



## THE ROUND HILL SOCIETY

RHS Newsletter Editor  
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Brighton

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## COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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Secretary	vacant		
Vice chair	Marian Gerrett	77 Princes Crescent	688009
Minutes Secretary	Jan Curry	58 Richmond Road	601320
Newsletter Editor	Vivien Eliades	66 Richmond Road	276386
Webmaster	David Guest	16a Wakefield Road	699476
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	Ted Power	55 Prince's Road	688102

## NEW WALKING/CYCLING OFFICER

Brighton and Hove Council have recently appointed Dean Spears to the new post of Walking and Cycling Officer. In the year when the Council draws up a new Local Transport Plan for the city, he might be just the person to contact for concerns about getting around more easily and safely.

Dean recommends a new cycling route map, available on the council website: [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk) (type 'cycling' in the search box on their home page) or by post on request to his office, tel. 01273 293813 or e-mail [dean.spears@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:dean.spears@brighton-hove.gov.uk)



## NOTICEBOARD

Friendly tom kitten, black, looking for happy home with garden. £20. Phone Pete or Sabine 239299.

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## 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](mailto: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  
**Tom Plumb** 07973 551841

### CARPENTERS

**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](mailto:LDW@nikau.fsnet.co.uk)

### GARDENERS

**Sadie at Plant People** Tel: 562425, Mobile: 07881 992762  
**Bruce Jonas Tree Surgeon** Tel.: 693247

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

## COMMITTEE NEWS

Adios, Jan, welcome Dave

We sadly have to report that we've lost one of our valued committee members. Jan Dirksen, together with her husband Ernst, moved to sunnier climes at the end of August. Jan has been a really supportive committee member and excellent Secretary, writing potent letters and getting things done. She will be sorely missed and we look forward to receiving her 'Notes from a Spanish Hillside' once they're settled in their new home.

David Guest, who designed our wonderful website (see page 3) has joined the committee as webmaster. Ted Power, who initially designed the website and continues to work relentlessly in many areas, including the Carelet planning application, is now member without portfolio.

No one has yet come forward to take the post of Secretary. The Annual General Meeting will be during the week beginning 14 November. Notices will go out when we firm up the date, but if you are keen to join the committee, please send your nominations (signed and seconded) to the Chair, Rob Stephenson, at 51 Upper Lewes Road, no later than 21 October 2005.

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 21  
September 2005

## A BLOOMING SUCCESS

It was a glorious, sunny afternoon and everyone who had offered to open their garden looked forward to the event with a mixture of excitement and nervous anticipation. Noone knew whether opening up our gardens for the afternoon for other local residents to come and view would be successful, and for the first half hour, it seems that there was very little interest. However, the first visitors arrived at half past two and then there was a steady flow until we finally shut our doors at five o'clock.

I recorded nearly one hundred people visiting our garden and it was interesting to talk to them and share 'garden know-how'. There seemed to be a great sense of community throughout the afternoon and it was good to be able to chat to those with whom we had previously only had a nodding acquaintance. Encouraging comments were received and we were only too sorry that our knowledge of plant names was sadly lacking.

The Round Hill Society committee would like to hear any comments or suggestions about repeating the event another year. Perhaps other people might be encouraged to volunteer their gardens; we might be able to organise a themed quiz or treasure hunt for children; refreshments could be sold in aid of a local charity.



When I look at my garden a month later, there have been significant changes in the plant life and marigolds and roses have given way to cosmos, sweet peas and nasturtiums. The runner beans are in full flower and squash plants are starting to go berserk. Maybe another open garden event could be staged later in the year to reflect the subtle changes of the season.

Thanks are due to all those who offered their gardens, as well as those who trod the trail! It was wonderful to view our local area from another perspective.

*Terry Tidman*

I was hoping to include some of the many letters of appreciation and some more photos of this event, but we have so much to fit into this issue, I just ran out of space. Thanks to all who took the time to write. You can view the photos on our website: [www.roundhill.org.uk](http://www.roundhill.org.uk)

[Ed]

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### And much more!

## OUR 21ST ISSUE!

It's hard to believe, but our very first Round Hill Reporter was issued in February 2000. In those days, it was in A5 format, printed on our photocopier and only distributed to paid-up Members of the Round Hill Society. Now that everyone who lives in the area is automatically a member, we print the newsletter at the Resource Centre and deliver a copy to every household. The costs are paid for by advertisers, so I'd like to say a big 'thank you' to them for their invaluable support. With four changes in editor over the last 5 years, we've gone from strength to strength and I sometimes wonder how we're going to fit everything in!

To celebrate our 21st birthday, we've devised a quiz for you—see page 5.



## HAVE YOU MADE YOUR MIND UP?

If you haven't written voicing your concerns about the plans for Hollingdean Depot, now is the time, it's not too late. The Chief Planning Officer for Brighton and Hove City Council, Martin Randall, has made it clear that all objections will be taken into account. At the last public meeting held by the Council (after demands by the local community that they consult with us) it was very clear that the Council has no other sites in mind and that Onyx will simply continue to amend the planning application until it is passed. The cost for both Onyx and the Council if they cannot have a site in the city will be extremely high.

The Council appears to be trying to pass this wholly inappropriate development simply to avoid fines

from Central Government and the EU. In contrast to small grass roots recycling bodies that see recycling as a positive act, the Council seems to portray it as a response to pressure being put on it.

If the plans are agreed, the Waste Transfer Station will be the drop-off point for every single black bin bag in the whole of Brighton and Hove. We believe that no account at all has been taken of the physical and psychological health effects on the people who are living in this community.

City Clean have already transferred all of their vehicles to the site where previously they were spread across the city. The savings made by the Council in time and money will be negligible in comparison to the costs already being paid by those people unfortunate enough to have this depot on their doorstep. These include people living in one of the most densely



populated areas of the city and 800 schoolchildren whose lessons and lives are already being

disrupted by the activity on the site and its HGV traffic.

We say 'Small is Beautiful': we are happy to deal with our own rubbish in our own local community, but feel it is unreasonable to expect one community to pay the price of a serious increase in noise, smell, artificial lights, HGV movements at all times of the day and night, stress and air pollution, to enable the processing of ALL the waste from the whole of Brighton and Hove.

*Carmen & Diana - Princes Rd*

### THINK BEFORE YOU BUY

Do you really need to buy goods that are heavily packaged? Wouldn't it be nice to cook a proper meal instead of a microwave packet? Do you really need yet another plastic carrier bag? In France and other European countries, you have to pay for every plastic bag you use. It's up to us as individuals to take responsibility for our own waste. There are tips on how to reduce your waste on [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk)



## STARGAZING IN ROUND HILL

As an amateur stargazer, I am often frustrated that Brighton is one of the worst places in the world for observing the skies! The huge output of electric lights from London and the south coast drowns out most of the faintest stars but there is still a lot that can be seen and even a few minutes sky-watching after a barbecue can reveal many interesting sights.

One of the most dominant star formations in the sky at the moment is the so-called "Summer triangle". I look forward to this every year - the first time you see it, summer is well and truly on its way. At the moment if you look

down from Round Hill towards the sea at about 10 o'clock in the evening, these stars hang high up in the sky roughly over the Pavilion. As the autumn wears on, they will gradually move over to the west, a little more each night.

I think the Summer Triangle is interesting because although the three stars appear to be about the same brightness, they are quite different. The star known as Altair is one of the closest neighbouring stars to our own and very similar to the Sun.

The star at the top right corner, Vega, is much bigger, about three times the size of the Sun and lies a bit further away, although that is still relatively close on

the scale of the galaxy as a whole. It has often been regarded as a likely candidate for making "contact" - it only takes 50 years for radio or television waves to travel there and back so is one of the first places where human signals might be interpreted and a reply broadcast!

The star at top left is called Deneb and by contrast, is just about the furthest star that we can see without telescopes. Estimates of its distance vary slightly but when you look up at that star, the light you are seeing probably set out on its journey before the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. All this time it has travelled across space just to be absorbed by your eyes.

Although it is so far away, it is very bright and very big - if it were placed in the centre of our solar system, the Earth would be inside it!

Dave Guest



To vote at any election in 2006, your name must be included in the next electoral register. **Make sure you fill in your registration form.**

For more info call 291999 or email [electors@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:electors@brighton-hove.gov.uk)



## ROUND HILL READING GROUP CLOUD ATLAS BY DAVID MITCHELL

This, our choice for June 2005, is a somewhat challenging book, written in six contrasting sections, which are in turn subdivided into twelve halves. The first half of what are in fact novellas, often leaves the reader on a cliff edge. Of course, if you really can't wait you can skip the intervening sections and read the second half right away. However, this would be a pity, since it is this anticipation that spurs the reader on.

The scope of this book stretches from the 19<sup>th</sup> century journal of a passenger on a schooner to a terrifying post-apocalyptic future. The pace and style of writing changes to suit the period and subject and at times it is difficult to believe that it is just one person's imagination at work. Although the book is derivative (echoes of Conrad - 'Heart of Darkness' in particular - some of Angela Carter's work and a slick American tv serial, as well as the relationship between Frederick Delius and Eric Fenby), this by no means detracts from the book, which can be recommended as a rattlingly good read.

The choices in July and August were 'The House of Sleep' by Jonathan Coe and 'The Poisonwood Bible' by Barbara Kingsolver. The books chosen for the next two months are: 'The Photograph' by Penelope Lively for September and 'The Time Traveller's Wife' by Audrey Niffenegger for October.

- Answers to Quiz on Page 5:
1. Ashdown Road side of 79 Round Hill Crescent
  2. 50 Prince's Road (the flint house)
  3. 36 Round Hill Crescent
  4. 103 Round Hill Crescent - look up at the roof
  5. Victoria Pub - corner of Richmond and Mayo Roads
  6. 77 Prince's Road
  7. Za Round Hill Road
- Thanks to everyone for their original features!

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## CARELET'S NEW PROPOSALS

You will have received a letter of objection to Carelet's revised planning application and, hopefully, posted it in the envelope provided. Jenn and Marigold have put in all the legwork on this and must be thanked for their efforts, particularly for all those handwritten envelopes! Hopefully you'll have sent off your letter and the application will be refused again. The date for receipt of objections was 23 August, but late objections will be accepted. If you need more information on this issue, log onto [www.roundhill.biz](http://www.roundhill.biz) which is updated very frequently and gives all the information you could possibly need.

Editor

## ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL

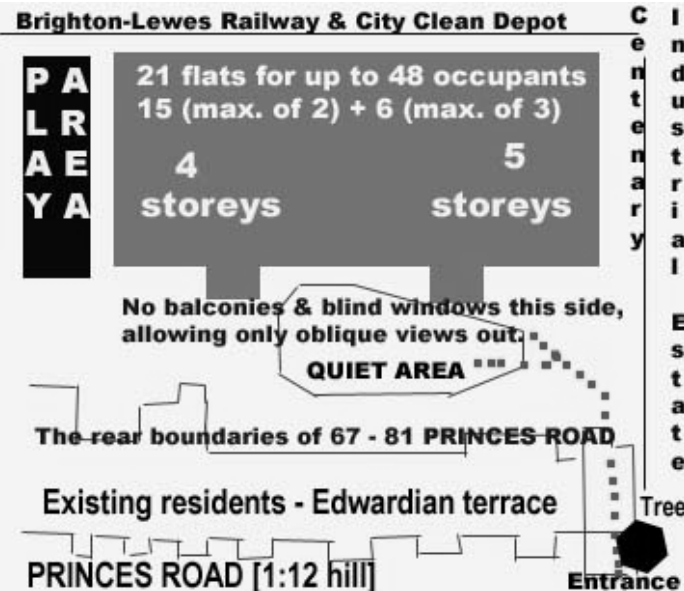
Carelet claims this new scheme "represents a positive response to all the reasons for refusal and therefore is now one that can be supported by the City Council." It is still a bulky overdevelopment with insufficient amenity space. The sole access point for up to 48 new residents, their visitors and their belongings would be a small Gatehouse squeezed between 81 Princes Road and the protected horse chestnut tree. It would then be necessary to travel by lift two storeys down to get to a crammed accommodation block overlooking the railway, the CityClean Depot and the Centenary Industrial Estate.

So how do these new plans differ? The building would still match the height of the railway trees. The proposed five storey flat-roofed building of galvanised metal, brick and timber does not in any way echo

the typical materials characteristic of Round Hill's Conservation Area. So what has changed?

The horse chestnut tree will be kept, but will probably die as a result of the building work. Steps have been taken to prevent existing residents from suffering overlooking and loss of privacy, but this is by way of frosted glass, thus cancelling its own tenants' views and diminishing their light. There is also planned wheelchair access throughout, but no provision for disabled parking; and sheltered space for all 37 bicycles needed for this "car-free development," but who will ride bikes on a 1:12 hill? The number of flats has been reduced to 21, but that's still at least 48 extra residents.

What about noise? The small



rectangular "Play Area" next to the tower block appears to have been designated for children regardless of age and you can't expect those using the "Quiet Area" to meditate all the time!

The difficult terrain and size of the units would rule out the elderly, the disabled or the sick. So if any of these new tenants wanted to "let off steam", they would just have to "get on their bikes" and not congregate in Princes Road. One of Carelet's Design Principles is to "integrate the project into the local community". Their new proposal for crammed accommodation without infrastructure of its own attempts to do this by 'robbing Peter to pay Paul'.

Ted Power

## HOPE FOR PEDESTRIANS IN UPPER LEWES ROAD

Brighton and Hove Environment directorate have agreed to carry out surveys this autumn with a view to providing 'green man' crossings at the junction of Ditchling and Upper Lewes Roads in all directions, and also make improvements in pedestrian safety along the Upper Lewes Road.

At present, people walking down Ditchling Road on the left are marooned and have to take a chance against constant traffic from one of three directions. The hope is that the lights will be re-designed to

provide a safe crossing from this point by momentarily delaying just the left lane of traffic coming from Viaduct Road.

In the Upper Lewes Road the Council appears to be against pelican crossings because of the number of points at which people cross — they suggest instead, looking at reducing speeding by calming measures such as chicanes.

It is people in the immediate area who have the expertise to decide how their roads can be improved: in Upper Lewes Road, for example, some may favour pelican crossings at strategic points, or

freeing parking to reduce speeds.

Residents will also need to monitor what the Council does — at present there is only a promise to investigate solutions, and results could be a long way off. Still, after three years' on and off badgering, I am delighted that the Council's actions may soon match the promises made in a smug article of City news in 2002: "safe... clean... fair... transport system... pedestrians safer than ever..."

Let's help make sure real improvements happen.

Peter Meakins



## JAN'S WILDLIFE GARDEN 'LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO ANOTHER WEB SITE'

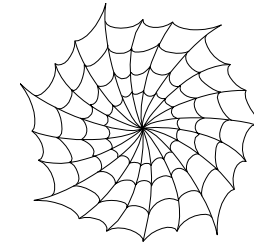


Let me introduce you to another web site. It is in my garden (probably in yours too). I guess it's that time of year again because spiders are always lurking around but are most in evidence right now — early autumn. Their webs weave through the stems of flowers, the branches of shrubs and even over blades of grass. In the morning dew or after a shower of rain, they glisten with diamond-like droplets of moisture - gossamer, but completely waterproof.

The webs look so delicate, but my indoor web site tells me that the strands of a spider's web are five times stronger than steel of the same thickness and can stretch to four times their own length. The spider spins different threads for different purposes: some strands are thick, some thin; some strands are sticky to trap or wrap up prey, while others are not and are used

as walkways by the spider (it would be a bit uncool to get stuck in your own web, I should imagine).

Spiders usually spin a new web every day — they eat the old one, as the protein nourishes them. A web with hundreds of individual attachments to each silk line takes less than half an hour to complete. The



information then becomes very technical, because although the strands begin as liquid silk, they are immediately hardened when mixed with acid, also produced by the spider. I stop staring at the screen; the information is too mind-boggling, but I feel strangely pleased that scientists are finding it difficult to reproduce a spider's web.

Not all the spiders in this garden make webs: there are some that live in the wood pile that hide and then

jump out onto passing prey. The old walls that surround most of the gardens in this street are also favourite hiding places and are used when the spider is moulting its skin, which it does two or three times in a year.

Garden spiders fascinate me, although the angry buzz they sometimes make when I accidentally walk into the webs hung across the path is a bit disturbing — I didn't realise they could make a noise.

Spiders in the garden, wonderful: spiders in the bath or scuttling over the bed clothes, not. I go bananas and my long-suffering husband has to catch them and put them outside. Never kill a spider — it will bring you years of bad luck, so my Nan said, and I believed her — still do. Spare that spider, it will kill more flies and insects in its short life than you'll ever kill in your long one.



## ROUND HILL ONLINE (THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE)

Have you logged on to the website recently? If not, you may not recognise it as it has had a spring clean with a fresh new look. As the site is growing, it has been split into three sections to make it easier to browse the wealth of information about the area including local links, pictures and a map of Round Hill.

You can now search the site for particular words and there is also the facility to update information on the pages yourself, even if you are not a computer guru! See the site for more details: [www.roundhill.org.uk](http://www.roundhill.org.uk).

The site was re-designed by Dave Guest, a web professional who has lived in Round Hill for five years.

From a background in the management of large financial services' web sites, Dave currently works as a freelance web developer.



David Guest

Dave has now joined the Round Hill Society Committee responsible for IT. Many thanks to Dave for giving his professional expertise free of charge.

Ted Power, who originally set up the website, continues to work relentlessly in many ways for the Society, and his contributions are greatly appreciated.

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## HORRIFIC CAT SHOOTINGS START AGAIN

Two cats have been shot in the head, two years after another belonging to the same family lost an eye. The gunman, using a high-powered air gun, has been picking off the family's pets over a two-year period, almost killing three of their four cats. Two of Karen Holland and Tim Walker's cats were shot in the eyes in the same week in August this year and a third lost an eye when it was shot near their home in April 2003, leaving the couple with a £1,000 vet's bill. They have asked police to investigate.

Cats belonging to neighbours have experienced similar shootings. The houses back onto the triangle made up of Wakefield Road, Upper Lewes Road/ Round Hill Crescent and the cat creep. After the 2003 shooting they thought that whoever was responsible had left the area because it had stopped, but it appears the shooter has just been lying low.

Karen and Tim are now keeping their pets indoors but fear the gunman may take aim at dogs, other animals or even people. A spokeswoman for Sussex Police said: "These incidents have caused great distress to the owners. Police take this crime very seriously and will fully investigate any reports made to us. We would urge any cat owners who have suffered similar incidents to report the crime to us. We are keen to find out if one person is behind this and would ask the public to give us any information they may have."



"Anyone with information, or who may have been a witness to one of these incidents, is asked to contact Brighton and Hove Police on 0845 6070999."

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for full details



## CAR CLUB UPDATE

The publicity for the Brighton and Hove City Car Club in a recent issue of the Reporter resulted in about 10 enquiries – not enough by about half to put the Round Hill area high on the list of potential sites for new vehicles. On the other hand, four local people are now members, using the existing vehicles near the Level and in Springfield Road.

According to Simon Bannister, who is co-ordinating the project, the best this area might hope for, as things stand, is to have a vehicle placed somewhere on Ditchling Road towards Fiveways; nearer than at present, but still a bit of a walk for some and at least several months away.

Express an interest or get more information from Simon on 766666/www.citycarclubs.co.uk

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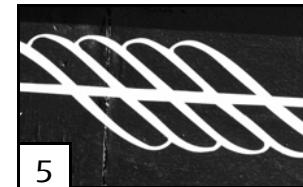
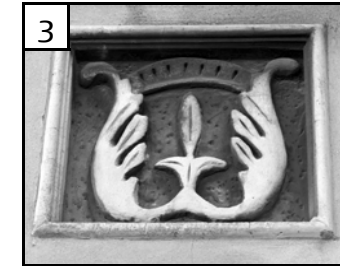
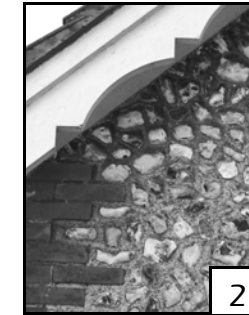
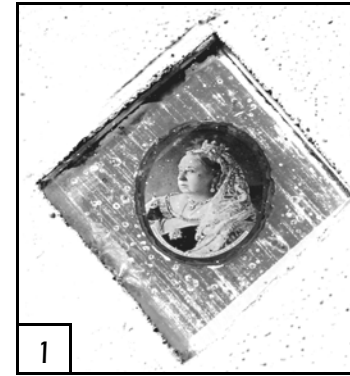
**Established December 1983**



## 21ST BIRTHDAY QUIZ



To celebrate our 21st issue, we thought we'd test you on the area you live in. Below is a selection of images of features in and around the Round Hill area. Can you identify them and their locations? Answers on page 7.



Photos by  
Vivien Eliades

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL

The pub at the junction of Mayo and Richmond Roads is close to the geographical centre of Round Hill, but couldn't have been described as the hub of the community.

Following a £120,000 refit, the renamed Victoria is open again, under the management of Stuart Penkethman and his partner Michelle. They want the pub to become the centre of the community and are planning to bring Sky TV ("But that doesn't mean football every night," says Stuart), a pub quiz, a weekly raffle, live music, a guest ale (in addition to Harveys) and food from the new kitchen.

Building up a new customer base will take time and so I urge those of you who want a 'local' to get down to the Victoria, say hello to Stuart and Michelle, buy a drink and let them know what you want from your community pub.

*Rob Stephenson*

There's usually a few of the committee members in there on a Wednesday evening – you're welcome to join them. [Ed]

## WINTER DEADLINE

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

## CHRISTMAS!!

Sorry to mention the C-word so early, but please make sure you start practising your yuletide songs in plenty of time for our annual Carols and Candles procession in December.

## THE VICTORIA Your friendly local

Under new management  
Completely refurbished with  
outside seating area



Your hosts, Stuart and Michelle, offer Harveys beer, a wide range of beverages, and a very warm welcome.

Watch the blackboard for guest beers, food, quiz nights and other events.

Corner of Richmond & Mayo Roads