



# ROUND HILL REPORTER

Issue 25  
September 2006

## CARELET ROUND THREE?

New proposals are imminent for the area to the rear of Princes Road. Morgan Carn, architects for Carelet, have been consulting with local residents on a new set of proposals.

The new plans are in the early stages but currently feature a terrace of nine houses on the land between Princes Road and the railway. Each house is likely to accommodate two full-sized bedrooms with one smaller bedroom or study and will

also have a small garden area.

The houses could all be offered for private ownership as, under local planning policy, a development on this scale does not need to feature any affordable housing.

As with previous proposals, there is no provision for parking and there will be a 'gatehouse' building on Princes Road to control access to the development and house refuse, recycling and bicycle facilities. No designs

for this building have yet been drawn up but any plans will need to include consideration of the protected Horse Chestnut tree at the entrance to the site.

The initial plans also include more landscaping, designed to improve the privacy of residents in Princes Road but propose building up to within a few feet of the borders to the north, east and west of the site.

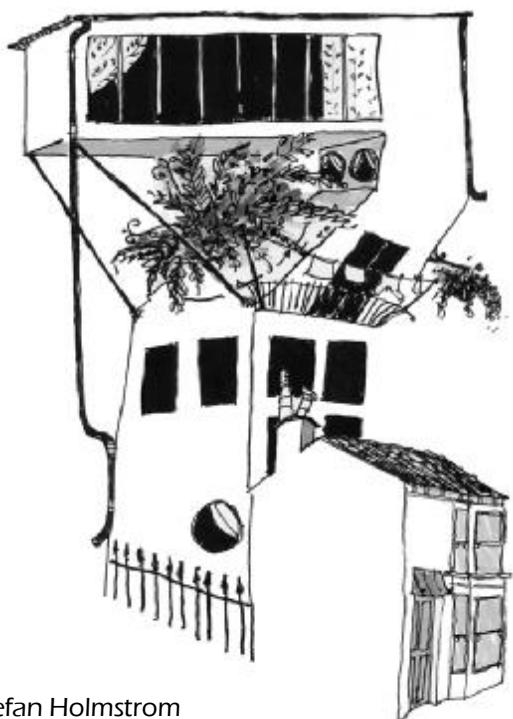
It is not yet known if or when these plans will be submitted to the Council but more details are likely to be available in the autumn — keep an eye on the Round Hill website for information.

David Guest

### RESIDENTS' REACTION TO THE PLANS

Round Hill has no public open space such as parks or recs, so residents depend on privately owned open spaces for amenity and wildlife i.e. our green ribbons, vistas across private gardens including land adjoining the Coastways railway corridor.

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**And much more!**

## A CAR-FREE CITY?

Friday 22 September is Car-Free Day in Brighton and Hove.

Brighton & Hove City Council will be hosting a series of activities on Madeira Drive including a Busby Berkley style 'Bicycle Ballet'. There will also be a range of experts on hand to talk about health walks and car sharing schemes. Doctor Bike will be providing free cycle checks and giving advice on bike maintenance.

If you use the opportunity to try life without the car for a day, please let us know how you get on.



## ROUND HILL OPEN GARDENS 2006

For the second year running, the residents of Round Hill had the chance to see some of the best gardens in the area in the Open Gardens event at the beginning of June.

Ten gardens were opened for neighbours to visit and once again the range and quality of the horticultural skills of our community was quite breathtaking!

This year, gardens were opened for slightly longer to give visitors more chance to get round all of the sites and appreciate the variety and ingenuity

of Round Hill's gardeners.

Those who took advantage of the day had the chance to visit the 'secret garden' behind Wakefield Road and see how residents in Princes Crescent had dealt beautifully with their steeply sloping plot. The secluded Belton Close garden was shown to great effect and included an opportunity for that all-important cake-stop!

Elsewhere, visitors could enjoy live harp music, old post boxes, beehive compost bins, exhibitions



on various topics including the local history of the area and spectacular views from different sides of the hill.

Food and refreshments were available at the Victoria for garden visitors, many of whom had exhausted

themselves in the hunt for the secret hidden spoon in each garden!

The Round Hill Society Committee would like to extend a sincere thank you to everybody who opened their gardens and made the event possible.



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### **NEW PLANS FOR ROUND HILL CRESCENT**

New proposals have been put forward to develop the area to the rear of Round Hill Crescent.

Many residents vigorously opposed last year's plans to build three new houses on the site. Now the owner is proposing to convert the existing garage and workshops into a single three-bedroomed house.

The plans are available on the Council web site (see [www.roundhill.org.uk](http://www.roundhill.org.uk) for more details).

The new plans are likely to be more acceptable to some in the area since they would represent a better use for the site and include a large



garden which would help to contribute to the green spaces in Round Hill but others are worried about how far the new building will compromise the sweep of the Victorian terrace as viewed from across the valley.

A decision on the proposal is expected later in September.





## THE VIEW FROM THE GARDEN

Steve from Belton Close reflects on the experience of opening his garden for the first time this year.

Opening your garden sounds simple. You unlatch the gate, welcome people with a smile, perhaps offer them tea as they browse your herbaceous beds and patio. Needless to say, it's not quite like that, although maybe the hard work it took has more to do with us being, frankly, a bit fussy about our garden, and wanting to make sure it looked as good as possible on the day.

Eighteen months ago, we had never gardened. The garden is brand new (it's in an in-fill development, Belton Close), and when we moved in, it was little more than a dozen badly chosen shrubs, a scrappy lawn and acres of bark chippings. Thanks to the printed and TV guidance of Monty, Alan and the rest, this summer we started to reap the rewards of our work. The vegetable bed is producing well. The long border is full of colour.

The greenhouse is a godsend, and we have way too many patio pots.

Opening the garden was a challenge to ourselves (to get it ready in time) and (to be honest) a chance to show off a bit. It was lovely to meet neighbours, including one lady who remembers the market garden, McCullums, that was on the Belton Close site until the 1960s. We received invaluable gardening advice from some of Round Hill's green-fingered experts, and made new friends.

Should you do it? Definitely. If you decide to open your garden, a few pointers. Firstly, get some help in. People will inevitably have questions about the garden, and you can't be welcoming people at the gate as well as discussing your dahlias. Secondly, don't stress about how it looks – people aren't expecting Kew Gardens, and are incredibly



appreciative that you're sharing your patch of green (or patch of patio). Thirdly, relax and enjoy it – we had a fantastic afternoon and are hoping there'll be an Open Gardens afternoon next year.

Note: we had about 50 visitors, and raised £40 from teas and plant sales which went to the Round Hill Society tree-planting fund. Thanks to those who helped out, and those who visited!

Steve Bustin

## THE ROUND HILL STREET PARTY— LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUMMER

Plans are underway for the return of the much-missed Round Hill Street Party! Details of events for the day are being considered and we welcome your ideas—please contact us (details on back page) if you have any thoughts.

As with previous years,

the success of the day will depend on the team of volunteers—so please let us know if you would be willing to help on the day. The date will be advised in a future edition of the Reporter but is likely to be in the weeks leading up to the school holidays in July.



Elections to Brighton & Hove City Council are taking place in May 2007. It's your chance to have a say in who runs the city.

Your vote counts – at the last election one councillor was elected with a majority of only five votes!

So make sure you fill in your voting registration form.

If you haven't received one yet  
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## CAT CREEP DEVELOPMENT REFUSED

Proposals to build three houses and two maisonettes on the wooded area bordering the Cat Creep were turned down by Council Planning officers in June.

Many people in the area had been alarmed at the plans which threatened a highly valued green space in the heart of Round Hill.

The plans were refused for six reasons:

1—the development would not enhance or preserve the appearance

of the Round Hill Conservation Area;

2—the plans would lead to an unacceptable loss of open space in the area;

3—the plans did not provide for parking or travel demands;

4—the proposed houses did not meet the 'lifetime homes' standard;

5—the loss of trees on the site would harm the appearance of the area;

6—the proposals did not include sufficient provision for minimising

construction waste on the site.

Some residents had been sufficiently concerned to form an action group in opposition to the plans.

The Cats Creep Campaign distributed a leaflet to many of the properties in the area, urging residents to write to the Planning Officer with their views and set up a website ([www.catscreep.org.uk](http://www.catscreep.org.uk)) where visitors could learn more about the proposals and leave their comments.

Local MP David Lepper expressed his concerns to the Council on behalf of worried residents.

The refusal of the plans came as a relief to many residents who felt that if this development had been allowed to go ahead, the remaining greenery of Round Hill would soon be lost.

Now they have to wait to find out whether the developer will appeal against the decision or submit revised plans for the site.

## WEBSITE COMMENTS

A selection of the comments left by visitors to the Cats Creep Campaign website:

"I hope with all my might that these plans are rejected by the town planning decision makers and never considered again in the future."

"Every night I walk up the flight of stairs, beside the proposed building site, listening to the distant chatters and clicks of hunting bats, manoeuvring among the trees that will be cut down to provide the space for the new buildings."

"This area is already over-developed and a constant target for unscrupulous and persistent developers. Not only are there bats and other wildlife to

be disrupted, there are also slow worms, which are a protected species and should not be deliberately harmed by law. When will people realise that enough is enough?"

"It must be remembered that this small green space is of enormous spiritual value to those who live in its proximity as well as those who visit."

"This is not a wasteland earmarked for strategic housing but part of a conservation area, recognised for its value as an open space to the local community and to the people of the city."

See the full comments on [www.catscreep.org.uk](http://www.catscreep.org.uk).

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## REACTION TO THE CARELET PLANS

Continued from front page

Carelet's main freehold is an important greenfield site and is much too small for half the number of houses they propose. Even if occupancy averaged out at 4 per house, nine houses would bring 36 new residents. Usable amenity space for these newcomers within the steeply sloping plot would be grossly inadequate, yet they would also find themselves without a streetscape of their own. The sole point of access for three football teams and refs coming out of the same tunnel would be Carelet's proposed Gatehouse at the narrow entrance to the east of 81 Princes Road almost on top of the listed Horse Chestnut Tree.

If all these newcomers just accessed the plot once per week to play a game, it would probably cause more than a bit of noise plus fairly serious obstruction of the road and footway. However, it is proposed that all these people should live permanently in these cramped conditions, bounded by a railway

and two industrial estates, 2.5 storeys down from a street where they can access their services, dispose of their rubbish, entertain their visitors and park their cars.

This new private market housing development would create the need for approximately 18 parking places. In addition, the occupants' visitors and service vehicles would add to intolerable pressure on parking in our streets.

Carelet has borrowed the infrastructure of existing residents since it cannot provide any of its own. The assumption that there is any infrastructure left to borrow without causing problems for everybody is not of any concern to the developer, providing the Council's Traffic Manager gives them the green light.

Even the effluent generated by Carelet's occupants would have to be pumped up 2.5 storeys to the drains and sewers of Princes Road.

The listed Horse Chestnut Tree is most unlikely to survive building works, which could take from 9 months to one year with



dust and dirt, movements of heavy machinery and obstruction of both road and footway. The latter would become a permanent feature if a narrow Gateway is approved.

The nine proposed houses stand just one metre or two from the boundary with the Coastways Railway and not many metres further from CityClean and Veolia's Materials Recovery Facility. The north-face of Carelet's line of 9 houses would need both a blindfold and elaborate soundproofing. The east-face (affecting just one end of the line) would be the Centenary Industrial Estate. The west-face might be pleasanter for the occupant at that end if a window were permitted.

However, the building would end just one metre away from the boundary with the garden of the existing residents living at 65 Princes Road. Their organic garden would be deprived of sunlight in

the mornings and they would be overshadowed by a 3-storey building coming right up to their boundary.

Residents on the NE side of Princes Road would not only have a busier streetscape to share at the front, but would also suffer intrusion, extra noise and loss of privacy at the rear of their homes. Carelet doesn't appear to care, and we are told that there will be something on their plot whether we like it or not. However, this is not for Carelet to decide. The planning system allows for residents to persuade our elected representatives to turn down unsuitable planning applications. Watch The Round Hill Society's web site at [www.Roundhill.org.uk](http://www.Roundhill.org.uk) to see when Carelet registers these plans, which threaten the character of Round Hill. We will let you know how to comment when the 3-week public consultation period begins.

Ted Power





## THANK YOU, PETER—CHANGES TO THE SOCIETY COMMITTEE

After several years on the committee of the Round Hill Society, Peter Meakins has decided to step down.

Since joining the committee in 2003, Peter has contributed to many of the campaigns to improve life for Round Hill residents. In recent months he has tackled councillors and officials over the poor conditions for pedestrians in the area and could always be relied upon for a thoughtful perspective in committee meetings.

We are sorry to see him go but would like to say thank you for all his hard

work.

Peter's departure creates a vacancy and with the forthcoming AGM (see back page for details), this is a good opportunity to consider joining the committee. No particular qualifications are required—just an interest in the community and a willingness to help.

Please feel free to contact our Secretary, David Guest if you would like to discuss what is involved. David's contact details are on the back page or you can e-mail:

[committee@roundhill.org.uk](mailto:committee@roundhill.org.uk).

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[keith.taylor@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:keith.taylor@brighton-hove.gov.uk).

## Exterior House Painting



Too late for this year but pricing and taking bookings for 2007.

### Some local jobs:

77 Princes Crescent (2003)

3 d'Aubigny Road (2004)

85 Round Hill Crescent (2006)

66 Richmond Road (2006)

**Rob Stephenson - 673511**

This edition of the Round Hill Reporter was printed by

## HAVE YOU HEARD A TROGLODYTES, LATELY ?

There are certainly at least two wrens in my garden and to show off the fact, I know their Latin name - I call the male Trog and the female Lody. Wrens are numerous but secretive so perhaps there are more than two.

They can have as many as six eggs and raise two families a year. The 'lody' does all the work. She completes the nest and keeps her eggs warm (no shift work) and feeds the chicks all on her own. Trog hangs around guarding his property but will help to feed the fledglings once they have left the nest.

The male wren is very proud of his nest structures. In the Spring he makes two or three and then invites his girlfriend to choose the one she likes best. She will let him know by lining the interior with feathers.

He isn't really lazy because if he strikes lucky he will have 'mistresses' living in his other houses. All the girls will think he is great, if he has chosen safe, well hidden nest

## ADVERTISE HERE!

Did you know there are over 900 homes in the Round Hill Area and this publication is delivered to every household.

Please contact us (details on back page) for more information on advertising or placing notices in the Reporter.



Jan Curry



## POSTBOX

Hello there

I've just read the latest edition of the Round Hill Reporter, which I always find to be very interesting and useful.

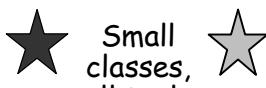
I'm sure you were disappointed in the lack of response to the questionnaire. I had family problems in Scotland during this time and I didn't return mine - sorry about that.

I'm surprised that anyone should be less than complimentary about the work the Society does - most of us (me included) are too lazy or busy to get involved and it's just great that we get really useful information from the Society both from the magazine and the website.

I think a sense of community benefits everyone, no matter where we live. We surely all feel happier when we know a few friendly faces in our own street.

So, very best wishes and

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many thanks for your work on our behalf.

Terry, Crescent Rd

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Hi,

we have just returned from the Isle of Mull in the Hebrides - a wonderful island, all lochs and mountains and unspoilt countryside.

We had a pair of resident white tailed sea eagles in the trees at the bottom of our garden, red deer in the field at dusk. It's a long drive up, about 600 miles, but well worth it. The best thing about going on holiday is no parking worries, so as we got nearer home we were thinking the same old thing, Is there anywhere for us to park?

It must be the same for us all who live up this road, even more now since the yellow lines lost us all extra spaces! I agree with Juliana - residents' parking will be a waste of time, as people will find none residents in their spaces all the time, and it will cause a lot of trouble I am sure!

Thank you

Linda, Round Hill Crescent

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To: the person who keeps leaving a bag of motorcycle magazines on our doorstep

Please stop it! We don't want them and don't know why you are doing this?

Clive , Prince's Road



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. Please send your letters to the Editor at the address on the back page.

## ANCIENT ROUND HILL

The area now known as Round Hill has not always been so densely populated as it is today, but evidence of occupation from the dawn of history has recently resurfaced.

Campaigners against the recent proposals to develop land adjoining the Cat Creep (see page 4) came across tantalising evidence relating to previous residents of the Round Hill.

A report of historic building sites and monuments unearthed by a resident of Round Hill Crescent details an archaeological dig which took place at the foot of Round Hill in

1922. The dig revealed a small burial mound containing five skeletons. Shards of pottery were also discovered on the site.

The details provide an evocative glimpse of the lives of our predecessors in Round Hill and a reminder that people have walked up and down these slopes for thousands of years.

We can only guess at how those previous residents might have lived but it is humbling to think that others have been here before us, living and working on this same hill over-looking the sea.

David Guest

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66 Richmond Road

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## COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

Chair	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road	673511
Treasurer	Paul Thompson	29 Richmond Road	
Secretary/Webmaster	David Guest	16a Wakefield Road	699476
Vice chair	Marian Garrett	77 Princes Crescent	688009
Minutes Secretary	Jean Brennan	87 Round Hill Crescent	693100
Newsletter Editor	Vivien Eliades	66 Richmond Road	276386
Member without Portfolio	Terry Tidman	56 Richmond Road	699182
Member without Portfolio	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	601320
Member without Portfolio	Ted Power	55 Prince's Road	688102

### DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE DUE IN DECEMBER

Please send your articles, letters, pictures, adverts, poems, anecdotes etc, to the editor at the above address by  
**MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER**

### NOTICE OF AGM

The 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Round Hill Society will be held at  
7pm on 21 November 2006  
at  
Downs Infant School.

The meeting will hear the Chairman's report, approve the annual accounts of the society and elect the members of the committee.

The meeting also includes a presentation on:  
the  
Open Market  
and  
the future of London Road shops.

### REGISTER OF TRADESPEOPLE

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

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**Bishop Window Cleaning** T: 07939 161904

#### BUILDERS

**Jack Gibson—J G Construction** T: 07813 241287  
**Chris Nesbitt** Plastering, bricklaying. T: 07867 864619

#### DECORATORS

**Preston Decorators** (Prince's Road), T: 07976 893087  
**Rob Stephenson** 51 Upper Lewes Road, T: 673511  
**Peter Skinner** T: 558790/889964

#### PLUMBERS

**Tim Packwood** 88 Waldegrave Road, T: 0770 325 3740  
**G J Saunders** 80 Melrose Ave, Portslade, T: 882827  
**C R Laker** 76 Rugby Rd, T: 501006, F: 507745  
**Tom Plumb** T: 07973 551841  
**Lynette Ward** CORGI registered plumbing/heating with associated carpentry/tiling. M: 07910 763689  
T: 302574 E: lynette1.ward@ntlworld.com

#### CARPENTERS

**SAB Carpentry** 27 Prince's Rd. T: 702632  
M: 07963 8415630

#### GARDENERS

**Sadie at Plant People** T: 562425, M: 07881 992762  
**Bruce Jonas Tree Surgeon** T: 693247

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

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.

This edition of the Round Hill Reporter was printed by