

Penelope Keech	Interviewed by Jeanette Payne 27.1.15
4.00	<p>Lived in North Park Avenue. Was born in Bristol. Came to Roundhay in 1976. Secretary of Roundhay Conservation Society – want area to stay green and leafy. Lack of good roads – need new tarmac. Society interacts with events in Oakwood, run by her daughter. An exciting few years.</p> <p>They have decorated and refurbished the shops. Need more parking. Use of shops has changed. Safeways to the Co-op. Tesco used to be the Blackburn factory. Sorry that Homebase has gone. Had plants and fencing all round the outside. Lovely plaque on Tesco building. Lovely tram lines.</p> <p>Wish they would bring cinema back. Would love trams back. Bring back a little bit of history. Clock cinema is lovely place.</p>
8.45	<p>Gipton Woods – my daughter planted wild flowers there. Traces of mining all over.</p> <p>Trams finished at the clock.</p> <p>Penny is known as ‘the hedgehog lady’. Started in early 1980s and finished 8 years ago. Had a wonderful vet and he helped with hedgehogs. Also took in birds. Had a lot of success. Good self publicist. People still ring her. Used to take hedgehogs into groups and schools. Beavers and Rainbows too. Want to educate people.</p>
10.45	<p>Schools in Oakwood were wonderful – a genuine emotional event. Kids really responsive.</p> <p>Roundhay St John’s School – ideal school for little talks to kids – very bright and responsive children.</p> <p>We have good habitats for wildlife. Further down from school there are some very large listed buildings. Lots of lovely houses. We have the Mansion House in Roundhay Park – very rich industrialists built these houses.</p>
18.15	<p>Roundhay conservation only came into being in 1976.</p> <p>Father in law invented ballpoint ink and set up Inventors’ Galas. Went on a fire engine in Arena, all dressed up. Father in law collected fire engines.</p> <p>Remember Children’s Day when very young. Wonderful events in park. ie. Michael Jackson, Simple Minds, Rolling Stones. Went to see Robbie Williams. Gave the city a boost. Feel park is underused.</p> <p>We are very lucky here – we are a focal point. Lovely pubs – so popular. People come from further afield – a pleasurable place to come.</p>