



The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 40
June 2010



View from the summit *Local resident brings an inspiring message from Copenhagen to Round Hill - page 6*

Ten years at the top

Celebrating the anniversary of the Round Hill Society in 2010

In 1999, the Round Hill Society was formed as a community focus for our picturesque and friendly neighbourhood. Based on the conservation area but also including the Lewes Road between Wakefield Road and the Vogue gyratory, the society aimed to organise community events and give voice to local issues.

Since then, members of the society have poured huge amounts of time and enthusiasm into promoting and enjoying Round Hill.

We have partied in the street, opened our gardens and walked with candles through dark winter evenings. We have written letters and responded to consultations. We have pored over plans, visited architects, contracted lawyers and spoken to councillors. We have marched in protest, written books and created websites. We have attended

meetings and visited conferences and pushed thousands of newsletters through thousands of letterboxes.

And after ten years, the society remains as active and lively as ever. Now planning its fifth street party for later in the summer, the committee has been continually revitalised by a turnover of new people with different ideas, whilst retaining the benefit of founding-members with a longer view and tireless affection for the area.

See the middle pages for a celebration of ten years of life in Round Hill and let's hope that the next decade is filled with the same energy and community spirit.



Illustration © Stefan Holmström

View from the hill

Green shift, latest developments, Saunder's Park, Princes Rd handrail

● Caroline Lucas was elected on a slender but historically significant majority to represent Brighton Pavilion in May's general election. As a result, her seat as MEP passes to the next name on the party list: Keith Taylor, Green councillor for our area. Keith has taken a lot of interest in Round Hill over the years and played prominent roles in a number of local campaigns. His transfer to Brussels will prompt a by-election in the ward.

● Developments at the old Victoria Pub and the house on Princes Crescent previously known as Marcia's Hair Salon are nearing completion and both have been completed to an excellent standard.

● Meanwhile, the sixth design for the plot behind Princes' Road has not yet been discussed by the city's planning committee. It seems however that the developers have been making changes to the original plans, presumably as a result of discussions with planning officers. On the other side of the hill, plans to build 24 affordable flats on the site of the former ESSO garage on Hollingdean Road have been received favourably by planners. The proposals were endorsed by the Council providing adjustments are made to the plans.

● Work on Saunder's Park has been stuttering towards the finish line. Despite a frenetic week of activity towards the end of April, contractors were not able to complete the project in time for the opening ceremony planned by local residents. Since then, the pace has slowed considerably but although nearby families must be frustrated, at least they can see the new play area taking shape.

● A resident in Princes Road who was stranded by the snowy weather this winter has successfully campaigned for a handrail to be added to the corner with Ditchling Road. The modest new section of rail will make a big difference when the ground is slippery. Members of the committee helped with emails and telephone calls and Council representatives acted efficiently and concertedly to complete the project.

● National Carer's week runs from 14 to 20 June and includes a number of events and talks which will be of interest to full or part-time carers. For more details of events in this area, see www.thecarerscentre.org.uk or call 234045.

● Malthurst Limited, the operators of the BP service station on Ditchling Road, have applied for a 24-hour alcohol licence. The city council are inviting comments by 8 June - details of how to comment online are on the Round Hill website.

Join our street party! Saturday 11 September in D'Aubigny Road



Planning for this year's street party is now in progress and we're delighted to announce that two local companies have generously agreed to sponsor this year's fiesta. **Magnetic Events**, based in Richmond Road and **D'Aubigny Fusion** are helping to fund the party which, will take place in September.

With the agreement of the kind residents of D'Aubigny Road, we will transform the street for a day and build on the success of last year's event.

Please let us know if you have ideas for the event and if you're a Round Hill resident and would like to be part of the team, we would love to see you at the first planning meeting at 8 D'Aubigny Road, 8pm on 8 June.

Throwing open the garden gate

Open gardens lead the way to the green heart of the neighbourhood

In what's becoming something of a new and very welcome tradition, several of the keen gardeners in Round Hill will be throwing open their garden gates to raise money for charity this summer, but you've got just three chances to catch these beautiful neighbourhood gardens.

The annual *Garden Gadabout* takes place over the last weekend in June and the first weekend in July, with more than 60 gardens across the city opening to raise funds for *The Sussex Beacon*. The gardens in the Round Hill and Fiveways group will be opening on Sunday 27th June and Sunday 4th July, 11am - 6pm, including gardens at 1 Belton Close and 43, 58 and 118 Richmond Road. Full details on www.gardengadabout.org.uk.

1 Belton Close and 118 Richmond Road will then be joining with 85 Princes Crescent to open in the *National Garden Scheme* on Saturday 10th July, 11am - 5pm. This prestigious national scheme sees 3500 gardens across the UK open for charity, raising money for Macmillan Nurses and Cancer Research among others.

Steve and John at 1 Belton Close will be selling tea and cake on all three dates plus homemade preserves,



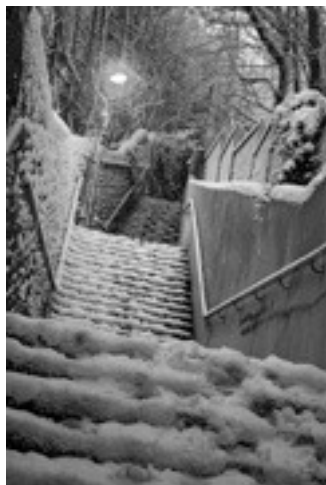
plants and seeds, with all proceeds going to charity. You can find out more about these gardens including some photos of last year's open days on the dedicated website: www.roundhillgardens.co.uk.

Round Hill greetings

Cards to show our hill at its best

This year's wintry weather prompted a number of residents to share photographs of Round Hill blanketed in snow. We were so impressed with some of the images that we're planning to launch a series of greetings cards to highlight the beauty of the area - a Christmas selection and a more general range.

If you have an idea for a card, we'd like to hear from you. Perhaps you have a favourite view of the area that you think is worth sharing? Or an artist in the family whose work needs a wider audience? Please contact the editor with your thoughts and ideas. Details of the selections and information on how to order cards will be given in the September issue.



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Ten years on a hill by the sea

A look back over the Round Hill Society's first decade

High society

The Round Hill Society was formed at a public meeting in November 1999 and membership was initially offered on a subscription basis with membership cards issued alongside the newsletter. Then in 2002, the subscription was abolished and membership opened to all residents in the area.

As well as organising social events and meetings, committee members are active in applying pressure on issues which affect the area, scrutinising planning proposals and giving voice to local concerns. A succession of local residents have taken a turn on the committee, twenty-nine in all, and each bringing different outlooks and skills.

The quarterly newsletter, The Round Hill Reporter, was launched in February 2000 and forty issues later, plays a welcome role in the community.

There have been five editors and hundreds of articles, keeping residents up to date with local events and activities. A dedicated team of neighbours has cheerfully pulled together to hand-deliver four thousand copies a year!

Dancing in the street

The society has organised four street parties in ten years, in 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2009 with planning now underway for a fifth.

Events have always been very well-attended, reflecting the real sense of community spirit in the area, offering music, inflatables, market stalls, food and drink and the chance to take over a street for the day.

Many people have volunteered to help with the planning and marshalling, serving beer, supervising children's activities and organising road closures, and enjoying the chance to meet their neighbours.

There have been many other social events over the years including open garden trails, wine-tastings and the ever-popular candle-lit carols in the depths of winter.



Local portrait

The Round Hill logo was created by talented local designer, Andrew Haig, in 2002 and has served as an iconic badge for the Society ever since.

More recently, Stefan Holmström's playful and stylish illustrations have given the Reporter a unique and distinctive edge.

The annual Open Houses in Round Hill provide a glimpse of the huge wealth of artistic talent in the area.

On the road

Parking and rat-running have been the two big issues on Round Hill's roads. Concerted campaigning from residents led to the Richmond Road closure in 2003. This initiative transformed the atmosphere on some of Round Hill's streets but like many traffic issues, proved to be divisive with residents in other parts of the area facing more acute problems as a result.

The recent consultation on controlled parking also split opinion in Round Hill. There is no easy answer to the fundamental problem: our streets were designed for a different age.

Another notable development has been the arrival of the car club. A survey in 2003 determined that there was no local interest in car sharing but five years later, that had changed and a permanent bay was established in D'Aubigny Road.

Rounded history

One of the first acts of the society was to set up a local history group. Formed in July 2000, the group interviewed local residents and pored through records and photographs. Activity accelerated towards the publication of a book *Rose Hill to Roundhill: A Brighton Community* in 2005.

For some years, the group also organised history walks as part of the Brighton Festival and some of its members have continued to work on local subjects such as St Bartholomew's and the London Road.

The Round Hill website and newsletter have also carried a number of investigations and insights into the history of the area including bronze age burials, lost games, markets, laundries and births in stables.

Green hill

The welfare of the hill's wildlife has always been high up the agenda for residents. Jan and Rusty Curry's wildlife garden first came to attention as the location for the Round Hill garden party in 2001. Since then their impressive project has won a succession of awards and even an appearance at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2004.

In 2001, the Society supported a city-wide gardening promotion with special Round Hill Society plant boxes which were built by pupils at Dorothy Stringer school and sold to members. Some people thought the RHS stencilled on the side stood for something else and a few rare specimens still survive!

The tradition continues with spectacular Round Hill gardens becoming a popular attraction in the annual Garden Gadabout organised by the Sussex Beacon.

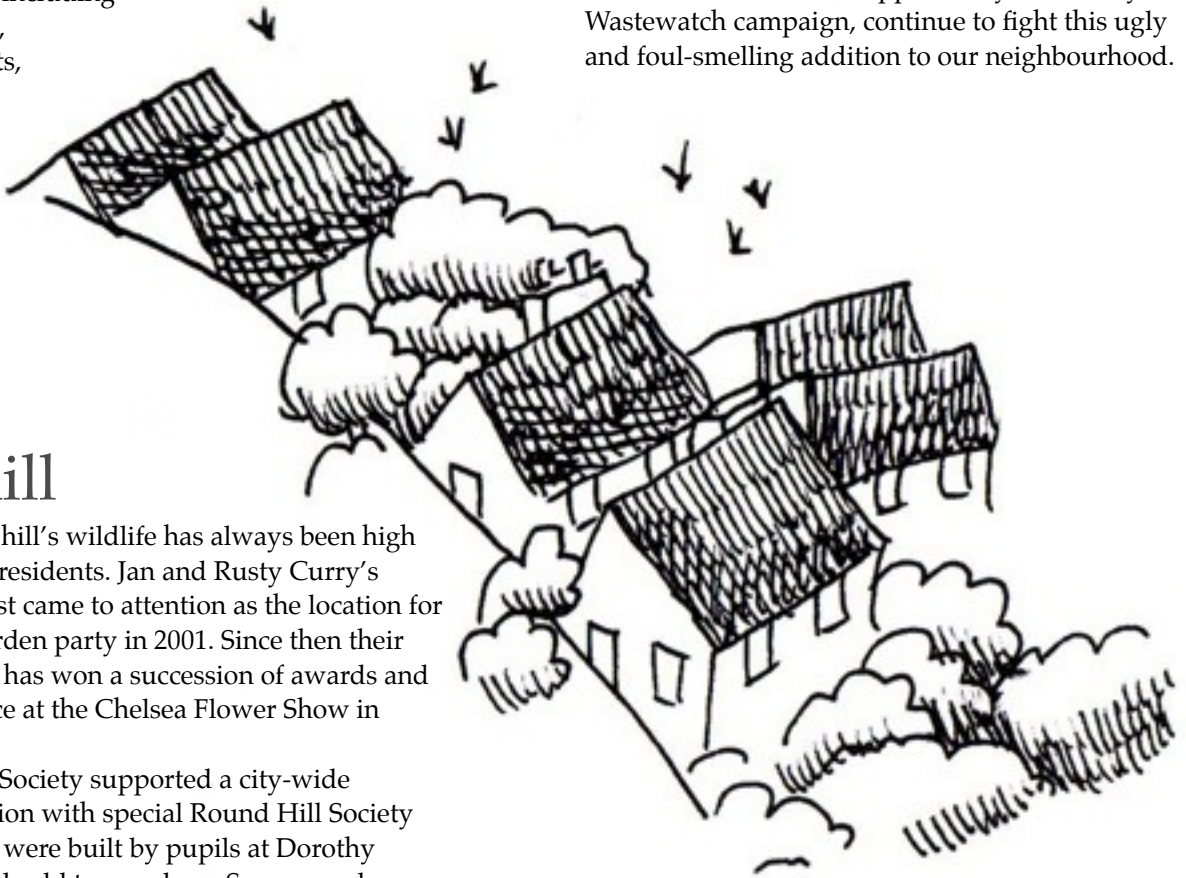
Local residents have also fought strongly to defend open spaces in the neighbourhood. Although continually under threat of development, some of these green oases survive to nourish wildlife and lend a graceful counterpoint to the urban grain.

Utter rubbish

Waste and recycling has been an issue throughout the ten years. In the early days, the Council's "Slim your bin" initiative stole the headlines. Later, the growth of corporate recycling led to kerbside collections.

In 2006, the issue took on an altogether different significance for the area when Hollingdean was selected as a possible site for a new waste processing plant. In the teeth of strong local opposition, the development was pushed through the Council planning process and the site achieved full operational capacity in 2010.

Local residents, supported by the society's Wastewatch campaign, continue to fight this ugly and foul-smelling addition to our neighbourhood.



Tomorrow the world...

Since 2005, the Round Hill website has grown steadily to become a vast repository of information on the area, attracting enquiries and emails from all over the world.

The Round Hill message board is also a well-used addition to the community, hosting everything from questions about window cleaners to fierce debates on local issues.



From Copenhagen to Belton Road

Climate change summit prompts neighbourhood message

Amid the disappointment felt by many after the recent Copenhagen summit, one Round Hill resident was inspired. Sarah Cross wrote to her neighbours on Belton Road to explain.

Hello Belton Road neighbours

I'm writing to share my excitement and some resources about how to save energy and money, right here on Belton Road.

I went to the Copenhagen conference on climate change in December. While elected leaders were bickering at the official assembly, at an alternate conference people from all over the world were sharing real strategies for addressing climate change. Some of you may know that we in industrialized countries consume the majority of global resources like trees, metals, and petroleum. The extraction, transportation, and use of these resources produce gases that cause the global temperature to rise and weather patterns to shift. I learned what the enormous impact of that rise and shift has been on people and the environment around the world.

I also understood that we who have been most responsible for damage to the environment are the ones who should be cleaning things up by addressing those changes abroad and reducing our emissions at home.

How can I be enthusiastic and excited in the face of such a catastrophe? Because I am convinced that it is possible to change. Just on Belton Road, if we all make some very easy adjustments around the house, our collective actions will make a real difference. Of course, there must also be changes in national policy. But we have power as a group to make a big difference, and inspire other individuals to make changes.

It might sound silly but it's become a real source of pride and excitement to watch my household's energy use fall, and our bills along with it. Climate change



isn't this big thing I have no power to change. I can...

* Buy food that's grown locally; less petrol is used to transport it. Buy organic; less petrol-based fertilizers. Eat less animal protein; animal production uses loads of energy. A great start: get a local, organic veg box.

* Switch to 100% renewable electricity. It's so easy to change, and voila, no more coal or natural gas burned to boil your tea. Then get an energy monitor. British Gas is offering them for free. Ours came a few weeks ago; it's actually fun. Your energy bill will go down. Kids will love it. And you can see that it really does make a huge difference to only boil what you need!

* Invest some money in energy saving in the home. Replace your light bulbs with low energy alternatives. Loft insulation pays for itself in a year. If you don't have double paned windows, buy interior plastic barriers (try Wick's) that drastically improve efficiency of windows. We rent our home but asked our landlady to make some changes, and she did - we have new double paned glass and loft insulation! Try asking, you never know. The Energy Saving Trust is a great source of information. They can also tell you if

Sarah would be pleased to hear from Round Hill residents and can be contacted through the editor. See also:

Organic food boxes

Ashurst Farm

Delivering food boxes locally for 15 years, most produce is grown on the farm and hand-picked for delivery.
w <http://ashurst-organics.weebly.com/>

Barcombe Nurseries

Supplying food boxes since 1997.
t 01273 400011
e barcombenurseries@tiscali.co.uk

Hankham Organics

Supplier of locally-grown produce.
w www.hankhamorganics.co.uk

Green energy

Energy Saving Trust

w www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
t 0800 512 012

Good Energy

w www.goodenergy.co.uk
t 0845 456 1640



There's still time to sign up to the 10:10 campaign which is being followed by many in Brighton and Hove:
www.1010uk.org

Illustration © Stefan Holmström



Recycle it!

In the last issue, we asked for your tips and one family gave us some great ideas. Remember to contact us with your own!

We are a family with two small children and so produce quite a lot of food waste. We have however managed to cut down the amount of stuff going into black bags considerably:

1. We compost all vegetable matter, both cooked and peelings. This is at least a kilo a day.
2. The grains (breadcrusts, porridge etc) and cheese ends go out for the birds on a bird table hung from a tree out of reach of cats. If these are chopped into small pieces, they are all eaten quickly by the birds (and a plump squirrel).
3. LDPE bags (recycling code 04, the soft plastic bags that fruit comes in), carrier bags and tetrapaks are not collected by CityClean (why not?). However Sainsbury's does have bins to collect these just inside the entrance to the street level car park.

Using these methods, we have cut our landfill waste down to about half a black bag a week.



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you qualify for reduced cost or free insulation through the council.

* Other ideas: leave your car at home and walk, get a compost bin, buy efficient essentials like boilers and pass on unnecessary appliances. Start talking about community initiatives to move toward renewable energy. Get involved

politically to hurry up national changes. The sky is the limit! And now is the time!

Making changes like this can be really satisfying. It's not a huge problem we can't address, but something that we can really impact, especially together. Be happy to hear from you,

Sarah Cross





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Round Hill Society Committee

Chair	Jean Brennan	87 Round Hill Crescent	693100
Vice chair	Marian Gerrett	77 Princes Crescent	688009
Secretary	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road	673511
Treasurer	Kevin Tansley	11 Wakefield Road	672648
Conservation Advisory	Ted Power	55 Princes Road	688102
Newsletter & website	David Guest	16a Wakefield Road	699476
Committee members	Carol Hall	36b Princes Road	687636
	Mandy Jones	81 Princes Crescent	
	Robin Morley	112 Richmond Road	
	Annie Rimington	8 D'Aubigny Road	

Directory

Window Cleaners

Col Scarratt E col.scarratt@ntlworld.com
Bishop Window Cleaning M 07939 161904

Builders

Earthwise Construction Green design, construction and renovation **W** www.earthwiseconstruction.org
A Team Builders Ltd Plastering, damp proofing. Contact Giles Walker **T** 385478 **M** 07725028393

Carpenters

Richard Simpson W simpsoncarpentry.com
M 07754 850135 **E** richard@simpsoncarpentry.com
Beacon Woodwork M 07843 247411
E steffan@beaconwoodwork.co.uk
John Mildoon M 07890 689982

Gardeners

Sadie at Plant People T 562425 **M** 07881 992762
Bruce Jonas Tree Surgeon **T** 693247
All Out Tree Surgery and garden clearance. Contact Giles **T** 243026 **M** 07989 537828
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E brightonbloomers@googlemail.com

Decorators

Preston Decorators Princes Road **M** 07976 893087
Rob Stephenson 51 Upper Lewes Road **T** 673511
Peter Skinner T 558790/889964
John Hoyer Round Hill Crescent **M** 07743 751665

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G J Saunders 80 Melrose Ave, Portslade **T** 882827
C R Laker 76 Rugby Rd **T** 501006 **F** 507745
Tom Plumb M 07973 551841
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E lynette1.ward@ntlworld.com
Atlas heating engineers M 07930 877575 **T** 820551

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Darren Clarke Electrician **M** 07815 145556
Auto-bodycare Car Service Centre 25 Ditchling Rise **T** 696030
Jim Gustard Waste clearance incl. trade, bulky waste, 174 Hollingdean Terrace **M** 07773 396212 **E** j.gustard@ntlworld.com

The Round Hill Reporter is published by the Round Hill Society to keep residents in the area in touch with local news, events and each other. We try to present a fair and balanced view but the opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily shared by all.

Please send your recommendations or warnings to the editor, Letters or ideas for articles are welcome - please contact the editor at the address shown above.

Deadline for the September edition
14th August