



**THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY**

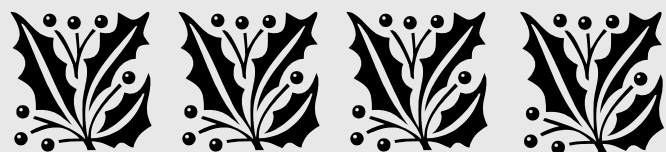
RHS Newsletter Editor  
66 Richmond Road  
Brighton

Phone: 01273 276386  
Email: news@roundhill.org.uk

**COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS**

Chair	Rob Stephenson	51 Upper Lewes Road	673511
Treasurer	Paul Thompson	29 Richmond Road	883004
Secretary	Jan Dirksen	92 Richmond Road	697587
Vice chair	Marian Gerrett	77 Princes Crescent	688009
Minutes Secretary	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	601320
Newsletter Editor	Vivien Eliades	66 Richmond Road	276386
Member without Portfolio	Peter Meakins	19 Round Hill Street	571519
Member without Portfolio	Terry Tidman	56 Richmond Road	699182
Member without Portfolio	Jean Brennan	87 Round Hill Crescent	693100
Member without Portfolio	Vacant		

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!**



**RHS AGM NEWS**

The Round Hill Society held its AGM on Tuesday 23rd November. There was quite a good turnout and a busy programme.

The Chair, Rob Stephenson, reported that it had been another successful year, commencing with our delightful calendar (thanks again to Andrew Haig for his unpaid time and expertise) and Carols and Lanterns procession. Two new trees had been planted in the district; the road closure had finally been installed in Richmond Road, complete with planter; we'd had a most successful street party in July and dog fouling seemed to be on the decline. On the down side, there had been a report of cats being maimed and killed by some lunatic with an air rifle in the Wakefield Road/Round Hill Crescent back-lands, and we still haven't got round to designing a web site.

Rob thanked the Committee for their efforts throughout the year, and reported that Vivien Eliades (formerly Powell) was retiring from the

post of Secretary, but staying on as Newsletter Editor. Jan Dirksen has obligingly filled the Secretary post, with Marian Gerrett moving into the position of Vice Chair. The rest of the committee remains the same. There was one nominee from outside the committee who failed to attend the AGM and there were no nominations from the floor, so the remaining position remains vacant.

The Treasurer, Paul Thompson, reported that the Street Party had proved successful and the Newsletter continues to thrive with more than sufficient income from advertising. The bank balance at year end stood at £2,086.84.

The outgoing Secretary, Vivien Eliades, wanted to know how many people were in favour of planting more trees in the area, as the Council is more likely to find funds for this if there is the demand. The response was almost unanimously in

favour and it was agreed that the Round Hill Society would donate £500 towards this. If anyone would like to fund their own tree (donations of around £50+), please contact Vivien. You can also bequeath a tree. If you want to put pressure on the Council to plant more trees, e-mail rob.greenland@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Vivien also thanked the contributors to the Newsletter and asked that more people send in items. She also thanked Steve Bustin for setting up the e-mail group.

The boring bits over, there followed a presentation by Jacqueline Pollard, Chris Tullett and Rosemary Fittock about the forthcoming history book, 'Rose Hill to Round Hill', which unfortunately was not ready for the meeting. We had a sneak preview of the cover and a fascinating slide show to whet our appetites. It is hoped that the book will be ready before Christmas. Priced at £9.99, it will be available from various shops

in and around Round Hill, including Marcia's hairdressers on the corner of Prince's Crescent.

The final item on the agenda was the proposed development in Prince's Road. The extremely proactive campaign group had brought along a visual display as well as a DVD made by Ted Power, showing the area in question and the beauty of the wildlife that inhabits it. Various members of the campaign group spoke passionately about this piece of land, gave the meeting lots of information and ideas for its future use. (See front page.) Cllr Keith Taylor was present at the meeting and offered to do everything he could to represent the views of the Round Hill residents.

The meeting closed at 9pm.  
*Vivien Eliades*

**CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Keith Taylor, tel/fax 01273 291165 e-mail keith.taylor@brighton-hove.gov.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.



**ROUND HILL REPORTER**

Issue 18  
December 2004

**PRINCE'S ROAD DEVELOPMENT THREAT**

Since the last newsletter, Carelet Ltd have submitted a planning application to the Council but as we go to press, it has not been registered, so we don't know the application number or the size of the proposed development.

What we do know is that it is for a 'car free affordable housing scheme'. Look out for the notice in the Argus and the Leader, look it up on the Council's internet site and look out for a leaflet through your door suggesting ways to respond to the application. Objections and comments have to be in within 21 days of registration of the application.

What we have discovered is that that, following pressure from us, the Council has asked the developer to carry out a density survey of the Round Hill area to ascertain whether such a development would create too high a density here. The Council itself has also commenced an open space study.

The action group has been working hard, campaigning not only in relation to the preservation of this particular green space, but also in relation to development in Round Hill as a whole.

The questionnaire met with an excellent response, giving a resounding NO to further development in our area. The Round Hill Society has given its full support to the campaign.

Many residents felt strongly enough about this issue to have included their own reasons for opposing development in Round Hill on the form. These ranged from concerns about parking space to worries about "town cramming" and the strong desire to preserve existing wildlife, green spaces and vistas. For those with access to the Internet, an informative, constantly updated site has recently been created by a

member of the group; so do have a browse on [www.roundhill.biz](http://www.roundhill.biz). You will, for example, find all questionnaire responses in full.

All residents who included contact details on their reply slips were invited to meet members of our group to find out more about what was going on. If you missed this fantastic opportunity(!) you can get involved at any time. Just ring Ted on 688102.

In the last newsletter Pam Blackman asked for a debate on what we think the Prince's Road land should be used for. In our opinion, it would be most suitable for a gated allotment site. Another suggestion is for a public garden. What do you think?

*Renata Gussone  
Christine Zaniewicka*

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**CAROLS & CANDLES EVENT - MAKE A LANTERN**

It's that time of the year again and everyone is invited to wrap up warm and join in the procession of the streets of Round Hill, singing seasonal songs and collecting for charity. We'll meet at the top of Belton Road on Wednesday 22 December at 6pm. Make sure



you're on time, so you can collect your song sheet. MUSICIANS PLEASE COME and play. We may not have our usual complement of music makers, so please make the effort and whistle, blow, fiddle or squeeze for our delight! This year's charity of choice is the NSPCC. Adult Santa's helpers required for collection.

We're organising a lantern-making workshop prior to the event on Saturday 11 December at 92 Richmond Road, the home of Jan Dirksen, from 2 pm to 5 pm. Children will need to be supervised. Please bring your own jam jar. See you there.



## WAKEFIELD ROAD SET TO BECOME ONE-WAY UP

Since the road closure in Richmond Road has been in place, the rat-runners have taken to using Prince's Crescent and Wakefield Road as a short-cut between Ditchling and Upper Lewes Roads. There have been several accidents, with cars not making the turn into Wakefield Road colliding with stationary vehicles, and a lot of difficulties, especially in the rush hour, negotiating the sharp turn into Upper Lewes Road, and also not being able to pass with cars parked on both sides of Wakefield Road.

As a result of these problems, the Council's Traffic Department sent a questionnaire to parts of the Round

Hill area to find out what people wanted to do about this. The questionnaire was not sent to households below the Richmond Road closure and the Round Hill Society was not consulted at any stage in this process (if it had, we'd have made sure the letter went to every household in the area).

There were 4 options proposed: 1) make Wakefield Road one-way up the hill, 2) Introduce a 'no left turn' into Upper Lewes Road, 3) Install road humps in Wakefield Road and 4) Do nothing.

Of the 495 questionnaires that were delivered, 179 households responded. This is a fantastic response by normal market research standards. The results

were:

- Option 1 - 81 (44%)
- Option 2 - 27 (15%)
- Option 3 - 26 (14%)
- Option 4 - 38 (21%)

A further 7 people (6%) either suggested other options or a combination of those proposed.

As a result, a Traffic Order will be advertised to make Wakefield Road one-way up and the proposal will then be put before the Environment Committee in December. It is hoped that the works will be carried out by March 2005.

*Vivien Eliades*

## COMPOSTER TRIAL UPDATE

Last December we installed a Green Cone in our garden, courtesy of Brighton & Hove Council, in association with the 'Slim Your Bin' challenge, a refuse reduction trial in Round Hill (See RHR Issue 14). The Green Cone is a specially designed unit to digest waste food, both raw and cooked, the latter not being put on a compost heap, as it attracts rats.

Throughout the year, approximately 2 litres of assorted leftovers, including meat and fish, have been added every 4 or 5 days. Happily, we can report that it is all gradually decomposing, doesn't smell and has never attracted vermin.

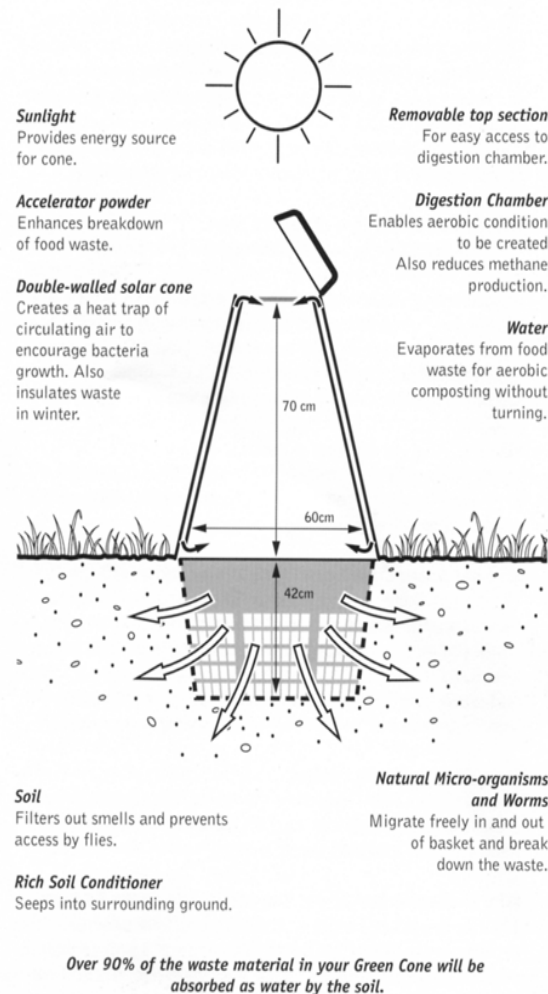
It was not too difficult to install, because we chose a part of the garden which has a good depth of topsoil, so digging the 2-foot deep hole for the basket did not take long. The cone and lid were

then attached easily with self-tapping screws. A small caddy was provided for storing the food waste and transporting it up the garden. It has a charcoal filter in the lid which efficiently prevents any odour escaping. The whole thing is easily washed once emptied. Green Cone also recommends the use of an accelerator powder in the winter months; judging by what we've used already, the jar that came with it should last us another couple of winters.

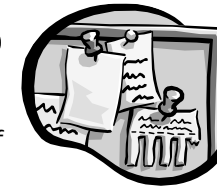
We are delighted with the performance of the Green Cone thus far. The only snag would be the initial outlay of £66.90 including VAT! Some councils have offered subsidised Green Cones to their residents. Could Brighton and Hove be persuaded to do it? It would certainly 'slim the bins'!

*Jenn Price*

### HOW IT WORKS



## NOTICEBOARD



**LIVE-IN CAT SITTER** wanted from 18th to 29th December. Free use of all household services, + small remuneration. Phone 621162. References required.

**WANTED** - on-site massage chair in good condition. Phone 0870 7773348

Moving Hands Theatre and Birmingham Rep present  
**The Ugly Eagle**  
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The Guardian  
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Gardner Street, Brighton Box Office 01273 647100 www.komedia.co.uk

## 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 3740G  
**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

## DEADLINE FOR THE SPRING ISSUE

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

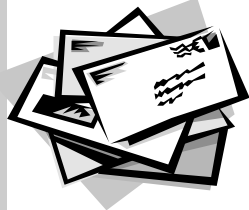
If you enjoy your newsletter, please make a contribution to it. There is a Newsletter planning meeting every quarter at 66 Richmond Road. Please phone 276386 for details.

## TENDERS REQUIRED FOR COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Now the road closure is in place with the planter full of lovely plants and the beautiful Rowan tree planted, the Round Hill Society would like to install a community notice board so that our wonderful delivery team don't have to slog round the streets delivering leaflets every time we want to alert people to something in between Round Hill Reporters. Any competent carpenters out there, please contact one of the Committee Members to find out the spec. and send your quote to our new Secretary, Jan Dirksen, 92 Richmond Road, Tel: 697587. Thank you.



## POST BOX



Dear Editor

The traffic calming is a major relief in D'Aubigny Road! For years we had 'rat runners', 'joy riders' and taxis using Princes Rd and Richmond Rd into D'Aubigny as a quick route to the Upper Lewes Road and the Gyrotory. We suffered several accidents and hit and run incidents. Now all is a lot calmer and I wish to say a big thank you to those involved in setting it up. I'm even prepared not to get cross when all the parking in our street is taken up by car and van owners who seem to come from the Upper Lewes Road! Recent letters to the Round Hill Reporter give me cause for concern. Traffic calming should be extended in our area not swapped from street to street. Let's campaign for traffic calming to be extended throughout Round Hill to improve the quality of life for us all.

To further improve Round Hill, is any one else interested in campaigning for planting trees in our streets and also to put pressure on our thoughtless neighbours who dump their household rubbish onto the street days before the refuse round - and even worse those amongst us who dump their old furniture on our street corners!

Regards

Annie McCabe and Steve Rimington  
8 D'Aubigny Rd

*We're working on the tree planting issue. See p. 8 - Ed.*

Dear Editor,

I have lived in this area for five years, having moved from the Hanover district where I spent thirteen years. Although I like Round Hill, there are things that I miss—the Hanover community; its pubs, but most of all

Queen's Park. The fact that there is no open space here has always been an irritation, especially as there is land seemingly unused (beside the 'Cat Creep', for example). Your suggestion in the last edition of the Round Hill Reporter that the lower north side of Prince's Road might be wrested from developers and turned into a community garden, park or something else of genuine benefit to us all seemed a most welcome suggestion that I would wholeheartedly support, and I hope that those of like mind will lobby the Council to create such an amenity.

Yours sincerely

Paul Holmes  
7 Mayo Court, Richmond 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.

Dear Editor

Thanks for the work everyone puts into the Newsletter. It is very much appreciated!

I am writing with both a beef and a bouquet for you and the other readers.

The beef is for people that fell trees.

On two separate occasions in the last two weeks I've seen mature trees being felled unnecessarily. I'd like the Newsletter to remind residents that we live in a Conservation Area and it is illegal to fell or lop a tree without an application to the Council. Six weeks' notice is required to allow for the Council's consideration and those that do not have prior permission can be prosecuted. The restrictions governing conservation are in place to protect our environment and I urge residents to be empowered enough to call the Council if they see any future 'deforestation'. Considering we are lobbying the Council for

more trees in the area, it is such a shame to see a regression of the greenery. Unfortunately, it was too late to stop the 4 trees that neither we - nor the wildlife - will enjoy next spring. But the matter is now with the Council (FYI the team responsible can be contacted on 292187).

The bouquet is for a carpenter, Drew Davidson [See page 7 for details] who is the consummate professional and one of the few craftsmen I feel confident to recommend.

Name and address supplied.

Dear Editor

### Fiveways Playgroup

Were you or your children (or aunts, uncles, cousins - even twice removed) involved with the building of Fiveways Playgroup in the field at the bottom of Florence Road during the years 1970 to 1974? If so, perhaps you would be interested in a copy of a history of this momentous event available from me, Marigold Rogers, 50 Prince's Road (tel. 600993) This small book was put together by Flaire Chatfield and me, partly as a memorial to Deidre Martin who instigated the building of the playgroup and who sadly died unexpectedly in March 2002.

I also have a number of photos taken during the early 70's and if you think there may be one you would like (they are mainly of playgroup parents and children at fund-raising events) then do ring me to arrange to see them.

Marigold Rogers  
50 Prince's Road

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## NOTES FROM A WILDLIFE GARDEN — JAN CURRY

“WE CAN ALL BE CONSERVATIONISTS THIS WINTER - IT COSTS PEANUTS!”

The garden is slowly closing down now for winter. There are, however, lots of berries on various shrubs and the winter flowering honeysuckle rocks the garden with perfume on days when the sun breaks through.

A squirrel has taken up residence (driving our and our surrounding neighbours' dogs crazy, as it leaps through the bare branches of the trees). The flower beds are full of tiny, newly-dug holes where he has buried fruits and hazel nuts, only to dig them up again to relocate elsewhere. [I reckon he's been burying all the crocus bulbs he's been stealing from my garden! - Ed]

I have put half a dozen cheap plastic hanging baskets round the garden, filled with earth. Three hold dishes of water and bird food is scattered on top of the earth in the other three. Having so many feeding stations helps the smaller birds get a look in. One bird table just encourages squabbles and precious eating time is wasted. Sparrows, wrens, robins and blue tits are particularly at risk. In winter, a bird will have less than eight hours to find scarce food. It converts food into fat and burns the fat reserves to survive through the long hours of darkness. Small birds cannot



store enough fat to last more than one night at a time. We can make such a difference by providing extra, easily obtainable food and, in return, they will bring the garden alive with movement, song and colour and next spring they will clear your garden of aphids and bugs in no time.

If you or your children have a moment to spare, it is well worth logging on to [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk). The website is full of ideas as to how to make gardens a real haven, including recipes given by TV top chefs for..... bird cakes!

## GARDENS AND WILDLIFE - ROB STEPHENSON

Mike Toms, of the British Trust for Ornithology, has said, "Collectively, gardens make up the best nature reserve we've got in this country." Recent BTO research shows that gardens provide homes for over 300,000 pairs of song thrushes, and with good management this could be 500,000. But there are threats to urban wildlife, not least the trend for tidy gardens, making them extensions of indoor living spaces.

Paving, patios and decking; replacing tall trees and shrubs with neat flower beds and shorter perennial planting can all lead to starvation amongst young bird populations through a shortage of grubs and insects.

Research at Sheffield University reveals that the strongest positive correlation with better wildlife is presence of trees and shrubs over two metres tall. The gentrification of gardens is also linked to the growth of garden pesticide use by 114% between 1997 and 2001, according to the Pesticides Action Network.

Ultimately we are all responsible for the quality of habitat we control: it's no good depending on others to have trees and shrubs, good nectar plants, log piles and ponds. Until a few weeks ago the garden next door but one to me was a mass of

brambles, trees and shrubs, offering nesting sites for blackbirds and shelter for small mammals and amphibians. The house has been refurbished and the garden almost entirely cleared, huge diversity replaced by new lawn, bare fence panels and a large area of bark chippings.

Government planning policy isn't helping either, with a national target for 60% of new homes to be built on previously developed land, a definition which includes back gardens. In Round Hill we have lost open space to housing behind Belton Road and between Princes Road and Richmond Road, but in both cases some open space has been retained.

The latest threatened open space is between the railway and Prince's Road. In 2001 young people, aided by then resident David Hodd, surveyed this piece of land for its wildlife. They recorded 63 different species, seen on the day or reported as regular visitors by residents, including foxes, hedgehogs, common newts, hawk

dragonflies, frogs, hummingbird hawk moths and rufous grasshoppers. The wrong kind of development could lose us all of these species, but a modest and sensitive development could improve the habitat for these and many more creatures.

Of course no building at all, and active wildlife management, would be best for the habitat. According to a recent edition of *Urbio*, the English Nature urban wildlife magazine, many local authorities have wildlife policies that protect back-land areas behind houses - perhaps we should be looking for a proactive policy from our Council?

*Rob Stephenson*

### Exterior House Painting



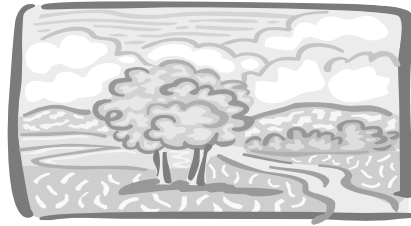
thinking of repainting?  
ask me for a quote

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

**Rob Stephenson - 673511**



## SOUTH DOWNS CAMPAIGN - TAKE ACTION!



The South Downs campaign – to which the Round Hill Society is affiliated – is urging us to write objecting to the proposal of their Councils to restrict the South Downs National Park to the narrow chalk ridge, thus excluding huge Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the low weald of West

Sussex and elsewhere.

If you decide to do this, please copy your letter to Cllr Keith Taylor c/o King's House, Grand Avenue, Hove, BN3 2LS, urging Brighton & Hove Council to contact WSCC and Chichester DC. If these two Councils get their way, then significant areas near us would be excluded from the Park, including Lewes, Hamsey, Ditchling, Street, Bramber and Steyning and the countryside around them, as well as land south of Ringmer. The campaign hopes to encourage Brighton & Hove Council, which supports a larger Park, to

contact WSCC and Chichester DC, urging them to give up their minority opinion. The

addresses to write to are as follows:

Cllr Henry Smith  
Leader of West Sussex  
County Council  
16 Gregory Close  
Maidenbower  
Crawley  
W Sussex

And

Cllr Janet Duncton  
Leader, Chichester District  
Council  
Osiers Farm  
London Road  
Petworth  
W Sussex GU28 9LX

*Rob Stephenson*

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## ROUND HILL COMMUNITY E-MAIL LIST

As mentioned in the last edition of the Round Hill Reporter, an e-mail 'group' has been created to allow for the exchange of news, information and questions pertinent to the residents of Round Hill.

Already those subscribed to the e-group have discussed everything from the proposed developments behind Prince's Road to the availability of spare plants, the existence of hedgehogs on Round Hill and the search for a recommended domestic cleaner.

Membership of the e-group is free and open to anyone living on Round Hill. For those concerned about an ever-expanding

inbox, you can select to receive a daily digest of all emails sent to the list, although so far traffic has been limited to only one or two mails per week.

Some people experienced difficulty subscribing using the web address provided in the last issue, so here is an amended address - simply visit:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/roundhill/>  
or even more simply, send an email to [Roundhill-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Roundhill-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

If you have any queries or have problems subscribing, please contact the list moderator direct on [steve@vadamedia.co.uk](mailto:steve@vadamedia.co.uk).

### 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

## IS THE NEW VIC HISTORY?

The New Vic, the pub in the heart of Round Hill has been closed for several weeks now. Apparently it has been so badly managed that it is cheaper to keep it closed than to pay staff to open it up. What a disaster! This pub could be a thriving business for our community, but there is the possibility that the owners,

Punch Taverns Ltd, may sell it to developers for housing. I'm sure not many residents want that to happen. We need a community building in this area and a focal point. Please let me know your views. What sort of pub would *you* like in our community?

*Vivien Eliades*

## SOLAR PANELS - STILL WAITING

In mid-July we applied for planning permission to install a solar panel on our south facing roof. During August we had a visit from a planning committee inspector, who seemed positive, so when we received a letter saying the current plan would be turned down we were somewhat surprised. It transpired that the conservation department felt it was too visible on the pitched roof and would be detrimental to the

character of the area! They would only accept it on the flat roof of the rear extension where it could not be seen from the surrounding houses, in particular Belton Road.

We decided to resubmit with a plan for the rear flat roof, so a new set of elevations had to be rapidly drawn up to meet the original deadline. It also involved a change in the design of the solar panel itself. The revised plan was accepted on September 8<sup>th</sup> and we were ready to proceed. However, the next problem arrived when the installer informed us that a part for the new panel was out of stock and would take 6 weeks to arrive! We're still waiting....hopefully by the next issue....

*Ros Alder and Clive Baldwin*  
22 Prince's Road

Vivien Powell MTI, ITEC, MIGHT (AAP)  
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1 Albion Street, Brighton  
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And  
Unit 4 Natural Health Centre  
20-26 Round Hill St, Brighton

Tel: 07801 784240  
E-mail: [vivien@vivienpowell.com](mailto:vivien@vivienpowell.com)

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