Officers and Committee - Trust Annual Report 1967

President	Admiral Sir William Andrewes K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.	Sparkford House, St Cross Road, Winchester
Vice President	The Very Reverend O.H. Gibbs-Smith, C.B.E.	Dean of Winchester
Vice President	Lady Charlotte Bonham-Carter	
Vice President	Ralph Dutton, Esq., F.S.A.	
Chairman	Mr F.D.E. Pare, D.F.A.(LOND.)	Abbey Mill House, Colebrook Street, Winchester
Hon. Treasurer	Mr P. Longhurst	Barlclays Bank, Winchester
Hon. Secretary	Miss C. DE C. Hamilton	Colebrook Cottage, Colebrook Street, Winchester
Committee Members	Mr J. A. Broughall	13 Christchurch Road, Winchester
	Mrs W.J. Carpenter-Turner, J.P.	10 The Close, Winchester
	Mr W.J. Carpenter-Turner, A.R.I.B.A.	10 The Close, Winchester
	Dr E. Course	7 Fordington Avenue, Winchester
	Mr G. S. Course	Fairgirth, 60 Chilbolton Avenue, Winchester
	Mr G. Crompton	60 Canon Street, Winchester
	Mr J.R. Darling	8 College Street, Winchester
	Mr M.C. Gardener	Kingsland House, Chesil Street, Winchester
	Mr M.H. Hughes	Turret House, Brambridge Park, Bishopstoke
	Sir Lionel Lamb, K.C.M.G.	St Cross House, Winchester
	Lt. Col. H.E. Madge	Sandpits, Kingsgate Street, Winchester
	Sir John McNee, M.D., D.S.C., F.R.C.P.	Barton Edge, Worthy Road, Winchester
	Mr D.J. Smith, F.R.I.C.S.	78 Parchment Street, Winchester
	Mr R.D. Utting, A.R.I.B.A.	Itchen House, Bishopstoke
	Miss E. Viney	"Antiques", Chesil Street, Winchester

Mr W.D.R. Weller

25 St Thomas Street,
Winchester

Jeffrey Smith - Trust Annual Report 1967

For the second year in succession we are delighted to have as Mayor a founder member of the Committee of the Trust. Alderman Jeffrey Smith has rendered great service to the cause of Preservation in Winchester, and was Honorary Secretary to the Trust for several years. As a native of the City he has an intimate knowledge of the locality, and a deep regard for the many historic buildings which make Winchester the uniquely interesting place that it is.

Members of the Trust, and indeed all the citizens of Winchester, are greatly indebted to the Mayor for the very interesting exhibition he arranged at the Abbey House in connection with the Winchester '67 week. This showed many views of the City from the eighteenth century onwards. There is still much remaining that is worth fighting for, although too much was demolished in the first half of the century, before the necessity of preservation was understood or encouraged.

The Civic Trust - Trust Annual Report 1967

The year 1967 is outstanding for two things. First of all it marks the tenth anniversary of the Civic Trust. Founded by its president, Mr. Duncan Sandys, a former Minister of Housing and Local Government, it has resulted in a much keener national awareness of the environments where people live. During these years the number of amenity societies has grown from 150 to over 900.

Secondly 1967 is the year in which the Civic Amenities Bill has become law. For this we are again indebted to Mr. Sandys. The main provisions of this Bill were outlined in our report last year. They herald a new era in Preservation demanding new attitudes to planning procedures and techniques.

Ten Year Action Plan - Trust Annual Report 1967

Locally the year 1967 has seen the approval of Winchester's "Ten Year Action Plan" designed to solve the traffic problem. The views of the Preservation Trust have been put frward over the past few years, and some of these suggestions are adopted in the accepted plan.

The attitude of the Trust to the plan, however, is best summed up in the words of Professor Colin Buchanan, who is reported to have given his advice to the small town. "Insist upon a comprehensive demonstration of your problems, stick out for the removal of through traffic without necessarily specifying the means, and be extremely wary of accepting internal improvements, lest you find without realising it, that you have sacrificed your environment to through traffic."

Not only has the plan been accepted, but the sum of £1.9 million has been set aside for the scheme by the Ministry of Transport. The Trust can hardly feel jubilant about this. The £1.9 million spent on what Professor Buchanan sarcastically dubs "improvement" would have been far better spent on completing and improving the by-pass, which should have been done ten years ago. But the proposals of the City Council for the by pass have been delayed by the Government, and it is possible that the experience gained through diverting traffic round the city may well have resulted in quite different proposals within the city itself.

The Cathedral - Trust Annual Report 1967

The most important news for 1967 lies in the tremendous success of the Cathedral Appeal, which will provide funds for the maintenance of the fabric for a generation. This is plainly the most important factor in local Preservation.

We are very proud to have the Dean, whose efforts have achieved this wonderful response, as one of our vice-presidents.

But is not the setting of the Cathedral also very important? The many interests affecting Preservation outside the Close are very varied. One of the tasks of the Preservation Trust is to bring these interests to realise that Preservation is the concern of the whole community to provide a worthy setting.

The South Hampshire Plan - Trust Annual Report 1967

In January Professor Buchanan lectured at the School of Art on the South Hampshire Study. This had been commissioned by the Hampshire County Council, the City Councils of Portsmouth and Southampton and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Winchester falls outside the area, nevertheless it is probable if this development proceeds it would make Winchester even more important as an historic town. If the plan is not adopted, there is likely to be hardly less building, but without the organisation of the plan, leading to urban sprawl.

There are general principles, however, in the report which can be applied to the traffic problems of Winchester.

The first is the unsuitability of all historic European town plans for motor traffic. In these the traffic is all directed straight to the centre. The proposals for Winchester, which consist mainly of widening existing roads, do nothing to improve this situation. On the contrary, it allows more traffic to create confusion in the central narrow streets. This is one reason why the Trust has opposed the Romsey Road—St. Cross link.

On the other hand, Professor Buchanan has shown that by planning on the basis of a grid, this difficulty is avoided.

The grid can, in fact, take on a very wide range of shapes and need not be repetitive rectangles all of the same dimension. The same principle could be applied to Winchester, so that traffic is diverted round the City instead of through it. If the roads are improved, they will be used not only by local traffic but also by others.

One of the most penetrating asides made by Professor Buchanan was the statement that the two estates of the realm now consist of those members of the community who had the benefit of subsidized housing and on the other hand those who had not.

It is no business of a Preservation Trust to become involved in the political aspects of this situation, but a Trust such as ours is extremely interested in the type of houses that are built.

Overwhelmingly, people in Britain want houses, but the great majority of the population regard choice in housing as a luxury beyond their means. The problem is how to create massed housing quickly enough to meet the need, and attractive enough for people to enjoy living in them, yet without harm to an existing town, still fortunate enough to possess good architecture and a historic centre.

Preservation is very much concerned with harmonising the new and the old, and the way to achieve this is by using the best in present day design, particularly in housing, whether subsidized or not.

The Winchester Scene 1967 - Trust Annual Report 1967

The new car park in Sussex Street, with the extension of the County Council offices above, is nearing completion, while on the South side of the Westgate the foundations of the new law courts are being prepared. One can walk in the centre of the city quite unaware of these changes, but from St. Giles' Hill they brood heavily over the older parts of the city.

Number 79 High Street has gone at last. Illustrated in our report of 1963, it was long the concern of the Trust but alas it could not be saved.

The re-development of the Brooks area proceeds slowly on its undistinguished way. Nobody is likely to visit the Brooks area to see what a modern town should look like. On the contrary, they will hurry away from the new part of Winchester and the central

car park, so that they can enjoy the real Winchester they have heard about or already know. While this situation continues, how important that we should preserve what we have, while making sure that what is new is fitting.

The front of the India Arms has been altered, and although this has been tactfully done, nevertheless it is a pity that the one remaining inn, with an arch tall enough to take a stage coach, has disappeared. Developers have had an eye on this site for some time. Let us hope that other plans for the use of this site involving demolition have been abandoned once and for all.

Our thanks are also due to Messrs. Boots who have retained the gable over the new extension to their shop in the High Street.

Gonk - Trust Annual Report 1967

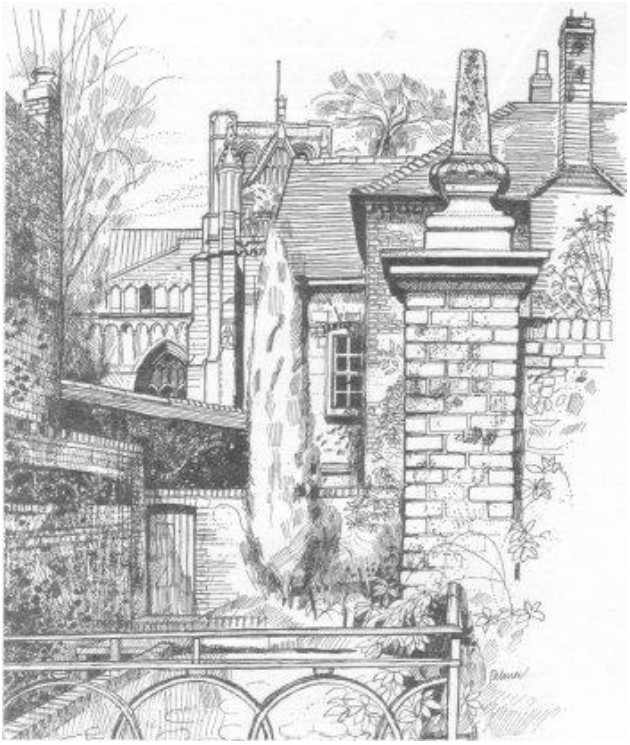
Our congratulations must go to members of the Winchester Eighteen-plus Group who worked one night to remove the "Gonk" on St. Catherine's Hill. This figure cut in the chalk was alleged to have been the work of Southampton University students, to draw attention to their "rag".

When the immediate effect of such jokes has worn off, they become very depressing as semi-permanent disfigurements of the daily scene.

It is very encouraging that these young people have the civic pride to efface the vulgar and unsightly mess made by outsiders.

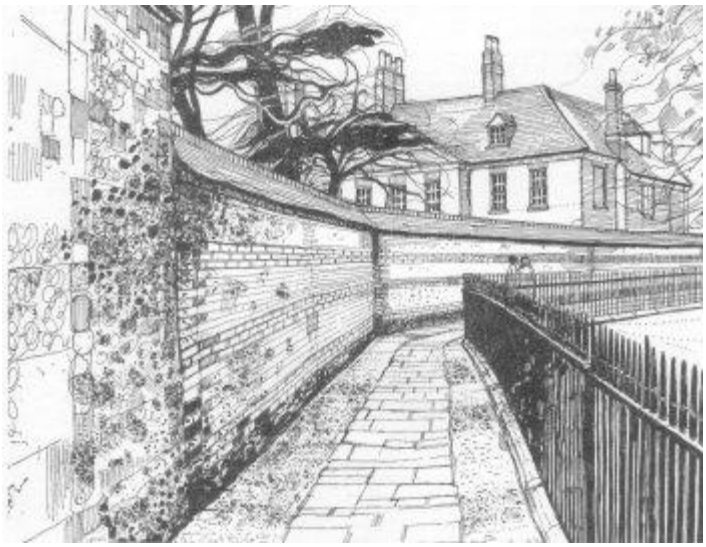
Walls - Trust Annual Report 1967

The Preservation Trust has begun to compile a record of walls in Winchester, noting how much they lend to the street scene. Members were asked to make a list of important walls in their vicinity and return this to the Secretary. There has been a good response, but of course to make this complete is an immense task which will require a long time. The drawings by Garrick Palmer which illustrate this report show just how important walls are.



Drawing by Garrick Palmer

There are probably more varieties of wall in this small area
by the water garden in Colebrook, than in any other part of Winchester



Drawing by Garrick Palmer

An important wall by the path leading to the Cathedral from the Watergate.

During the year the Winchester Town Plan was issued. This lays down guide lines for future planning and preservation and is an important document.

The record of a meeting held on March 21st between members of the Preservation Trust and members of the Hampshire County Council and City Council is given below.

Note of meeting with the Winchester Preservation Trust about the Winchester Town Centre Map.

21st March, 1967

PRESENT:

Representing	*Name*
Hampshire County Council	Mr Brown
	Mr Dolman
Winchester City Council	City Engineer
	Deputy Town Clerk
	Mr.W.A. Samson
Winchester Preservation Trust	Mr. Carpenter-Turner
	Mrs. Carpenter-Turner
	Miss Viney
	Mrs. Crompton
	Miss Hamilton
	Mr. Pare
	Mr.M.Gardener
	Dr.Hughes
	Dr.E. Course

Mr. Brown outlined the reasons for the meeting, and said that at the public meeting to consider the Winchester Town Centre Map there had been a suggestion made that the Trust should meet the County Council to discuss the matter. He made it clear that they were not proposing at this meeting to discuss in any way the traffic aspect of the Town Centre Map and made it quite clear that the Preservation Trust might wish to have a further meeting with the Highway authorities concerned with this aspect of the traffic plan.

He further pointed out that since the preparation of the Town Centre Map the Civic Amenities Bill had been presented to Parliament, and the control policy map might well have been different if prepared in the light of the possible new legislation in the form of the Civic Amenities Bill. He pointed out that the suggested Article IV Direction area shown on the Control Policy Map by a blue line might in fact be a conservation area on the lines of the Bill and there might well be other areas, but there would have to be further investigation about this aspect of the matter.

It was agreed that the Deputy Town Clerk should prepare and circulate to all parties a note of the meeting.

Mr. Pare then outlined the points made by the Preservation Trust and said that he would like to deal with the matter under the headings given by the notation on the control policy map. These were as follows:

Buildings to be kept if possible. The Trust criticised the words "if possible". They felt that it was rather stupid to have for example the Cathedral listed as a building to be kept "if possible" and felt that the buildings should be divided into two groups with the very important buildings in another category. Mr. Brown suggested that the words "if possible" were omitted ; the Map should merely refer to the listed buildings; when conservation areas were imposed this would accentuate any other important buildings which would have to be kept.
Mr. Gardner raised the point that the Preservation Trust might think of groups of buildings which were not on the statutory list but well worthy of preservation, but Mr. Brown said that he would be unwilling to pick out groups here and there though he well realised that it might be an opportune time to ask the Minister to revise the whole of the statutory list. Mr. Pare stated that there were a number of houses which the Preservation Trust thought should be added, and offered to make a list and send it to the County Council. The Trust also propose to make submissions to the County Council on areas which might become conservation areas in the future. Areas particularly mentioned were properties in Bridge Street near the City Mill, the City Bridge, Abbey House and Gardens and Kingsgate Street.

Roads which must not be widened. Mr. Pare made the point that they did not like seeing only parts of streets shown, but felt that the whole length of St. Peter Street and Parchment Street should be shown as far as North Walls. It was accepted that only part of Jewry Street had been shown, due to the partial widening at one end which had already taken place.
The Trust felt that we should consider including the following:
Colebrook Street from the end of Market Lane to the City Bridge;
St. Swithuns Street and Canon Street
The Trust also wanted Chesil Street and Hyde Street included as streets that should not be widened, but the City Engineer and Mr. Brown both said that the Corporation could only note their views at present, since these would probably be affected in part by the traffic plan.

Building line to be kept, but behind which rebuilding could take place. The Trust felt that this implies that rebuilding would take place, and since the plan showed it in most of the areas where there were historic buildings this might lead to misunderstandings. The City Engineer said that the intention was to ensure that the building line would be preserved on its present basis in the event of any future redevelopment, and it was generally agreed that the words "behind which rebuilding can take place" should be omitted, and that in denoting building lines on the map consideration might be given to the dotted line on the map being omitted within the conservation area.

Important Trees. The Trust agreed that the trees shown on the plan were important. They felt that the tree at the rear of the Casson Block should be included, and that

the Trees Committee of the City Council should be asked to examine this matter carefully and include any more they thought fit. Mention was made of a tree in the garden of Mulberry House and of a copper beech in the gardens in St. Thomas Street; mention was also made of the trees in the derelict Roman Catholic Cemetery and the trees around the new Police Building which it was felt should be retained, since they were most important and helped to mask the effect of the new building.

Important Pedestrian Routes existing or proposed. The Trust broadly agreed the proposals but felt that they could be extended further (e.g. pedestrian ways to St. Cross). Mr. Brown said that he hoped that the City in the future would consider adding to the footpath which was at present being reserved across the assize court site by purchasing land either from Serles House or Southgate Hotel to link up with this.

Special Conservation Area. Mr. Brown pointed out that with new legislation coming in, an Article IV direction order might not be necessary, and that this was an aspect of the matter that the City Council should consider when the bill came into force.

Areas of change where comprehensive plan needed. The Trust queried these. They felt that the areas were very large and gave people the impression that they were likely to change in entirety, and land there would become sterilized and almost a blight area. They suggested that "areas of possible change where a plan is needed" might be a happier title. They also raised the point that the areas in certain places coincided with the margin of the map and one wondered what would happen on the other side.
Mr. Brown agreed that the notes on page 12 of the written statement dealing with the effects of the control policy map could well be rewritten and amplified; the policy would still be to retain all those buildings shown as intended to be retained even within the areas of change, and due regard would be paid to these various factors. The areas were not in any way intended to be comprehensive development areas, and the point made by the Trust was noted.

Open spaces public and private. Some discussion took place on these and it was pointed out that the Cathedral Close was shown as a public open space whereas in fact it was in the ownership of the Dean and Chapter, although the public have rights of access there. Again it was pointed out that the private grounds in the Close had been shown, and also the garden of the Royal Hotel and the Roman Catholic Church but none of the private gardens of individual houses in St. Thomas Street had been shown. Mr. Brown agreed that there was a case for looking at this again, and that he would prefer not to distinguish between public and private spaces so long as they contributed to the visual quality of the area.

Comprehensive Development area boundary. The City Engineer and Mr. Brown pointed out that this was an accomplished fact and was merely shown on the plan for information only and that there could be no change now in the definition of this area as a comprehensive development area. The Trust expressed some concern as to development taking place in the area and asked that a tougher line be taken over planning matters. The Deputy Town Clerk assured the members of the Trust that the Council always took as tough a line as possible over planning matters, as the two

representatives from the Trust present who were also members of the City Planning Committee would agree.

Streets restricted to Pedestrians and essential traffic. This was noted by the Trust who were in broad agreement with the suggestions as made. The Trust also mentioned that Mr. Garton's report on the Historic buildings was stated to be a preliminary report only, and they wondered whether the time had now come to have something of more detail. Reference was made to a detailed report of houses in Farnham which had recently been made, and the Trust felt that the possibility of such a report in Winchester would be worthy of investigation.

Garages - Trust Annual Report 1967

Members of the Trust living in the central residential areas are often disturbed by new minor developments, such as the erection of a garage, perhaps opposite their front door. There is nothing more unsightly than cheap garages dotted down a row of back gardens while facing the fronts of another row of houses. The position in such cases is as follows. An owner wishing to erect a garage does not normally require planning permission providing that the building lines is observed. because such a gagage is usually "permitted development" within the relaxation of the planning regulations which took place some years ago. Local Authorities can do nothing about this, as it was Parliament who relaxed the regulations.

At the present time there are many cheap. badly designed, mass produced garages on the market. One can only hope that the prestige which results from the possession of a well designed, up to date car, will also be extended to the garage.

Where local residents associations have been formed they may perhaps be able to safeguard the good appearance of their particular area by agreeing among themselves the best type and site for a garage.

Activities for the year 1967 - Trust Annual Report 1967

Events to which members of the Trust were invited:

9th Jan.
"Medieval Towns and Town Houses", a lecture by Mr. W. A. Pantin.

26th Jan.
"Book-Selling Then and Now", a talk by Miss M. Wells.

30th Jan.- 4th Feb.
Exhibition of Italian books in Winchester College Library.

Events for members:

Three lectures by Mrs. Carpenter-Turner on "Victorian Winchester, An Age of Belief"
16th Feb.
"Belief in the Family"
23rd Feb.
"Belief in the Institution"
2nd March
"Belief in the Church"
29th June
"Jane Austin's College Street—a reconstruction" Guide—Mrs. Carpenter-Turner.

Meetings to walk parts on the proposed new traffic plan, conducted by Mrs. Carpenter-Turner :
13th July
Beaufort Road—Edgar Road area.
20th July
Westgate area
27th July
Durngate area.