



THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

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Member without Portfolio	Ted Power	55 Prince's Road	688102



On behalf of the Round Hill Society, I would like to wish every Round Hill resident a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year. Thank you for all your input over the last year and I look forward to receiving some great stories in 2006.

Editor

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

Ian of Eastbrook Construction Tel: 594903,
Mobile: 07881 992944
Jack Gibson—J G Construction Tel: 07813 241287

DECORATORS

Preston Decorators (Prince's Road), Tel: 07976 893087
Rob Stephenson 51 Upper Lewes Road, Tel: 673511
Peter Skinner Tel: 558790/889964

PLUMBERS

Tim Packwood, 88 Waldegrave Road, Tel: 0770 325 3740
G J Saunders 80 Melrose Ave, Portslade, Tel: 882827
C R Laker 76 Rugby Rd, Tel: 501006, Fax: 507745
Tom Plumb 07973 551841

CARPENTERS

SAB Carpentry 27 Prince's Rd. Tel: 702632/07963
8415630

CARPENTER/PLUMBER

Lynette Ward Tel: 302574, Mobile: 07814 521961,
e-mail: LDW@nikau.fsnet.co.uk

GARDENERS

Sadie at Plant People Tel: 562425, Mobile: 07881 992762
Bruce Jonas Tree Surgeon Tel.: 693247

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



ROUND HILL REPORTER

Issue 22
December 2005

NEW SECRETARY FOR RHS

As the evening of the Round Hill Society's AGM approached on Tuesday 15 November, we were still without a secretary. You will remember that Jan Dirksen left Brighton for sunnier climes in Spain and no one had come forward to fill the post. At the eleventh hour, our knight in shining armour appeared in the form of Dave Guest, our wonderful webmaster, who gallantly offered to take on the role.

The meeting was opened by Vice Chair Marian Gerrett and reports of the year's activities were given by Chair Rob Stephenson, Treasurer Paul Thompson and Newsletter Editor Vivien Eliades. It was felt that



Rob Stephenson

the 'Round Hill in Bloom' event was the most successful of the year and definitely to be repeated. The bank balance was healthy and the Newsletter

more than pays for itself from advertising.

The other change in Committee was that Jan Curry stood down as Minutes Secretary and Jean Brennan has stepped into that position.



Jan Curry

turning out minutes with admirable good nature and humour.

Vivien Eliades remains as Newsletter Editor, but will only attend meetings as an observer, in order to free up space on the committee.

All the other committee members remain the same - see the list on the back page.

Ted Power then treated us to a brief update on



Vivien Eliades



Dave Guest

the most recent plans by Carelet - see article on page 6 - followed by a question and answer session.

Cllr Keith Taylor was welcomed by the Chair and he spoke about the possibility of tree planting in Round Hill. Plans for this had ground to a halt, as the Council had not been very communicative. Those present at the meeting agreed unanimously to the suggestion that the Round Hill

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O COME, ALL YE ROUND HILL MUSICIANS, SINGERS

Yes, it's that time of year again and we'll be gathering by the light of our lanterns (with a bit of help from the street lamps) to serenade all those unable to join us. We'll meet at 6pm on TUESDAY 20th DECEMBER at the Ditchling Road end of Prince's Crescent. The route will take us up Crescent Road, down Prince's Road to Mayo Road, and the bottom end of Richmond Road, d'Aubigny Road, right into Round Hill Crescent, up Ashdown Road, along Richmond Road to 77 Prince's Road where



steaming cups of mulled wine (soft drinks for the children) and hot mince pies will await us. Please listen out for us and put a few coins into Santa's collection tins. This year we're giving the money to EMMAUS, a charity that helps local homeless people to help themselves. Please let me know if you're playing an instrument, or can help with the collections. Contact details on the back page.

Vivien Eliades

AGM REPORT [continued from front page]

Society give £500 towards tree planting and Cllr Taylor would get the ball rolling.* He also talked about the Wakefield Road plans for a one-way system that the Council had decided to shelve. This prompted a heated discussion about traffic. It was also agreed at the meeting to become affiliated to Living Streets (see page 4).

***[We've now heard from the Council's arboriculturalist and it's looking more favourable. If you would like to add your own contribution to the tree planting fund or if you do not want a tree near your home, please let me know at the above address.]**

The highlight of the evening was an entertaining slide show and talk by Jan Curry about her amazing wildlife garden.

Thanks to all who attended and contributed to a lively meeting.

Vivien Eliades

RHS AFFILIATED GROUPS

The Round Hill Society is affiliated to the following groups in Brighton and Hove:

- Community and Voluntary Sector Forum.
- Environment Forum.
- South Downs National Park Campaign.
- Conservation Area Advisory group (CAAG).
- Living Streets. (see page 4)

Please send your articles, letters, pictures, adverts, poems, anecdotes etc, to the editor at the above address by **TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY - VALENTINE'S DAY - LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSLETTER!!** preferably by email.

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.



WILL DOUBLE YELLOW LINES SOLVE OUR PARKING PROBLEMS? JEAN BRENNAN AND VIVIEN ELIADES

Finding a suitable space to park your car (ie one within reasonable distance of your home) has long been a problem in the Round Hill area and one which we have often featured in this newsletter. This problem has now become acute and we often find ourselves driving around in the dark, looking for that valuable space, often having to walk quite a long way from our cars to our homes. In recent weeks double-parking, for often prolonged periods of time, has become the misguided response to the problem. This, of course, causes serious obstruction in

the road, preventing larger vehicles (particularly emergency vehicles) from getting past and causing difficulties for pedestrians and cyclists.

It would appear that the Council is now proposing to impose a 'No Waiting at any time' order (ie double yellow lines) in parts of the following roads: Ashdown, d'Aubigny, Belton, Richmond and Round Hill Roads, Prince's and Round Hill Crescents and Round Hill Street. This will, of course, remove the opportunity for parking on corners, which shouldn't be happening, but will make finding a parking space even more difficult.

However, it will help to ease congestion and will most definitely improve safety for all road users.

Any kind of prolonged illegal parking (ie not briefly waiting or loading/unloading) should be reported to the local police non-emergency number: 0845 6070999. All calls are logged by the police, so if trends do start to emerge, these can be identified and targeted by the relevant traffic authorities.

Alternatively, you can walk, get on your bike, take the bus or join a car club (see below).

WHO WANTS A CAR CLUB IN ROUND HILL?

There are now two car clubs operating in Brighton and Hove and they are growing – good news for people who want a car occasionally but really don't need their own one rusting expensively outside the door.

I joined City Car Club earlier this year but have reluctantly left, as I was not using it enough to justify the monthly charge. When I do need a car, it tends to be for a day or whole weekend – with City Car Club's hourly and per mile rates designed to suit the occasional nip across town, I found Hertz cost a lot less most of the time.



Newly launched Streetcar do not make a monthly charge, but their hour/mile rates are similar and the nearest car is at Brighton Station.

I feel there is a need for a simpler (ie no paid staff) and therefore cheaper scheme and would like to hear from anyone interested in forming a group to buy and run a car in Round Hill.

Peter Meakins: 571519
City Car Club: 01484 483061 www.citycarclub.co.uk/brighton
Streetcar: www.mystreetcar.co.uk

UPPER LEWES ROAD PEDESTRIAN SAFETY (PROMISES, PROMISES...)



In the last 'Reporter' I wrote that Brighton & Hove Council Transport Department had finally agreed to look at measures to make the Upper Lewes Road safer for pedestrians, as well as providing crossings at the junction with Ditchling Road. Surveys would take place after the summer holidays. And? No surveys. Nor has anyone at Hove Town Hall found time to reply to any of my last three letters asking what was happening.

Could it be true that the entire staff at Sustainable Transport have been abducted by aliens? Keith Taylor, Green councillor for St. Peter's, has offered to

investigate. Meanwhile watch this space and watch your step as you cross the road.

Peter Meakins

Exterior House Painting



thinking of repainting?
ask me for a quote

Recent work done at:
77 Princes Crescent
20 Prince's Road
3 d'Aubigny Road

Rob Stephenson - 673511



ROUND HILL PRINTS FOR SALE

Artist Andy McLynn exhibited this print at his Open House exhibition in Hanover, during the Brighton Festival in May. It is a colour giclee print of Round Hill Crescent and it's such a good representation of Round Hill, we thought you'd like the opportunity to buy one.

The prints are available in two sizes (unframed) 30x40cm @ £40 and 50x70cm @ £80. They are in colour and you can view them, along with other work of Andy's, on his website at www.andymclynn.com and if you want to buy any of his work, please contact him on 07960 031778 or andy@mclynn.co.uk



POSTBOX

Hello

I live on Ditchling Road and am a fourth year student at the University of Brighton. I am looking for families locally who need a babysitter. I have looked after children ranging from babies less than a year old to teenagers and have the Red Cross Babysitting qualification as well as having many references. I was hoping that there may be people living in the Round Hill community who might need a babysitter?

Please e-mail me if you know of anyone or have any other suggestions of where I could find local babysitting work at r.s.hulbert@brighton.ac.uk

Many thanks
Rebecca Hulbert (by email)

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

Have just read the article in the Round Hill Reporter about spider webs - very interesting - and it reminded me how last year around this time I got quite a powerful static electric shock off a web when I touched it to move it out the way. It was such a strong shock I thought I'd been bitten by the spider at first. Has this ever happened to anyone else? I looked on the internet to see if webs get statically charged but couldn't find anything. It would make sense if the charge was opposite to that produced by flies because then they'd get attracted to the web.

On a totally different subject, I've been thinking that Round Hill would benefit from having some proper bicycle sheds in the road so that people don't have to leave their bikes chained to the fronts of their houses. The council have provided a lot of cycle parking in town for shoppers but have neglected the residential end. I did write an email to the council's cycle officer about this but didn't get a reply. Anyway, cycle sheds would mean bikes couldn't easily get vandalised and would be kept out of the rain. They would only take up one parking space and can't be very expensive. They have them all over the place on the continent.

Martin Scolding (by email)

Dear neighbours,

Having recently moved in to this area we are looking forward to providing a contribution to our new neighbourhood. We would like to offer a series of activities in our home to assist those who are interested, from whichever Faith or background, in developing spiritual qualities such as truthfulness, kindness, generosity, respect, justice, unity and more. The activities are free of charge and include devotional gatherings, study circles and children's classes based on the Writings of the Bahá'í Faith. As stated by its Founder, Bahá'u'lláh, human beings are to be regarded as "...a mine rich in gems of inestimable value. Education can, alone, cause it to reveal its treasures, and enable mankind to benefit therefrom."

For more information, please contact Lisa or Farzad Mohebaty on 688 607, e-mail isacco@unc.edu or come and join us at 53 Richmond Rd. for a cup of tea/coffee on Saturday, December 3rd, at 11:00 am. If this date and/or time are not convenient for you, please contact us to make an alternative arrangement. We look forward to hearing from you.

Lisa & Farzad Mohebaty (by email)



CARELET APPLICATION - WHERE WILL THEY PARK?

There have been around 300 letters of objection to this, the second application by Carelet to build flats on the backland in Prince's Road.

Members of the campaign have asked Peter Tolson of the Council's transport planning team if he could revise his report on the traffic implications of Carelet's second planning application to reflect Round Hill residents' concerns and those of the government's planning inspectorate.



Prince's Road, 7am on Thursday 3 November

The government's planning inspector upheld five out of six of Council's main reasons for refusing Carelet's first application and added the following paragraph to his appeal decision:

"It is not clear that the development could be guaranteed to remain 'traffic free' and that none of the residents would own or use cars. The existing residents rely heavily on on-street parking and any significant additional car usage would exacerbate the pressure for parking in the area, with the concomitant additional hazards to road safety stemming from possible indiscriminate parking and the circulation of vehicle drivers seeking a parking space. Prince's Road and several of the surrounding streets slope steeply and are not ideal terrain for cyclists or pedestrians."

We have reminded Peter Tolson that the concerns which Round Hill residents share with the Planning Inspector [see Section 16 of Appeal Decision APP/Q1445/A/05/117881] are totally compatible with Brighton and Hove Council's fully adopted Local Plan.

The Local Plan Chapter 4: Housing HO6 Car free housing, states that:

'Planning permission will be granted for car-free housing:

- a. *in locations with good access to public transport and local services where there are complementary on-street parking controls.*

The Endeavour development which Peter Tolson refers to as a precedent for "Car-free housing" in an area near to Round Hill, has been cut down from the original proposal, is at least on a bus route, on flat terrain and more Central i.e. with shops from Beaconsfield/Preston Roads through to the London Road shopping centre. Endeavour was also a busy Ford service garage drawing a lot of parking in the vicinity. By comparison, Carelet's main freehold has never been previously developed i.e. it has generated no traffic (other than a couple of horses and the odd stray chicken!) in Princes Road.

b. *where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development will remain genuinely car-free over the long term.* Both Round Hill residents and the government planning inspector realise that Carelet's proposals do not satisfy this condition. With up to 48 new residents, their visitors and their service vehicles, there is likely to be a 30% increase in cars looking for parking places in Princes Road. Moreover, these additional vehicles will all be aiming to park on a 1 in 12 hill near a bend as near as possible to a back-land development which has no streetscape of its own.

Generally, members of this campaign commend the thoroughness shown by Council Planners, though we are not confident that the transport impacts are being adequately

communicated to members of the Council's sub-planning committee. Last time round, the guidance prepared by Council Planners for Members of the Committee, failed to list policies which we believe to be of fundamental relevance to Carelet's proposals: HO6 [Car Free Housing], TR6 [Pedestrian Routes], TR9 [Safe Routes to school] and TR10 [Helping the independent movement of children]. We urge Round Hill residents to contact the Councillors who make up the Sub-Planning Committee directly

[contact details at www.Roundhill.org.uk] and ask that they add "the traffic issue" as a 'reason for refusal' when Carelet's second application is voted on. Watch the RHS website since we expect a date to be set soon.

Ted Power

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Jeweller

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for full details



CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

Cllr Keith Taylor, tel/fax 01273 291165 e-mail keith.taylor@brighton-hove.gov.uk



JAN'S WILDLIFE GARDEN HAVE A MERRY ROBIN

Have a merry robin. I bet we will all receive at least one on a card this Christmas.

There was a robin in this garden most of the summer; he became very tame and would fly down to my feet as soon as I stood still. Sadly, he disappeared, so imagine how pleased I was when, the other evening, a robin materialised out of the dusk. He escorted me down the whole length of the garden - robins are always one of the last to roost. It was drizzling, and by the time we reached the house, it was throwing its door shut and I stepped into the

warm, I wondered where he would shelter for the night.

Robins are one of the few birds that sing in the winter. It's not just for the joy of living, it's to warn off any robin rivals. They are fierce, territorial birds and will fight beak and claw if an intruder ventures into any acre of ground they consider to be their own.

They eat meat in summer - beetles, ants, slugs and spiders - but become vegetarians in winter - seeds and berries. They adore broken biscuit crumbs. If you are daft/brave/patient and buy them some mealy worms,

they soon will eat out of your hand.

Like all the garden birds, they need water to drink and bathe in, even in the depths of winter. Keep their drinking dish free of ice and in return, they will thank you with a bitter-sweet melodic song.

Incidentally, robins find their partners in December; other birds wait until spring. A busy month, then, what with posing for all those Christmas cards.

Jan Curry

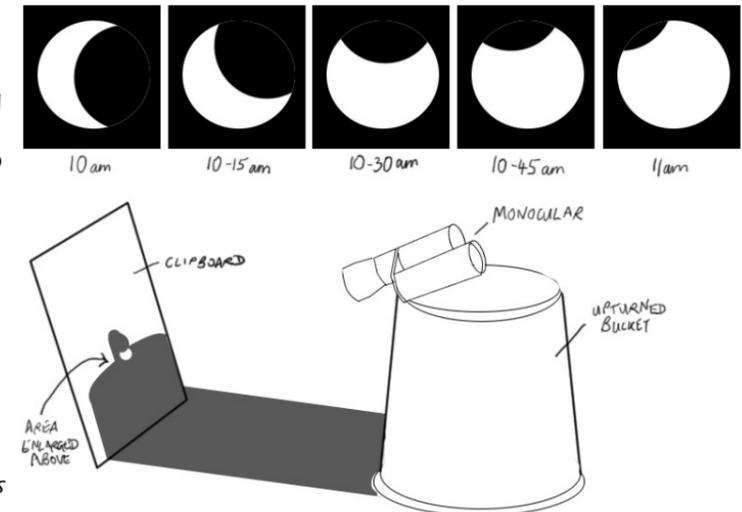


PARTIAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN - 3 OCTOBER 2005

The eclipse was projected onto white paper through a monocular. The early images were taken indoors, allowing the sun through a small opening in drawn curtains to limit excess light.

Due to the large tree outside our house, I had to move outside for the later photographs. There was a problem balancing the monocular as it all had to be done quickly before the image moved.

Jackie Jones
Upper Lewes Road



The picture left shows the apparatus used to make the observation along with images viewed as the event progressed over the morning of 3 October. The morning was bright and clear, providing excellent opportunities for observation.

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A WALKABLE CITY?

We are all walkers at least some of the time, and those without cars most of the time. And I'm sure most of our residents would like to think of Brighton and Hove as a city that's pleasant to walk about in, whether or not we're going anywhere in particular at any given time. Now in some places it is; yet many other parts often seem dirty and dangerous, with traffic overwhelming the streets, and the pavements becoming an obstacle course for walkers and wheelchair users.

Founded in the late twenties, when deaths on the roads were already high, when there were neither speed limits nor driving tests, Living Streets (the Pedestrians Association), is a national, non-party political

organisation aimed at improving the urban environment, and making walking or just being in the street a more attractive proposition. At the national level, it is by now respected and consulted by a government which has indicated it wants to see people walking and cycling more, and using motor vehicles only when they have to, with consequent benefits for everybody's health.

At local level, branches are usually in touch with their local councils – many of which, though not yet B&H, are members of Living Streets – advising Council officers and conveying local concerns expressed to them by members and others. Brighton and Hove has had a Branch since October 2002, and has been in frequent contact with our Council since then. Change, of course,

does not come overnight and we know we will

have to keep on and on about fly-tips (pun intended), A-boards, redundant/badly placed posts and the like, as well as commenting on schemes for improving road systems, crossings and streetscapes.

We see this as a great opportunity to help improve Brighton and Hove, and we hope you'll join us in creating **Living Streets!**

(Local contact Bruce A Smith, tel 698737. For more information: www.livingstreets.org.uk/ info@livingstreets.org.uk (esp for membership)/tel 020 7820 1010/ write to Living Streets 31-33 Bondway, London SW8 1SJ; NB individuals – not organisations – may join the local branch as non-voting supporters @ £5 for two years' membership.)

Rob Stephenson wants to organise group walks starting from the Round Hill area. If you're interested in joining

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BLOOMING BASKETS—WELL DONE, PAUL!

Paul Thompson, Richmond Road resident and Treasurer of the Round Hill Society, has won this year's award for the best hanging basket in this year's Brighton & Hove City in Bloom competition, sponsored by Gunn's flower shop. Paul is a permanent carer for his wife, Jan, who has MS. He also looks after many of his neighbours - taking in parcels, looking after our cats, plants, hens etc when we're away, taking in the post and switching on the lights. He deserves a good neighbour award - maybe we should start one.



TWO BEST SELLERS SPLIT ROUND HILL READERS

Round Hill Reading Group's most recent books for discussion have been *The Time-Traveller's Wife* (Audrey Niffenegger) and *We Need to Talk about Kevin* (Lionel Shriver). Both books polarised opinions within the group with only one person positive about both titles.

We Need to Talk about Kevin (winner of the Orange Fiction Prize 2005) generated particularly heated discussion with disagreement as to whether the book was well written, and indeed whether the author (female by the way) was brave to tackle such a subject – considered by some to be taboo. The narrator of this book is the mother of a son who kills 16 people in an American high school mass slaughter. She

charts (through letters to her absent husband) her relationship with her son, from pregnancy to finally visiting Kevin in prison, and covers many issues along the way concerning modern family values and in particular whether mothers always love, or even like, their offspring. Even the minority in the group who loved the book, agreed it was not a book to be re-read for at least a while.

The Time-Traveller's Wife is both love story and science fiction. For some members of the group it did not convince as either genre. The alternating narratives of the time-traveller and his wife sharing the same time and place but from two different life perspectives may

sound confusing, and initially certainly is, especially since the time-traveller also on occasion, meets himself at a different age!. However, once converted to this model some of us at least found this book merited all the attention given by Richard and Judy's Book Club, and, in contrast to the Shriver book, several of us agreed the book would repay immediate re-reading.

I found the ideas about time perplexing but intriguing (and convincing) and the love story both tragic and uplifting. A slightly abridged audio tape of *The Time-Traveller's Wife* is available, which I have already purchased, so that I can enjoy the story again.

Pam Blackman

ROUND HILL ONLINE UPDATE

The Round Hill Society web site (www.roundhill.org.uk) continues to attract a healthy interest from residents, regularly receiving over forty visitors a day.

The web site has enabled interested residents to update information between issues. There have been regular updates on local planning issues such as the Waste Local plan, the proposed Princes Road Development and the forthcoming changes in planning procedures.

There are lots more changes planned for the coming months so keep an eye on the home page to see the latest updates.

If you are interested in contributing to the website, you can ask us for a username and password, giving you the ability to make changes to pages - please see the site for details.

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We look forward to seeing you all.