



ROUND HILL REPORTER

Issue 31
March 2008

VINTAGE ROUND HILL

The Round Hill Society is pleased to announce its first ever wine-tasting event.



The kind people at Festival Wines - the only dedicated Organic and Biodynamic wine shop in the south of England - have agreed to venture beyond The Level this spring to bring some great tasting, environmentally friendly wines for us to try.

Wine expert Ben Walgate will talk us through what makes a wine organic and why it's better than supermarket plonk, whilst plying us with samples to prove the point.

It doesn't matter if, like me, your knowledge of wines goes as far as white, red or fizzy or if you're the person who taught Oz Clarke everything he knows, you're sure to be entertained and informed. So leave the car at home (parking is a nightmare on the Lewes Road, anyway) and take a lovely springtime stroll down the hill to share a glass or two with neighbours you know and neighbours you have yet to meet.

Festival wines

Festival Wines has been trading in Brighton since 2006, stocking 150 of the best ethical wines available. Their shop can be found at 13 Ship Street Gardens, Brighton. Opening Hours: Mon-Sat 12-6pm, and online at www.festivalwines.co.uk and is well worth a visit.

Kevin Tansley

And how do you secure yourself a place at this prestigious ticket-only event? Call Kevin on 01273 672648 and he will either bring your tickets round, or you can collect them from him at 11 Wakefield Road. Places are limited, so book early.

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And more!

When: Saturday 19th
April 2008 at 8pm

Where: Wagner Hall,
Lewes Road

Cost: £15 per person
(payable in advance),
which includes tastings
of half a dozen or so
wines during the talk
and a glass or two
afterwards.



NEW DEVELOPMENTS, CHANGING ROUND HILL?



Looking down on our conservation area from the open space at the junction of Bear Road and Warren Road near the Race Course, we now see the length of the Materials Recovery Facility extending between the foot of Round Hill and Hollingdean.

Fortunately, the width of the Waste Transfer Station does not ruin this much-valued viewpoint of our Conservation Area. It remains in the wing, not obscuring the stepped terrace of Princes Road, which gives Round Hill its shape as well as a mention in our Conservation Area Character Statement.

How Carelet proposes to change the shape of Round Hill Carelet's proposal would create a second stepped terrace of 8 flat-roofed houses covered with sedum. Each of the proposed units would face one of the existing homes (from 67 to 81 Princes Road) in the NE stepped terrace mentioned above.

Carelet's claim, on page 4 of their Design Statement, to have addressed residents' concerns, shows an ignorance of the area,

which does not inspire confidence. They state: "The highest ridge of the proposed terrace of eight houses is more than a metre below the Ridge of the Waste Transfer Station, and this house, no.2, is situated up the site behind number 69 Princes Road. It is doubtful that the proposed terrace would be visible from this point, as the terrace and planting of D'Aubigny, Richmond and Mayo Roads shield them from this angle. However, the stepped profile in parallel to the existing terrace shall form a complimentary addition to this view if it were visible"

Now have another look at the above picture. Can you identify D'Aubigny Road running behind Lewes Rd Sainsburys? The highest point of Mayo Road is marked by the more modern roofs in the centre of the picture. Richmond Rd is the longest and straightest of the terraces, contained in the bottom half of the picture.

In what way could any one of these three terraces or planting within them shield a second building line, which would be located within the top half of the picture to the right? The truth is that a lot more than the sedum roofs of Carelet's proposed houses would be visible. The south elevation of these units boasts a proliferation of large windows, roof lights and panels, which are totally

out of character with the period-architecture which currently forms the outline of the hill.

This was the first point put to The Council's Conservation Area Advisory Group at their meeting at Hove Town Hall on 12th February 2008. This Group's recommendations do not necessarily indicate whether Council Officers or The Planning Applications Sub-Committee will grant or refuse planning permission. However, for the record, the CAG has recommended refusal of Application BH2007/04444 on the following grounds:

1. the impact on the view from the top of Bear Road
2. the inadequacy of access
3. the loss of screening from the industrial estate
4. the chestnut tree's preservation
5. Over-development
6. Greenfield development

The sole access for 30 plus residents and their visitors (and for the single car as well!) and also for all the construction vehicles, would be via the narrow gap between the telegraph pole and the protected horse chestnut tree.





The authors of the Tree Report, written on the developer's behalf, state: "The entrance into the site is somewhat restricted for vehicular access and tree retention means there is a high risk that the tree could be damaged however much care is taken". They go on to describe a set of measures, which could be used in an attempt to retain the tree, which are so elaborate that it is doubtful whether a 'band of angels' would bother to carry them out, let alone a number of different construction vehicle drivers or builders over a long construction period. The authors of the report explain that root-compaction and soil contamination are the biggest threats to the tree, as well as the danger of vehicles knocking into it.

The traffic manager who reported on Carelet's last proposal raised an objection under policy TR7 on Safe Access. Reports offered in relation to earlier proposals failed to share residents' safety concerns, though the Government's Planning Inspector picked up these different viewpoints in dismissing Carelet's first Appeal. Arguments such as "There are no existing/proposed safe routes to school or school safety zones near the site", had earlier been used. Round Hill residents know that children and parents pushing buggies do use the footway shown above as a route to & from at least three different schools. A car bay which requires different drivers, using an unfamiliar Car Club vehicle, to reverse out into Princes Road (a heavily parked 1 in 12 hill), using just part of the gap between the telegraph pole and the tree, is not safely located. It would be very difficult for a driver to see if a person or buggy was coming up the hill. The pressure on this access for services such as disposing of many residents' refuse/items for recycling would involve other obstacles. Moreover, any of Carelet's prospective residents would be free to own a car and compete for on street parking, which is already too tight. Wheelchair accessibility for prospective residents is not supported by any guarantee of a parking space.

Ted Power

How to read and comment on the latest proposals...



Thank you if you have already commented on Carelet's current proposal. If you wish to find out more about the latest proposals, the fourth set of plans that Carelet have put forward for the site, please go to The Round Hill Society web site (www.roundhill.org.uk).

Here you will find a proforma letter to print off, or alternatively a link to The Council's Online Comment Form.

Please let us know what you think about the plans. Do they disregard the pressures on infrastructure? Will they increase congestion in an area with a population density of over twice the national average for a medium-sized city? Or are the plans what is needed to help meet the demands of a growing population in Brighton and Hove?

The proposals are referenced BH2007/04444 on the Local Authority's planning register.

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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: ROUND HILL IN TRANSITION

Transition Towns (or cities, islands, villages or forests) are a network of groups of people coming together to make local decisions about how we can tackle the global problems of climate change and peak oil.

The movement was started in Totnes by Rob Hopkins and Naresh Giangrande, both of whom have a background in permaculture, and has quickly spread around the UK, Ireland and now to Australia and New Zealand. With communities considering joining the network all over Europe, The States and in South America and Africa, this looks set to become a worldwide movement - amazing if you consider that Totnes itself only started the process just over one year ago.

So why is this movement so popular? Perhaps it's because the transition model is so flexible and takes so many factors into consideration. There are certain criteria a town or city has to meet in order to be classified an official Transition Town, but these are

very minor details. Essentially the movement takes into consideration the knowledge, abilities and efficacy which are present in every community, but which other more top-down approaches often miss.



Brighton and Hove became an official Transition City in early September 2007. If you haven't heard much about it yet then don't worry, you will soon. A programme of education and awareness raising talks, film showings and other events is about to be launched at various venues around the city. For more information or to get involved

please visit the website:
www.transitionbrightonandhove.org.uk.

As a Transition City, TBH recognise that it will be necessary to bring communities together on a smaller scale, as well as city-wide, and so we will also be creating Neighbourhood Groups. These will create strong links to local residents associations, such as The Round Hill Society, but will ultimately be local residents working together to create happier, healthier, more sustainable communities in their own areas of Brighton and Hove.

As Round Hill is a neighbour of The Triangle (the area between the Upper Lewes and Lewes Roads), some of us thought it might be nice to co-join the two areas for our own neighbourhood group. Transition Round Hill and Triangle will be holding its first meeting in The Roundhill pub on Ditchling Road at 7pm on Thursday 13th March. All are welcome. What would you like to see happen in your neighbourhood? This is your opportunity to voice your ideas.

Jo Nean

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Rob Stephenson
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SOLAR ENERGY: FINDING THE BALANCE

A resident in Round Hill Crescent applied for planning permission to install two solar panels, each about 1 m x 2m, to his south facing roofslope (the front roofslope) and had his application turned down by officers (it never reached the full planning committee) on the 25th January. He provided good photographic evidence that the panels would not be seen at all from his road, and they would be totally hidden from anywhere in the Lewes Road valley. With binoculars they would be visible from the Tenantry Down allotments, but they couldn't be said to spoil the sweeping curve of Round Hill Crescent. So why were they refused permission? The statement from the officers tell us that they are "... overly large and excessive to the detriment of the parent property ...". They are in fact sized to provide the required volume of hot water, and will not be seen in the area, and only visible from far away, where the message is likely to be 'there's a sensible fellow - had solar panels installed to help reduce fuel bills and preserve our way of life'.

The officers also say that the panels "fail to preserve or enhance this part of the Round Hill conservation area". Given the small visual impact they cannot really be said to enhance the area, but given their purpose (to reduce the burning of fossil fuels) they could easily be said to help preserve the area.

The Council really must face up to this conflict, and find suitable compromise to retain quality built environments, but to permit (to enthusiastically encourage!) low carbon technologies.

Here is a local example of the value of solar water heating. Friends in Ovingdean were able to turn off their gas boiler in April of last year, not turning it on again until early October. The sun provided all the hot water the family of three needed for six months of the year, though showers had to wait until evening during the spring and autumn, to allow the sun to heat enough water.

Rob Stephenson

NOTES FROM A WILDLIFE GARDEN

GULP! SPARROWS TO SPARROWHAWKS

I was sorry when I heard a group of school children had visited the Royal Pavilion Garden to take part in the Annual Garden Bird Watch Event and didn't see a single sparrow.

Not really surprising though, as we are told that the House Sparrow is a Red List (in danger) species, owing to a serious decline (over 60% of its population in the last twenty to twenty five years.) Sparrow numbers have certainly crashed .

Trouble is they need insects to feed their young and it is obvious insects are relatively scarce too, (judging by the fact that when we bought our first car, we had to wipe away a gloopy mess of insects from the windscreen wipers, after every journey, something we never have to do now.) Urban insects and birds that feed on them are rapidly being reduced due in part to gardens and small pockets of derelict land being grabbed for

development.

Older sparrows eat seeds and seeds are also less plentiful in both town and countryside. Farmers are very efficient, weeds do not flourish and arable seeds are not scattered around when they are harvested.

Competition is fierce

and Ring Doves a species on the up, eat an almost identical menu to the smaller sparrow. Strangely, blue tits and chaffinches also seed eaters when mature, are showing a slow but steady rise, whist sparrow numbers still diminish.

Happy, then am I that a chirpy, cheepy colony of sparrows live in the back gardens of Richmond Road

....Enter the Sparrowhawk (they eat many varieties of small birds not just sparrows) I see her on odd occasions zooming along the top of hedges, blink and she is out of sight - or I hear a doomed squeal of a bird caught unawares feeding or even in mid flight. Death must be mercifully quick.

Last week though, she perched on our Mulberry tree and stayed for ten minutes at least. She was magnificent - huge orange gold glaring eyes, framed by white eye brows and a neck that seemed to swivel almost full circle, grey brown bars across her chest and wicked looking talons.

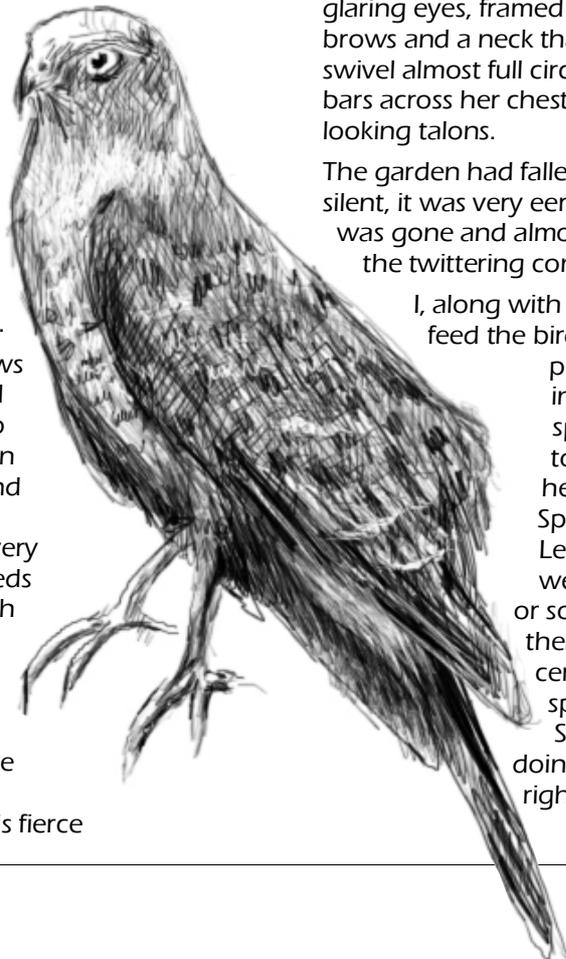
The garden had fallen completely silent, it was very eerie. Then she was gone and almost immediately the twittering commenced.

I, along with my neighbours feed the birds, the local bird

population including sparrows appear to be thriving - hence the Sparrowhawk. Lets face it, if there were no sparrows or song birds here, there would certainly be no sparrowhawks.

So we must be doing something right.

Jan Curry





ACUPUNCTURE ON THE HILL

Acupuncture is an ancient Chinese medicine that uses the insertion of needles into specific points in the body. The needles clear the channels running through the body and so allow the qi (or energy) to flow freely. The channels can become blocked over time from the toxins that we are exposed to as well as the general stresses and strains of everyday life. This build-up creates more toxins which affect the way our body and our mind works.

Auricular acupuncture is the insertion of five small sterile needles into points in the ears. These points connect to our major organs as well as three mental points. Five point ear acupuncture has been primarily used to detoxify people with addictions. I first came across it when I was working for a charity with homeless people who had drink, drug and mental health problems. A lucky few were sent on a training course at the Juan Traditional Chinese Medicine College in London. The course was followed up by several months of work under close supervision. My loyal clients at the day-centre were happy to let me "practice" on them saying "as it's you Jules". I was amazed by the results. Loud and aggressive clients would fall into a deep sleep, an opiate addict did not collect his prescription for pain killers, a street drinker gave up smoking, and many more reported the best night's sleep they had had in months. For a group of people who had so many needs and were so confused as a result of their addictions and mental health, I was seeing positive results for the first time. Those who received regular treatments became more focused and able to work out what they wanted from life, and what changes needed to be made. I left work after having my second

child. This period of my life with a baby and toddler was wonderful. However it could also leave me feeling exhausted from sleepless nights, and at times stressed, isolated and unfocused. I became used to putting my children's needs first and so could leave myself feeling burnt out. I realized that I could do with some ear acupuncture myself, to rebalance. I then decided to set up a clinic so that all kinds of people could access the treatment. Recently I have worked with individuals, seen clients at an introductory home based clinic and given treatments to women from a local mother and toddler group. Once again the results have been immediate and positive. So if you want time out to relax, or feel out of balance, or have a longer term concern, try this cheap and accessible treatment for yourself.

Juliana Ashworth

For queries and appointment times contact Juliana on 07938-034093, or e-mail juliana@brighton-acupuncture.co.uk



Spring clean your body, harmonise your mind & relax with an ear acupuncture treatment at the local Yoga and Natural Health Centre, Unit 4, 20-26 Roundhill Street, Brighton.

Appointments from Monday 3rd March.

BRINGING THE RHR TO YOUR DOOR



We've had quite a few compliments on the newsletter in recent years and I thought you may like to know the process that brings the

Reporter to your door.

First, you send in your letters, stories, photos, information etc. Second, the editor slaves away at his computer for hours and hours, inputting the articles (sometimes writing them himself) and adverts, making sure they're all nicely spaced, reading it all through as often as possible to check for errors. Then he sends it by email to Maslens to be printed, stapled and folded.

A few days later, a thousand copies are collected by one of the committee, then Marian and Rob count them into delivery 'patches' and get them to the deliverers. These are the valuable, invisible folk who traipse round our streets in all weathers four times a year to bring you your Reporter. There are 14 of them, so I won't name them all, but they're a great team and without them, you wouldn't be reading this. However, some of them have rather large areas to cover and they're sometimes on holiday, so we're looking for more willing helpers to reduce their burden. It really is only four times a year and the smaller the patch, the quicker it'll take. So if you feel you'd like to help, please phone Marian on 688009. And keep the information coming! The more variety, the better.

Vivien Eliades





THE ROUND HILL BEAT: A LETTER FROM PC JEWELL

Having attended a meeting at Downs Infant School on 20th November I would like to



thank those who attended, and for making me feel very welcome. I hope it was as helpful for those present as it was for me. Some good points were raised and I will be looking to address them in coming weeks.

For those who could not make it, I would like to make a brief introduction my name is PC Jewell CJ177. I am a neighbourhood specialist constable working in a small team of 1 sergeant, 2 PC's and around 8 Police community support officers. The team is responsible for the area in which you live and we are focussed on improving quality of life for residents. The Round Hill area forms a small part of the vast area we work within.

Neighbourhood specialist teams are an evolved form of the 'old' Beat Bobbies. We look at local issues and problems which response teams unfortunately do not have the resources or time to deal with. We actively look for long term resolutions working in conjunction with other agencies. With the formation of the teams it will hopefully provide a point of contact for residents to air their concerns.

Realistically we cannot be in your area all the time, due to the area that we are accountable for. Therefore we rely on residents to inform us of what is occurring so that we can obtain a full picture. This will enable us to be more efficient and effective when policing your area. Therefore I urge residents to call the police in relation to criminality that affects their quality of life.

Some good news- we are

winning! The City's crime detection rate is currently above the force average, and is still higher than it has been previously. Following which I would like to remind everyone to ensure that windows/doors are secured and locked, and never leave property on display in unattended vehicles. With a little forethought you can do a lot to prevent yourself on becoming a victim of crime. My intentions are not to create a fear of crime- however with this information you will hopefully be better prepared.

Neighbourhood watch schemes require proactive enthusiastic members but can be an effective tool in combating crime if managed correctly. Interest from at least 6 households per street is needed for the scheme to be beneficial. If you are interested in being part of a neighbourhood watch scheme please call PC Geoff Bentham AB344 on 01273 665933 alternatively email him on geoffrey.bentham@sussex.pnn.police.uk.

PC Daniel Jewell



There are a number of ways to contact the police.

In emergency please dial 999

All other non emergency incidents please call 0845 60 70 999

If you require to speak to someone from our team please dial 0845 60 70 999 ext 50614 (office hours).

Alternatively if you have access to the internet you can report incidents via email and also there is a facility to email the team. All officers have a blog which is ready for you to read offering crime prevention advice. To see the members of the team go to www.sussex.police.uk and type in your postcode in the field provided.

CARNIVAL TIME!

Trinidad and Rio may have finished but Brighton Carnival 2008 is just hotting up!

July 2007 saw over 25,000 people lining the streets to watch the Brighton Carnival parade as it moved from the centre of town to Hove Lawns. That was last year and now in 2008, the Brighton Carnival Team are working towards an even bigger and better parade day.

Carnival needs people to be the great street party that it is. In the 2007 Parade, 450 people were on the road dancing, in spectacular costumes, drumming, running sound systems, and having an incredible day together in the sunshine.



Brighton Carnival 2007 brought together the key elements found in the great carnivals of Trinidad and Rio – samba drumming, soca music and Mas (Masquerade or costume) – with a distinct Brighton & Hove feeling.

The aim is to establish an annual carnival in Brighton, that in the future rivals Notting Hill, Trinidad, Rio and other famous carnivals around the world in a celebration of life.

The twenty-three parade entries last year included Hollingdean Youth Group, The Brighton Buddhist Centre, Brighton & Hove Foyer, Bust The Box, Sunshine Crew and Switched On Club. A great Carnival takes preparation and money. Brighton Carnival would like anyone interested in being involved in Carnival 2008 to contact them now. Carnival is for you – there are plenty of opportunities to follow your interests, create activities for your group, meet new people, go to and run workshops, make costumes and wear costumes. Get in touch now by email info@brightoncarnival.co.uk or call 07876 141942.

David Guest



THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

RHS Newsletter Editor
16a Wakefield Road
Brighton BN2 3FP

Phone: 01273 699476
Email: news@roundhill.org.uk
Website: www.roundhil.org.uk

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

Chair	Jean Brennan	87 Round Hill Crescent	693100
Secretary	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road	673511
Treasurer	Marian Gerrett	77 Princes Crescent	688009
Conservation Advisory	Ted Power	55 Prince's Road	688102
Newsletter and website	David Guest	16a Wakefield Road	699476
Sustainability	Jo Nean	13 Mayo Court	
Member without Portfolio	Paul Thompson	29 Richmond Road	883004
Member without Portfolio	Vivien Eliades	66 Richmond Road	276386
Member without Portfolio	Kevin Tansley	11 Wakefield Road	672648

Deadline for next Issue:
WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY



POSTBOX

I have started having my milk delivered again - I think it is a 'green thing' to do, as glass milk bottles can be used over and over.

Unfortunately, someone began pinching it .. does that make them 'green' too ?

Luckily the lovely milkman arrives later now, so I can bring it in straight away. Sorry about that...

Love and peace, Jan ,
Richmond Road.



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Please send your recommendations (or warnings!) including your own details for verification, to the editor.

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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