

# The Triangle Community NEWSLETTER



Issue 8 – Spring 2009

[www.triangle-community.org.uk](http://www.triangle-community.org.uk)

## Cycling in the Triangle

Provision for cyclists in the Triangle area is limited. Cars are frequently parked on the one cycle lane on Lewes Road. Despite there being a double yellow line, I have never seen a parking ticket issued.



The Upper Lewes Road seems to be used as a racetrack by cars, which speed along this road making it feel unsafe for cyclists. Various suggestions have been made to slow this traffic, one being to put a speed camera halfway along its length, another to build chicanes so that cars have to give way to one another.

There are virtually no cycle parking facilities in the area; hence every available lamppost has bicycles attached. Some of the interconnecting roads between Lewes and Upper Lewes Road are very narrow and these bikes can block the pavements. Generally in Brighton I have noticed that not much effort is made to remove cycles that appear permanently attached to whatever cycle parking facilities there are; another frustration for us cyclists.

These issues have been brought up with various Council representatives in the past year or two, but so far none of them have been addressed. It is a shame, especially as Brighton has been awarded the status of a cycling demonstration town, but we will keep plugging away until we get a response and some action.

**Helen Murray, St. Mary Magdalene Street**

### Heavenly Browsing

Pick up a bargain at St Vincent's, which opened last September and is currently the only charity shop in the Triangle area. The St Vincent de Paul Society supports the elderly, ill and imprisoned, and here in Brighton it hosts soup runs and furniture schemes for the homeless.

The shop welcomes donations (though only during opening hours) and is always on the lookout for volunteers. With some fabulous window displays, a mobile phone recycling point, and lots of room to browse through clothes, music, games, books and bric-a-brac, it's an exciting new addition to our streets. "We're the Selfridges of Lewes Road", says manager Ursula. St Vincent's is next to Spar on Lewes Road, and is open 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday.

### ★ Visit our website

In case you didn't know, we do have a website. Keep up-to-date with what is going on in the Triangle area. To visit go to [www.triangle-community.org.uk](http://www.triangle-community.org.uk)

You can contact us by email: [contact@triangle-community.org.uk](mailto:contact@triangle-community.org.uk)



### Your Views on Parking

1. Do you have problems parking locally?
2. Which street do you live in?
3. Do you have general comments about parking in the area?

Please send your responses to: **Triangle Group Committee**  
c/o 11 Edinburgh Road,  
Brighton or email to: [contact@triangle-community.org.uk](mailto:contact@triangle-community.org.uk)

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**Local History Group**

Most of the houses in the Triangle date from the 1860s. Have you ever wondered who lived in your house over a hundred years ago? The Heritage Open Weekend is coming up this September and we have been offered help by the Brighton & Hove Open Door team at The Regency Town House (www.rth.org.uk) to research the history of the houses in a street of the Triangle. The Local History Group has chosen the connecting Streets of Brewer and St Martins. These streets are linked by the Bugle Pub which is also where we meet on the first Monday of every month.

So if you want to take part in exploring our local history, come along to our next meeting, contact us via our website or leave a message on 677141.

The History Group meets the first Monday of the month at the Bugle Pub 7pm. Next meeting Monday 2 March.

**Update on Climate Change**

In October 2008 the Government introduced a strong Climate Change Law: one that sets annual targets and a tough overall emissions reduction target of 80%, which incorporates aviation and shipping emissions. Now we must turn the promised cuts in CO<sub>2</sub> into reality – by implementing the law locally with communities and local authorities.



The impact of the current economic climate is having a negative effect on households, and small as well as big business. It would be easy with the financial system crash and credit crunch to dismiss the impact of climate change as not important. But according to Friends of the Earth, climate change will have a big impact on the real economy as well as the environment. The spell that the market can fix everything is broken, and the state has been called in to rescue the economy. A fundamental shift in thinking is needed in order to tackle climate change; the economic recession needs new regulation and public investment. Friends of the Earth's proposals are also part of the solution to the UK's troubled economy. An extensive programme of improved home insulation across the UK will cut fuel bills and emissions, create jobs, and increase energy security. The cost of inaction on climate change will be greater than the cost of action.

If we are to achieve an 80% reduction in carbon emissions, we have to tackle the way we heat our homes and offices; 47% of our carbon emissions come from this alone. Good Energy (goodenergy.co.uk) has just launched its Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). The most common available form of renewable heat is from solar thermal panels, which use solar energy instead of the standard gas boiler to heat household water. By installing these we can greatly reduce the amount of carbon emitted, and therefore benefit the environment. Switching to Good Energy as your electricity supplier is a first step – it means 100% renewable electricity! **By Amelia Mills**

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**Blooming Marvellous!**

Our visions for a brighter Lewes Road are becoming reality; the council has awarded us funding (in the form of a Sustainability Grant) to erect seven planters filled with herbs and flowers on the corners (Lewes Road end) of St Martin's Street, St Paul's Street, St Mary Magdalene Street, Caledonian Road, Edinburgh Road, Aberdeen Road and Inverness Road, plus one on the corner of St Paul's Street and Park Crescent Road.

Everyone is welcome to join in our **Planting Day**, which takes place on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** from 12pm. We'll have expert gardeners on hand to help us get the plants in the soil and the pots in position, but the more bods the better. Come along whether you're a green-fingered pro or a virgin dead-header. And if you can provide any specialist advice or skills, do let us know!

More details to follow, but if you have any questions/suggestions about **Planting Day**, email [contact@triangle-community.org.uk](mailto:contact@triangle-community.org.uk)

**Out on the town: Graham Walton braves the borders of Triangle territory for some local nightlife**

**In Every Home A Heartache, Monthly at the Cowley Club, 12 London Road**

You know you're in Brighton when you find yourself at the LGBT rock and indie night at the anarchist café. It's like walking into someone's private party or a students' union in the 1980s: 'Support the miners' and 'Smash capitalism' posters, box files filled with advice on being arrested on a demo or thrown out of your squat. A strange night drifting into the odd; you can bring your dog as long as it's on a rope (oi, no stereotyping here). But please note; this evening often ends prematurely. Someone stumbles into the speaker leads: the end. Or one time the DJs throw things at each other, one walks off, it ends in tears. Never mind; was that the cabaret? Who cares at £2 a pint? And for a mixture of Nirvana, 80s and Electro. This is what Brighton's about; you could have gone to Keele or Heriot-Watt but you didn't. You came here for a reason: because it's alternative and you are a closet hippy. Get used to it! You don't have to be gay (it's a mixed night); however, you will be less than comfortable if you are right of Arthur Scargill.

**Next IEHAH: Fri 20th March**

**Brakes, 7 Jan 2009, The Albert, Trafalgar Street**

A storming set from Brighton 'supergroup' Brakes, combining elements of Electric Soft Parade, British Sea Power and Tenderfoot. Drawing from their cracking repertoire, this gig had less of their 10-second numbers and more of the new country-influenced rock, featuring material from their forthcoming album. Leaping about with the middle-aged moshers nostalgic for 1976, their great tight sounds might even make them Brighton's best. Stuart Flynn and Dirty Cakes supported, Flynn appearing as a slim Quentin Crisp with impressive vocals. Catch him if you can; definitely one to watch.

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## For he's a jolly good feline



Toy mice and tuna tins poured in as residents in the Roundhill and Triangle areas of Brighton threw a party last month for local celebrity 'Major Tom', a portly ginger feline of no fixed abode.

Known for his missing tooth and penchant for intimidating dogs, the fearless furry vagabond has commandeered a ten-street territory for at least 5 years, whilst being fed or temporarily housed by over 40 households. He has also fathered several litters in the area.

His exact age is unknown, but a vet recently estimated it at 12 years. His fans have now designated January 31st as his birthday, when they gathered together to toast the maverick moggy, while the guest of honour enjoyed a catfood cake.

Triangle Committee member Mary-Lou Banfield said: "A shared devotion to this old tom cat has led to greater contact between neighbours – Major Tom seems to bring out the best in people." **By Colette Bernhardt**

## Safe and Happy in the Triangle

This is the first edition of a new column put together by the City Council and your Neighbourhood Policing Team.

In it we hope to focus on some of the services provided by the council and police which help to keep you safe, and to answer questions which you may have about crime reduction and public safety in your area.

If you have any questions about public and community safety or crime reduction services delivered by the council or police in your area, please email: Simon Bannister ~ Brighton & Hove City Council Environment Improvement Team [simon.bannister@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:simon.bannister@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or PCSO Hannah Sturman ~ [Hannah.sturman@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Hannah.sturman@sussex.pnn.police.uk) and we will try our best to provide an answer and to include featured items in future newsletters.

### Crime and Safety A-Z

#### A – Anti-social Behaviour

In law anti-social behaviour is defined under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as "behaviour which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm and distress". To find out more – and what you can do if you think you have been on the receiving end – visit the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership website [www.safeinthecity.info](http://www.safeinthecity.info)

#### B – Beat Officers

The Triangle area (and the Level) forms the smallest distinct 'police beat' in the area covered by the St Peters & North Laine Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Your Neighbourhood Sergeant is Matt Belfield ~ [Matthew.Belfield@sussex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Matthew.Belfield@sussex.pnn.police.uk) and your dedicated PCSO is Hannah Sturman (see above).

The current policing priorities for the Triangle Beat are: street drinkers and anti-social behaviour, parking offences (obstructions) and rough sleepers.

#### C – Crime

To find out crime statistics for your area, have a look at the Sussex Police website ~ [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk).

To report a crime, if life is threatened, if people are injured, if offenders are nearby, or if any immediate action is required dial 999.

To report a crime which has taken place but is not an emergency, dial 0845 60 70 999.

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