or commercial e-mails will be removed from the group immediately.

If you have any queries about the group, please contact Steve Bustin on Roundhill-owner@yahoogroups.com or 01273 625300

### Advertising rates:

Full page	£100
Half page	£55
Quarter page	£30
Eighth page	£16
Sixteenth page	£10

We want this newsletter to serve our local community and we offer realistic advertising rates to local businesses to cover the costs of printing. Please note that, as from the next issue, 50% will be added to these rates for organisations outside the Round Hill area.

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