



THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

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ROUND HILL REPORTER

Issue 19
March 2005

CAR CRIME TOP OF THE LIST FOR 2004

	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total for year
Burglary	7	8	3	2	20
Car Theft	3	3	4	1	11
Theft from Cars	7	7	4	3	21
Criminal Damage	2	7	4	8	21
Threats/Physical harm	-	1	2	5	8
Other	2	5	2	3	12
Totals	22	31	19	22	93

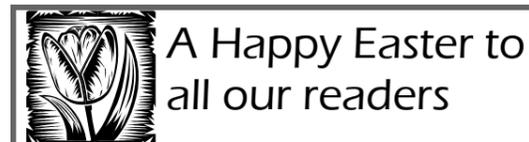
Brighton Community Policing Team have sent us the crime statistics for the Round Hill area for the whole of 2004.

Remember that these are only crimes that have been reported and given a crime number.

Most of the reported crime involves theft and damage of one kind or another with car crime at the top of the list. Eleven cars were stolen or taken without consent (there is, apparently, a difference) and there were 21 thefts from cars. The 'Other' category includes 'vehicle interference' and the 'Criminal Damage'

category doesn't specify what was damaged, so this probably includes vehicles. There were 21 house burglaries in the year, along with some general theft, including several stolen bicycles.

With almost 1,000 households in the Round Hill area, these figures do not represent a high incidence of crime per household, but I'm sure that if we could ever get the police to patrol the area more regularly, and with better attention from all of us to the security of our homes, cars and belongings, we could all do our bit to cut crime in Round Hill.



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A UNANIMOUS 'NO' TO DEVELOPMENT

Local residents were jubilant when the Brighton & Hove City Council Planning Committee voted unanimously against the proposed development on land to the rear of Prince's Road. They felt that all their hard work and commitment over the past months had paid off.

The Planning meeting was held at Hove Town Hall on Wednesday 23 February and about 15 representatives of the Round Hill area were in the gallery, meeting first to demonstrate, in the freezing cold, against the development, a six-storey block of flats on what is essentially a Greenfield site, with no provision for car parking and no vehicular access. A reporter and a photographer from the 'Evening Argus' were there to record events.

The scheme was recommended for refusal by the Planning Officers, who introduced the controversial plans to the committee. They pointed out that existing properties would be severely overlooked, that the development would be detrimental to the character and amenities of the conservation area and to the existing residents of Prince's Road.

Pam Blackman spoke for the Round Hill area on various issues, including



Round Hill Residents demonstrate outside Hove Town Hall

overlooking for both existing and new residents, the loss of a valuable green space and green vista, and the parking problems that would inevitably occur. She pointed out that it was actually illegal to build a 'car-free' development in an area that has no parking restrictions.

The architect spoke next, making a poor effort at trying to defend his monstrous and ridiculous plans, citing the fact that new residents would all have access to an open space - in most cases, a balcony facing the railway!

Cllr Keith Taylor spoke on behalf of Round Hill. He concurred that Brighton and Hove is in a housing crisis, but that did not mean that we should build homes 'at any price' and this was a blatant case of overdevelopment. He felt the future of this site is important to the area as a community green space in a neighbourhood with no such amenity and urged the councillors to

refuse this, and indeed ANY development on this site.

Several Councillors spoke in favour of refusal, agreeing that this was one of the worst examples of potential town cramming they had seen; that the area was a haven for wildlife and it would be nice to imagine it as a green open space.

When put to the vote, every committee member supported the Planning Officer's recommendation to refuse.

So, what's next? Will Carelet appeal or submit a new, downsized application? This is only round one. Ted Power urges us to carry out an open spaces survey of Round Hill, so that any future development plans will have to take our precious green areas into account. Please give your wholehearted support to keeping our green spaces green.

The residents of Prince's Road thank everyone for their support so far: for writing letters of objection (338!) and for turning up in the cold on Wednesday.

Vivien Eliades

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And much more!



brighton and hove citycarclub

The Brighton & Hove City Car Club started activities just

over a year ago, with the first car stationed in Hanover. The initiative received strong support from ward councillor Joyce Edmond-Smith and the Hanover Community Association, who were able to secure lottery funding to carry out a feasibility study and a pilot project.

Simply put, the purpose of the City Car Club is to offer 'pay as you go' car use as an alternative to individual car ownership. Club cars are based in reserved bays close to members' homes, and can be booked by the hour, for a minimum of one hour, and can be booked from 5 minutes to one year in advance. Bookings are made by phone or online, and members simply unlock the car with their smartcard at the start of their trip, key in their PIN number and drive away!

Our 6 cars in Hanover and Preston Park are used by over 70 members - of which at least 15 have given up their own cars since joining - and we are currently planning to base cars in Prestonville and Kemptown in March 2005, with Seven Dials, Montpelier, Western Road and North Laine to follow later in the year.

During our initial feasibility study, a number of Round Hill residents expressed an interest, and now that we are firmly established in the City, we are keen to follow this up. In considering the feasibility of placing a car, we are trying to identify potential members in the area who may be able to complete an informal membership 'pledge', and once sufficient 'pledges' have been received (20+) we will seek to establish car stations in the area to match demand.

If anyone would like further information, we can be contacted by telephone on 01273 766 666, or by email - simon@smartmoves.co.uk, and our website can be found at www.citycarclubs.co.uk

of £1,030, made up of £300 petrol, £220 insurance, £70 AA, £140 tax and £300 MOT and repairs. Without a car he put £20 per week into a jar to pay for taxis and buses for the daughters. For longer trips he rented a car, which cost about £30 a day. The costs of both systems are very similar but he doesn't have to worry about finding parking places or about future repair costs. And of course he doesn't have to worry that he is leaving his personal property cluttering up our communal streets.

Rob Stephenson

COSTING YOUR CAR

I think it is well understood that once you have got a car on the road, fully working, insured and taxed, there is no cost reason not to use it for every trip away from home - even nipping down to the chippy is a cost-effective marginal trip.

But if you don't need a car for daily commuting, the costs are very different. A few years ago a friend gave up his car. He didn't need it for commuting, but spent much time ferrying his two daughters to their many activities, and regular trips to visit his elderly mother in Surrey.

Keeping the car on the road was costing an annual total



PARKING

For most of us, life without a vehicle is simply not an option. The parking problem we have in Round Hill affects us all, including pedestrians who are not always able to walk along pavements because of vehicles part-parked on them. As space is very limited, the only thing we can do is to help ourselves by parking carefully and thoughtfully. How often have you seen vehicles parked in such a way that they are taking up a space where two vehicles could fit? Please bear this in mind in future when you are parking and try to avoid taking up unnecessary space. Please also encourage your visitors to park considerately.

After all, every vehicle owner shares the same problem. We cannot, unfortunately, create more space for our area, but perhaps collectively we can manage the space we have a little better.

Jan Dirksen

brighton and hove citycarclub

Smarter, Simpler, Greener, Cheaper

Owning a car is a hassle. It often costs more than we think. Brighton & Hove City Car Club provides the perfect solution. It gives you access to a car, but only when you need one. Each Car Club car is estimated to replace 5 private cars - reducing local parking pressure and congestion.

As a member, you just pay for the amount of time you use the car and a small mileage cost, which includes fuel. Membership includes insurance, tax, MOT, breakdown cover and car maintenance.

We are currently looking for potential members in the Round Hill area to help establish the City Car Club locally, which will complement our existing service in Hanover and Preston Park

For more information contact:
Simon Bannister ~ Brighton & Hove City Car Club ~
01273 766 666 ~ simon@smartmoves.co.uk
www.citycarclubs.co.uk



DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE

Please send your articles, letters, pictures, adverts, poems, anecdotes etc, to the editor at the address on the back page by **SATURDAY 14 MAY**.

If you enjoy your newsletter, please make a contribution to it. There is a Newsletter planning meeting every quarter at 66 Richmond Road. Please phone 276386 for details.

Advertising rates:

Full page	£100
Half page	£55
Quarter page	£30
Eighth page	£16
Sixteenth page	£10

We want this newsletter to serve our local community and we offer realistic advertising rates to local businesses to cover the costs of printing. Please note that 50% will be added to these rates for organisations outside the Round Hill area.

Phone 276386 to place an advert or notice

Residents only:
 Notice board (up to 30 words) £2

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NEWSLETTER

Local McTimoney and Massage Practitioner

Working from Unit 4, 20-26 Round Hill Street
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The seasonal singing walk held in December was, as usual, a great success and £85.85 was handed over to the NSPCC. Thank you to everyone for your contributions, whether monetary, musical or vocal!

REGISTER OF TRADESPEOPLE

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

WINDOW CLEANERS

Col Scarratt Tel: 298060 (answerphone),
 Mobile: 07759 9699514, e-mail: col.scarratt@ntlworld.com
Bishop Window Cleaning Tel: 07939 161904

BUILDERS

Ian of Eastbrook Construction Tel: 594903,
 Mobile: 07881 992944

DECORATORS

Mik O'Shea 14 Wakefield Road, Tel: 698788
Preston Decorators (Prince's Road), Tel: 07976 893087
Rob Stephenson 51 Upper Lewes Road, Tel: 673511

PLUMBERS

Tim Packwood, 88 Waldegrave Road, Tel: 0770 325 3740
G J Saunders 80 Melrose Ave, Portslade, Tel: 882827
C R Laker 76 Rugby Rd, Tel: 501006, Fax: 507745

CARPENTERS

Drew Davidson 07801 060928
SAB Carpentry 27 Prince's Rd. Tel: 702632/07963
 8415630

CARPENTER/PLUMBER

Lynette Ward Tel: 302574, Mobile: 07814 521961,
 e-mail: LDW@nikau.fsnet.co.uk

GARDENERS

Sadie at Plant People Tel: 562425, Mobile: 07881 992762

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

Did you know?

THE BRADLEY STORES
 are stocking a new range of
ORGANIC FOODS
 courtesy of INFINITY FOODS
 as well as Indian and Oriental products.

POP IN AND SEE NICK OR MAX FOR ALL YOUR ORGANIC SHOP!

Upper Lewes Road, at the corner of St Paul's Street

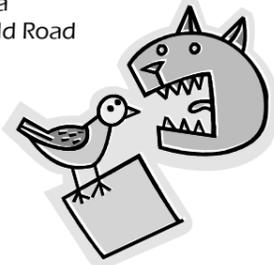


POST BOX



Dear all,
I live at No 8 Princes Road, and am selling my house. The environmental search my buyers have had done on the premises has shown up a 'potential risk of ground contamination due to former potential tanks within 25 meters south of the property'. I have no idea what this could be. Does anyone know anything about this?
Later the report says 'As the property has not received a certificate, RPS is unable to confirm that 'contaminated land' issues do not have an impact on the security of the property for normal lending purposes'. I take this to mean it may not be possible to obtain a mortgage on the property.
This could affect other residents living in this area, as presumably searches done on their homes will come up with the same report.
If anyone knows anything, please reply to JeannetRenfree@aol.com, as I am not a member of the Yahoo related mailing system attached to the Round Hill site.
With many thanks and kind regards.
Jeannet Renfree

Dear Editor
With the coming of spring and the apparent local interest in preserving wildlife, may I make a polite plea to all cat owners.
Your cat is only a pet when inside your home. The minute it leaves, it becomes a well-armed torturer and murderer. Cats kill 80 million birds a year. The killing of one bird at this time of year inevitably means the death of several others, as the remaining parent cannot cope with the demands of the nestlings and, once fledged, the babies are at risk when reaching the ground.
I know many of the residents locally have bird tables and hanging baskets, but the discovery of yet another mauled but unwanted body makes you think twice about encouraging birds into your garden.
The RSPB recommend elasticated collars with a bell attached. These are completely safe and give the birds at least a small chance of escaping. I'm sure no one wants to be responsible for the ending of one of nature's miracles—the song of the spring blackbird.
Lucy O'Shea
14 Wakefield 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.

Exterior House Painting



thinking of repainting?
ask me for a quote

Recent work done at:
77 Princes Crescent
20 Prince's Road
3 d'Aubigny Road

Rob Stephenson - 673511



SOLAR UPDATE

...the solar panel was finally installed late November – not the best time to test it out, but the pump squeaked away for a couple of months before it was discovered it was not working! Nothing was circulating, so John the engineer called to fiddle about, flush it out and got something moving so now, hopefully, we will have some results...if only it wasn't snowing...

Ros Alder and Clive Baldwin
22 Princes Road

Dear Editor
I wanted to respond to a couple of things:
The New Vic—my husband and I were very disappointed when this pub closed. We used to enjoy a quiet drink there whenever our parents came to stay and gave us the rare opportunity to get out together. I liked the décor, the music, the pool table, the beers on draught and I know the quiz nights and odd themed music nights were very popular indeed. We were worried it would close, as we were often there pretty much alone, if there wasn't one of the organised nights on. We often wondered why no one else in the area drank there. So, my feedback is that we definitely want a pub there, and enjoyed it very much as it was!
Post Box—Paul Homes' letter—hear, hear! Wouldn't it be lovely to have a community garden and/or playground area. Let me know if there's anything I can do to support this.
Finally, I would like to recommend a plumber, 'Tom Plumb' who lives at 64 Round Hill Crescent. He not only sorts the heating out, but also allows your curious toddler to help him. However, I haven't got his number to hand—I always get it off his van which is parked in our area most evenings.

Juliana Ashworth
60 Round Hill Cres
[The New Vic has since re-opened and really needs the support of local people to make it a successful community pub. If Tom Plumb would like to let me know his phone number, we'll include him in the Tradespersons column in the next issue. Ed]



NOTES FROM A WILDLIFE GARDEN — JAN CURRY

SPRING HAS NEARLY SPRUNG...
...but not yet - I'm sure we are due for a few days of hard weather soon. This is a really difficult time of year for birds such as chaffinches and greenfinches. They are seed eaters and there are so few seed heads left on plants at this time, they need all the help they can get. A seed feeder hanging outside a window, encouraging the birds to come close, is almost as good as television; even better sometimes.
I - no, who am I kidding - my husband has just checked and cleaned out the fifteen bird boxes in our garden (I held the ladder). Twelve of them had obviously been previously occupied, as they still contained neat nests. These should be removed so a new family moving in can begin afresh: no bugs, germs, broken egg shells or dead baby birds to put them off. If

there were enough natural places for them to nest, winter winds and rains would have destroyed even the most cleverly constructed ones by now; enclosed bird boxes have to be done by hand. January is a bit late really – we should have completed the job before Christmas, as the birds are beginning to look for likely nesting places already. Many of them will have paired up by Valentine's Day.
Back to those chaffinches, who prefer to build their own nests. I have just read: '...she will find a suitable branching shrub or tree and will make a secure foundation by wrapping round the twigs with strands of spiders' webs. She will then add moss and grass to make a firm base. The bird will then work more material in place before she sits down and wiggles around to form the cup shape. Then she will stamp around a bit until all the materials become

felted together. All this work, all this activity, but if she has two broods in one season, she will set to work to make a fresh one.' (RSPB)



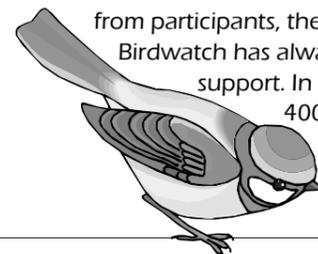
When we first moved here nearly fifty years ago, the back gardens along Richmond Road had dozens of finches flitting around. Now there are only a few. Why is that, I wonder? Not enough shrubs, too few seeds, not many spiders, too many slug tablets I guess.

THE RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

Thousands of people joined in this year's RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch at the end of January.

History of Big Garden Birdwatch
In the late 1970s, the RSPB asked their junior membership to count the birds in their gardens - over the same weekend. The 'one-off' idea was so successful that it has been a regular event since 1979. Today, the Big Garden Birdwatch is open to anyone in the UK. People are asked to count the birds in their garden or local park for one hour over a weekend in January.

Thanks to its simplicity and the small time commitment needed from participants, the Big Garden Birdwatch has always had great support. In 2004, over 400,000 people took part in the event and a



staggering 8.6 million birds were recorded and 247,000 gardens surveyed.

The survey method has remained the same since 1979, which means the results are an extremely valuable record of garden birds in the UK over the years. The survey has recorded the huge declines in some of our most familiar birds. Since 1979, the number of house sparrows counted has fallen by 52% and the number of starlings by 72%.

The results can also be used to record regional differences between birds in gardens. In 2004, the chaffinch was the most common bird recorded in Scotland, whilst across the whole of the UK the house sparrow was most commonly seen.

The Big Garden Birdwatch has grown year on year, enabling the RSPB to gather important data, which helps

them understand more about the population trends of UK garden birds. For more information go to www.RSPB.org.uk

The birds spotted in their gardens in an hour by Jan Curry (Richmond Road) and Rob Stephenson (Upper Lewes Road) are as follows:

	Jan	Rob
House Sparrows	17	5
Starlings	14	11
Blue Tits	20	3
Great Tits	4	1
Long Tailed Tits	7	0
Hedge Sparrows	1	0
Jackdaws	2	0
Collared Doves	6	4
Wood Pigeons	2	1
Chaffinches	2	2
Thrushes	1	0
Robins	0	1
Blackbirds	0	2
Greenfinches	0	8
Magpies	0	2



ACTION ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

GRAFFITI

With the problem of graffiti on the increase and after a big spate of mindless tagging on both buildings and vehicles, I contacted the Council via their website (www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/cityclean) and received a response from their graffiti team. On a dull, damp day in January, a representative from the Council walked the Round Hill area with me to inspect and make notes. He was extremely knowledgeable about the subject and recognised many of the tags and was able to identify the culprits. His advice was as follows:

The Three R's for the Victim of Graffiti

Record it.

Take a Photo or get someone else to take a photo of the graffiti, Make note of when your first saw the graffiti, if not sure ask a neighbour .

Report it

Report the Graffiti to the Police (0800 6070999, get a Crime number), Report to Enforcement (294514), so the Graffiti can be logged in the Data Base and further Investigations can take place. If the graffiti is racist or offensive, phone the Cityclean Helpline on 274674.

Remove it

Get the Graffiti removed or painted over as soon as possible; graffiti artists are less likely to return to a wall that is cleaned regularly.

The area at the top of the 'Cat Creep' is regularly painted over by members of the Youth Offending Team

There is now a multi-agency strategy to combat the problem of graffiti and they have produced an informative booklet. If you would like a copy, phone The Business Forum on 01273 735062.

Vivien Eliades

DOG MESS

Whilst walking around looking at the graffiti, I mentioned several other topics to the Council representative, one of which was the perennial problem of dog mess.

You know, it occurs to me that the problem is worse in the wintertime because the culprits are those dog owners who can't be bothered to take their dogs too far in the cold weather, so go for a quick walk round the block and don't take a scoop/plastic bag with them. The earlier nights mean that it's less easy to see the offending deposits on the pavements, so we inevitably tread in it and walk it into our homes. Well our nice man from the Council has arranged for dog bins to be put up in Round Hill (for the dogs' turds, not the dogs!) There's one on the corner of

Ashdown Road and Richmond Road and another on the corner of Prince's Crescent and Richmond Road. So now there's absolutely no excuse - PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG.

I will reiterate here that IT IS AN OFFENCE TO ALLOW YOUR DOG TO FOUL THE FOOTPATH OR THE ROADWAY OR TO ALLOW YOUR DOG ON THE HIGHWAY WITHOUT A LEAD.

To report an offender, phone Amanda Teal on 292445.

Vivien Eliades

FLY TIPPING

The Council Rep made a note of all the places commonly used for dumping rubbish. In our neighbourhood.

To report fly tipping, phone Kerry Rickman on 294514.

Let's name and shame the people who are ruining our community. Photographic or video evidence will make it easier for these people to be

prosecuted. You do not have to deal with these anti-social morons yourself, just contact the appropriate people featured in this article with all the information you have. Together we can keep the Round Hill area a neighbourhood to be proud of.

Jan Dirksen



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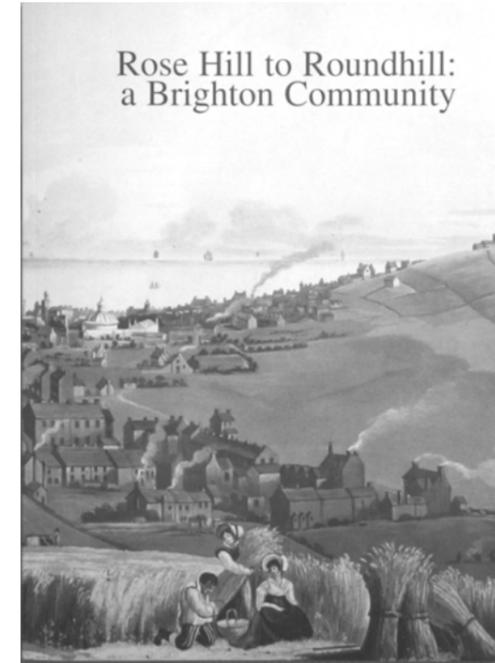
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OFF LICENCE – great selection of good quality wines

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A HILL WITH MEMORIES



Over recent years, the Round Hill History Group has researched the area's past and has now brought its work together. In collaboration with Brighton Books, they have published 'Rose Hill to Roundhill: a Brighton Community': a wide-ranging and rewarding study of the origins and development of an urban community.

The book is bound with a print of an early 19th Century view of Brighton from the Round Hill: we see the sweep of land from the Level down to the Steine, with familiar landmarks like St Nicholas' Church and the Royal Pavilion. The rolling chalk landscape of Sussex fills more of the view than do the buildings. On the hillside itself, corn is being gathered and stacked;

further down, washing is strung out to dry, while animals graze on the Level. In 1838 the Tower Mill topped the hill, about the same time as the first grand houses were being planned for the lower slopes of Round Hill. By the end of the nineteenth century, the mill was encircled by houses; it survived with a little surrounding land until 1913. Soon the hill was completely built over; a few pockets of open land remained as nurseries until the 1950s. Even smaller green spaces are today being eyed hungrily by developers: much of the downland of which Round Hill was once part is now protected, increasing the pressure for urban infill, or 'town cramming' as those losing their open space will view it.

'Rose Hill to Roundhill' gives us an idea of how landscape shapes and is shaped by people: by the 1830s, laundries proliferated on a hill 'open to every breath of heaven'. Market gardens helped feed Brighton's growing population, while industries such as Fisher Golf Ball and Cox's Pill Factories were built amongst them. Launderettes and then domestic washing machines brought the demise of the laundries, and the orchards and market gardens gradually went to housing. The authors create a guide to a lost landscape: here a hidden orchard, there a drying ground now become a large and beautiful garden; elsewhere a hillside cottage lost amongst late-Victorian terraces.

The interviews with Round Hill residents bring life to the past in a way no other source can. Locality mattered more when walking was the main means of transport, and the authors have gathered histories from residents who remember the muffin man carrying a tray on his head on Sundays, when there were two cinemas a few minutes' walk away; when vegetables could be bought from the nursery behind Belton Road and children played cricket or football in Wakefield Road. We are also reminded of a time when a child might have to walk down to the soup kitchen to collect the family dinner and access to a doctor or hospital treatment depended on being able to afford it.

A few errors have inevitably escaped the proof reader. Anyone looking for Cutress's bakery shop next to the Tower Mill site will find it to be one door down from the top of Round Hill Road, rusty gated railings still just intact. The statistics for the huge vaccination operation against smallpox are given twice but differently. For the period from the Great War through to the second half of the twentieth century, archive photos and especially oral histories give us a superb insight. Suspend the present and travel along streets both strange and familiar, discovering lost bakers, laundries and nurseries, a railway halt and windmill, an abattoir and a waste incinerator! Hopefully this book will lead people with knowledge or memories of the area to come back with their own stories to further illuminate this bit of Brighton.

Peter Meakins

'Rose Hill to Roundhill: a Brighton Community' Pub. Brighton Books Publishing. £9.99 ISBN 1-90 1454-08-8

BOOK FEEDBACK – CHRIS TULLETT

Feedback on the new book has indicated that it has been well received, and our thanks go to Brighton Books Publishing for sponsoring the book and putting money up front to bring it to fruition.

The book was dedicated to Lindsey Lee, a member of the History Group who died in the spring of 2003. She undertook many interviews of Round Hill residents for the book and also transcribed taped interviews ready for

the drafting of chapters. Lindsey's mother enjoyed the book greatly and was so appreciative of our dedication of the book to her daughter that she has contributed to the publishing costs.

Although the History Group still has much unpublished material, the prospect of a sequel is remote for at least 5-10 years; the demand would not be there to cover the costs. The History Group will remain to undertake any walks of the area or presentations asked of it by the

RH Society, or as part of the Brighton Festival or other history groups. For 2005, walks will take place on Saturdays 7, 14 and 21 May, starting at 3.00pm outside Avard Estate Agents in Ditchling Road, and currently we have a presentation to make to the Local History Group of The Brighton Archaeological Society on 16 April.

The book is available from several local outlets, including Marcia's hairdressers in Prince's Crescent.