



AIR-GUNMAN STRIKES AGAIN

Two cats belonging to residents of Wakefield Road have been shot in the neck by pellets from an air rifle. Chestnut (pictured) is fortunately still alive after emergency treatment by a vet. The other cat still has the pellet lodged in its neck and its owner has reported another of her cats missing. The incidents happened around the 17 to 20 May.

This is a recurrence of a major problem in the area, as we reported in the Round Hill Reporter in 2005, when two cats had been shot in the head in August of that year and another, belonging to the same family, lost an eye two years previously as a result of an airgun injury.

Somebody must know something about the person responsible for these cruel shootings. The owner of the cat in the latest incident is appealing for help so that she can put together a file in the hope of catching the perpetrator. Maybe you live next door to them or have seen someone with an airgun. Have you had an injured cat? If you think you can help in any way, please phone Angela on 07866674383 and also phone Sussex Police on 0845 6070999 quoting crime number 553 21st May.

Airguns in the UK are subject to the Firearms Act. Under the Firearms



(dangerous air weapons) Act 1969 they are classified as low powered Air Weapons. The definition of a firearm under the Act is "a lethal barrelled weapon of any description from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged". It further defines "lethal weapon" as "a weapon capable of firing a projectile with sufficient force to inflict more than a trivial injury, ie with sufficient force to puncture skin".

You may never carry an airgun in a public place without proper reason for doing so. It is an offence to fire an airgun within 50 feet of the centre of a public highway, even if you are on private property. This carries a £1,000 fine.

All birds and animals are protected by law. Certain species are classified as pests or vermin and only these species can be legitimately shot and then only by authorised persons. Killing or injuring any bird or protected animal carries a fine of £5,000. Cats come into this category. Having an airgun or ammunition with intent to damage property carries up to 10 years' imprisonment and it's life imprisonment and/or an appropriate fine, for having an airgun with intent to endanger life.

Let's work together to bring this antisocial, cruel and selfish person to book.

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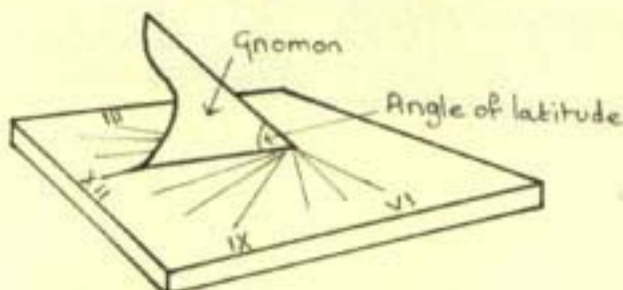
And much more!

READING GROUP UPDATE

Following the report in the March issue about the success of the local Reading Group, it has been so inundated with people interested in joining that there are now two groups, with a possible third in the pipeline. If you're interested in joining a Reading Group, please contact Sue Hickey at shsujaho@aol.com.



A SUNDIAL FOR YOUR GARDEN



As summer approaches (even though it rained a lot in May) and the garden becomes more inviting, you may be considering getting a sundial to place outside.

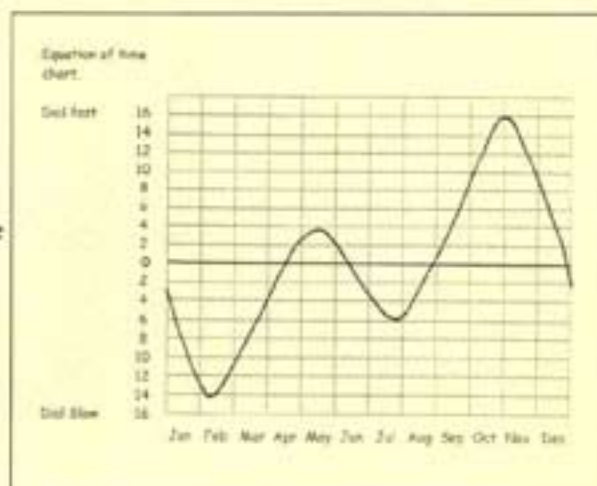
The sundial was probably the first scientific instrument ever made, beginning when prehistoric people noticed how the position and length of a shadow changed throughout the day. As life became more complex, there was a need to understand the passing of time: when to sow and harvest crops. Many large structures such as Stonehenge and the Great Pyramid at Giza were built to demonstrate the passing of the seasons by marking the solstices and equinoxes and therefore the changing length of daylight. With increased civilization, an instrument for dividing the day

into identifiable intervals was created. The earliest known sundial dates from Egypt in 1500BC and divides the daylight hours into equal periods. As our need to accurately mark the passing of the day increased along with knowledge of the solar system, so sundials became more complex.

But before you rush off to the garden centre to buy one, there are a few points to look out for. The majority of mass-produced dials available cheaply (and not always that cheap) will not work in this country – or

casts the shadow, should be perpendicular to the dial plate and be set up to point true north (not magnetic north). The angle its edge (which should be straight) makes with the noon line should be the angle of latitude. In Brighton this is nearly 51°. The gnomon root should be on the 6 – 6 line. Remember that it will read one hour behind your watch as we are on summer time at the moment.

Due to the Earth's elliptical orbit, days are not the same length throughout the year (yes, really, you don't imagine it) some days can be up to 16 minutes longer or shorter than others. To relate the time your



anywhere else.

There are many types of sundial, but a simple, horizontal garden one should be made for the latitude where it is to be used. The gnomon (from Greek "one who knows"), which is the piece that

dial reads to mean time, which your clock will show, you will need an equation of time chart (as shown). You could, of course, make your own dial; it's not difficult with basic wood or metal skills. The details of where to put the numbers are available in books or websites. A good place to start is the British Sundial Society: www.sundialsoc.org.uk.

Jackie Jones

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NOTES FROM A WILDLIFE GARDEN

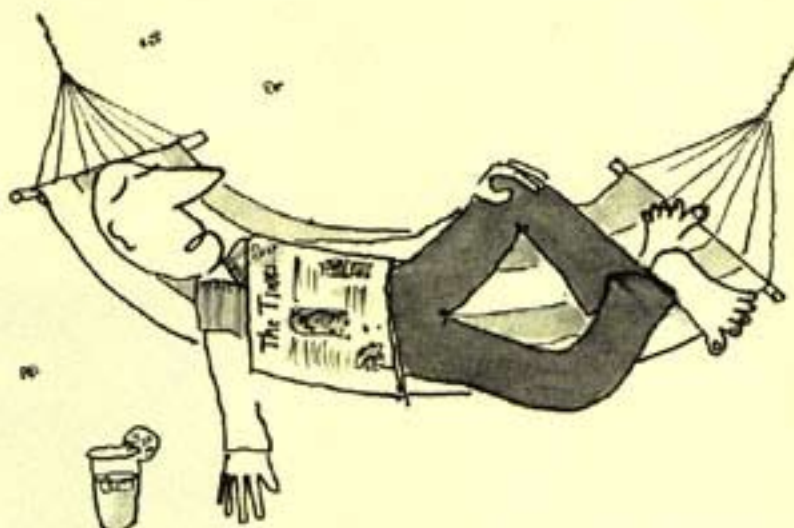
The Humble Bee

The gentle buzz of a bumble bee working its way across flowery borders is to me the sound of summer and brings me as much pleasure as collared doves cooing in the trees. To hear such drowsy tones amid the noise of the city really is a privilege.

Bumble Bees, unlike honey bees, produce only enough honey to feed their young. They are much bigger than the honey bee but are less aggressive. They will not attack (sting) unless they are molested - who molests bees? Unlike honey bees, they don't die if they use their stinger.

They buzz around from daybreak to twilight, visiting flower after flower and, if necessary, fly several hundred metres from their nest to do so. Bumbles keep warmer than most other bees due to their furry coats; this means they can begin pollinating flowers and blossoms much earlier than most other bees. This year I saw one on the winter flowering honeysuckle on a bright day in February.

They appear to visit pink and purple flowers the most but any



© Stefan Holmstrom

fragrant flowers will do, although they don't seem struck on roses - too many petals to struggle through, I guess. Right now, in this garden, they're busy clambering into the foxgloves that are in flower three weeks early. I have planted sweet peas up the same canes as the runner beans this year in the hope that the bees will pollinate both sets of flowers at the same time and then I might get a good crop of both.

Bumble bees nest in holes, or under piles of logs or stones or beneath garden sheds. The young mated Queen bee will be the only one to hibernate in the Autumn, when the rest of her small colony dies.

As with so many of our insects, bees are becoming more rare. Think about it: the disappearance of pollinating bees on a grand scale and the immediate effect it would have on agriculture and plant life would be devastating. So be thankful some are still around - plant a flower or a bean, sit back with a gin and tonic and let the bees get on with saving the planet.

Jan Curry

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SEPTEMBER TABLE SALE

The Round Hill Society is organising a table sale to be held on Sunday 9 September in the streets around the New Vic pub, ie Richmond Road and Mayo Road. The idea is to sell stuff like books, bric-a-brac, plants and produce from your gardens etc and local residents can wander from stall to stall and buy, haggle, chat and generally interact. It's an opportunity to meet our fellow residents and to sort out our clutter and pass it around, rather than throwing it out. If anyone is good at crafts, they are welcome to sell their wares, as well as home made cakes, preserves etc. Obviously no bootlegged CDs or other dodgy items!

More people are needed to make this a success, so if you fancy having a clearout or baking some cakes, or selling off some

of your runner bean glut, please phone Dave Guest on 699476 before the end of June. If there are sufficient people to make a go of this, the New Vic would like to be involved and perhaps we could even lay on some kind of entertainment.

We're also still looking for volunteers to organise the Street Party next summer.

Please get in touch with a Committee member (details on back page) if you can help in any way, however small.

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR

We are in the St Peter's and North Laine ward and the Greens won again at the last Council Elections. Cllr Keith Taylor is joined by Ian Davey & Pete West. Keith Taylor's details are: Tel/fax: 01273 291165 Email: keith.taylor@brighton-hove.gov.uk

ROUND HILL'S CHARACTER



Round Hill and its neighbouring areas are analysed in a draft "Urban Characterisation" assessment recently produced by Brighton & Hove City Council. The paper, which includes maps, photographs and statistics, is a four-page summary of the topology, architecture and social composition of the area. For the purposes of the document, "Round Hill" includes the Viaduct area to the west of Ditchling Road and the Triangle streets centred on St. Martin's.

Brighton & Hove City Council has drafted thirty-two of these documents describing areas throughout the city, and they are intended as a resource in developing planning policy for the new Local Development Framework. In theory, these documents will make planners aware of the characteristics of particular parts of the city so that future planning decisions will not erode the patchwork of distinctive neighbourhoods.

The report is available from the City Council website. Alternatively, to obtain a copy or send comments on the draft assessment, contact Gill Thompson, Design & Conservation, City Planning, Brighton & Hove City Council, Room 414, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ.

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ROUND HILL HISTORY WALKS

Residents of the Round Hill are fascinated by the history of their bit of Brighton. A few years ago, a group of committed local historians researched and wrote the book "Rose Hill to Roundhill: a Brighton Community". Now they are organising a history walk in association with the Round Hill Society.

The guided walk, designed and conducted by residents of the Round Hill themselves, reveals the fascinating and hidden stories:

- the windmill which stood prominently on the crest of Round Hill for many years;
- the golf ball and pharmaceutical factories, railway stations and laundry works which once thrived on the hill;
- the walled garden of mansions and villas whose traces can still be seen;
- the smallpox outbreak of 1950 which started in the streets of Round Hill and led to a national emergency.

The walk gives a rewarding insight into the secret life of a Brighton community. It's impossible to look at some of the streets and buildings in the same way again.

© Stefan Holmstrom



No dear, the walk's historical, not hysterical.

© Stefan Holmstrom



...and this was the home of the notorious Victorian axe-murderer...

The next walk is scheduled for 23 June. The walk lasts around three hours and costs £3 per person. For more information and to book tickets, please e-mail history@roundhill.org.uk or call 01273 699476.

Dave Guest

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL ELECTIONS, JUNE 2007

Brighton and Hove boasts the first directly elected council of older people by older people in the country. The method is based on the Danish model where every town or city has to elect "Seniors Councils". Since 2003, elections have been held for a Council of nine people of 60 years of age or over from an electoral register of 40,000 Brighton and Hove residents aged 60 or over.

The council members represent older people on a large number of City Forums, committees and panels, speaking on issues such as care, housing, transport and lifelong learning.

If you are aged 60 or over and are thinking of standing in this year's elections, to be held on 28 June, call 296427 for an information pack or e-mail olderpeoplescouncil@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

To be on the OPC electoral register, you must be on the general election register, resident in the city of Brighton & Hove and over 60 years of age. To check if you are on the OPC register, telephone Brighton & Hove City electoral services office on 291999.

Dave Guest

Looking for Brighton & East Sussex residents to join vibrant volunteer health forums!

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For an application form or an informal chat about becoming a member, please call

01273 863648 or 01403 787940



COMMUNITY NEWS THRIVES IN BRIGHTON

Your editor, Vivien Eliades, attended the launch in May of a new directory of 44 community newsletters. This directory will include essential details, deadlines and advertising information on newsletters and local magazines which provide information about neighbourhoods or special issues.

From the Knoll Scroll to the Hanover Herald, Dialogue magazine to The Local Voice, these newsletters, mostly run by volunteers, are included in a new directory so that businesses and community organisations who want to publicise activities or advertise in local areas can find all the details needed in one place.



A forum has also been set up to bring together volunteers and staff who work on these newsletters to help support them, share information and network. Organised by East Communications and the Community

and Voluntary Sector Forum and funded by the Stronger Communities Programme, the first newsletter forum was held on 3 May at Community Base.

Katy McGrory, Communications Worker for the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum said, "Brighton has a thriving community and voluntary sector and this forum is a unique opportunity for volunteers to exchange ideas, receive information, improve good practice, and learn new skills."

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SUNNY BRIGHTON DAY

Brighton Solar Projects, a non-profit organisation, with assistance from Brighton & Hove City Council, have been organising an event called Brighton Sunny Day for several years now.

Brighton Sunny Day is an afternoon of free entertainment, advice and information on all aspects of renewable energy, sustainable living, home energy efficiency, green and eco lifestyle.

This year, Brighton Sunny Day will be on Sunday 22 July, 12 noon - 6pm, at the Brighton Marina. Set up of stalls, etc. can start any time between 10am - 12 noon, to be ready by 12 noon.

If you are interested in participating in Brighton Sunny Day please reply to Tina at spiritroom@gmail.com.

Exterior House Painting

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DON'T STAND IN THE WINDOW, DARLING!

BUNGAROOSH (BUNGAROUCHE, BUNGLAROUGE?) and other horror stories — or why you shouldn't stand in a bay window in Brighton*

However you spell this concoction, it is the mixture which makes up many of the structural walls of Brighton and is responsible for much structural instability, dry rot, dampness, and probably plague and pestilence as well. It is the sort of cobbled-together material that emerged from those desperate days of cowboy (shepherd?) builders, hurried and financially rocky developments, and a lack of adequate building regulations, that characterise the Georgian and Victorian eras.

The material is basically a freely interpreted flint rubble. A lime mortar was made up and poured into shuttering, and anything else that came to hand was bunged* in too. (*The probable derivation of Bungaroosh, I believe.) This could include old bricks, bits of flint, odd lumps of wood, lumps of chalk, in fact anything solid. The spacing of the shuttering even seems to have regularised after the coming of the railways, since sleepers were conveniently available!

Into the mixture in the shutters were added whatever fixings were required for supporting other structures, so baulks of timber or brick courses could be set into the bungaroosh to support floors or plaster battening. It is not easy to tie into bungaroosh, so if a series of houses in a terrace was not built contiguously, it is not unusual to find vertical joints between the front wall and party walls. This can be a boon if the front wall falls off, since it leaves the rest of the house standing. Any combination of brick, timber and bungaroosh (or flintwork etc) seems to have been considered acceptable. I have seen a bungaroosh wall with a timber lintel surmounted by two or three courses of brickwork and this topped by a bungaroosh parapet. Not surprisingly this lot tried to fall down after 150 years when the timber lintel rotted. Most of the time, however, bungaroosh stays in place —

probably through force of habit. All the bits of timber in the mixture tend to create a rather pleasant breeding ground for rot and exotic fungi. Since the mixture is very porous, the rot circulates quickly, and can usually find some damp somewhere to feed on. In fact bungaroosh has to be a little damp. Too dry and the now leached mortar crumbles, too wet and it becomes mobile. My predecessor considered that on this basis you could probably demolish a third of Brighton with a well-aimed hose.

There is no way of repairing the stuff, should you wish to. The only solution to a blown area of bungaroosh is to fill the gap in brick, blockwork, or reinforced cement. No structural engineer would justify a rubble repair, and most throw a wobbly trying to justify the existence of bungaroosh walls.

One of the main advantages of this type of lime mortar based material, of course, is that it moves, and it is usually when its movement is sufficient to create a gap against a more solid object, such as adjoining brick construction, that the material appears to fail. In very recent years with very dry summers and stormy wet winters, a number of bays have collapsed, due probably to this differential movement, and the lack of any solid fixing between the timber or brick bays and the adjoining bungaroosh wall. By the way, don't stand in a Brighton bay window (as opposed to a bow front which is usually OK) since the weight of the bay is often taken through the window frames on the outside. The only thing tying the bay back may be a couple of 6" nails.

Next time you admire the Regency terraces, therefore, think of the innocents who have bought one of these buildings with that funny sounding material the surveyor said was in the front wall — can you spell it?

Rob Fraser, Conservation Officer with Brighton Borough Council

POSTBOX

Hi all

Just a quick reminder to all of you who own cats in the area.

At this time of year we are lucky to have incoming migratory birds stopping over on their way further north as well as birds setting up home in our gardens. The biggest threat to these birds is domestic cats, of course, and I wanted to plead with you to try your utmost to lessen the risk of them being killed. So, for a start, put a bell on your cat's collar. Secondly, try to keep your cat away from other gardens, especially those whose owners put food out for birds. I was saddened to find a dead female blackbird in my garden recently, almost certainly killed by one of the 3 cats that regularly lurk under the shrubs (a sparrowhawk would have eaten it on the spot). That single bird would already have nested and probably left a clutch of now-dead chicks behind.

Martin Scolding, by email

In February I wrote to the council to complain about the tree stump they had left after felling a tree last year at the Ditchling Road end of Princes Crescent. To judge from the motor debris around and on the stump, several cars must have reversed into it while trying to park.

This was self evidently predictable, as the stump jutted into the road and was below any driver's sight line. The letter of reply from Rob Greenland, arboriculturist, stated that the stump constituted no threat to motorists. However, within a week I was pleased to see that the stump had been ground down and totally removed. Common sense seems to have prevailed here, much to my surprise and it is pleasing to note that sometimes writing to the council can bring positive results.

Paul Gunn, Belton Close, by email

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THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

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Member without Portfolio	Ted Power	55 Prince's Road	688102

DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2007 ISSUE

Please send your articles, letters, photos, adverts, poems, anecdotes etc. to the editor at the above address by **Tuesday 14th August 2007** preferably by email.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY—Round Hill Table Sale on Sunday 9th September. Richmond/Mayo Road. See page 4 for more details and how to take part.

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
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Please send your recommendations (or warnings!) including your own details for verification, to the editor 66 Richmond Road, news@roundhill.org.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.

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