Officers and Committee - Trust Annual Report 1977

President	Mrs W.J. Carpenter-Turner, J.P.	Brookside, Back Street, Winchester
Vice President	Lady Charlotte Bonham-Carter	
Vice President	Ralph Dutton, Esq., F.S.A.	
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Chairman	Mr D.J. Smith, F.R.I.C.S.	4 St James Cresent, Winchester
Vice Chairman	Mr M.T. Carden, A.A.Dip., A.R.I.B.A.	21 Edgar Road, Winchester
Hon. Treasurer	Mr F. Robinson	Barlclays Bank, Winchester
Hon. Membership Secretary	Miss R. D. Backhouse	52 Painters Field, St Cross, Winchester
Hon. Secretary	Mrs R.D. Utting	The Red House, Hursley, Winchester
Committee Members	Mr F. Chippindale, F.R.I.B.A.	
	The Viscountess Enfield	
	Dr Barbara Faulk	
	Dr Douglas Hockley, F.R.I.C.S.	1 Westley Close, Winchester
	Mr W.S. Kirby	
	Mr Michael Morris, A.R.I.B.A.	
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	Mr R.D. Utting, A.R.I.B.A.	
	Mr E.K. Walker, A.A.Dip, A.R.I.B.A.	
Co-opted Member	Mr A. Rutter	Conservation Planning Officer

Introduction - Trust Annual Report 1977

This year we regretfully paid farewell to our Chairman, David Pare, who retired from office after 18 years of dedicated service to the Trust. David was the Trust's second chairman, having taken over from Dr. Tremellen, the founder chairman. The

occasion was marked by a reception to David at the County Club, which many members of the Trust attended.

We also regretfully said farewell to our Treasurer Peter Longhurst, who has been transferred to Salisbury, and we have welcomed our new Treasurer, Frank Robinson, who has taken over from Peter at Barclays Bank.

The Trust is delighted that the old Royal Theatre in Jewry Street has now been purchased by a body committed to the continuance of the live theatre in Winchester, and will give this project every support.

As its Jubilee Year effort the Trust has prepared a scheme for the replacement of the Porticos of Nos. 33, 35, 37 and 39 Southgate Street (known as Chernoche Place), and a sketch plan showing the effect of this scheme is published in this Report.

The Trust continues with its many activities throughout the year, and prominent amongst these are the series of three lectures given by eminent architects and others.

The Trust is ever aware of the need to improve the environment, and one area which warrants urgent consideration is the paved area in front of the new Assize Courts. This needs bringing to life by tree planting or other means, and some way should be devised of concealing the massive new white stone retaining wall to Castle Hill, which seems so out of keeping with the old sandstone of Castle Hall.

Bequests and Legacies - Trust Annual Report 1977

This is a way of helping the Trust which may commend itself to members and others. The bequest can take the simple form of a gift to the Winchester Preservation Trust for its general purposes.

The Trust itself has made donations and grants where assistance has been needed, and these include restoration of river wall at Hyde Gateway, provision of trees, repair of portion of city wall in Canon Street, and a donation towards the publication of Medieval Winchester by the Excavations Committee.

Winchester City Council - Trust Annual Report 1977

The Trust welcomes the decision of the City Council to proceed with the first phase of the Historic Resources Centre at Hyde Barn. This is a project of considerable importance to Winchester, and will eventually house the greatest archive of archaeological information available to any English City.

The Trust maintains a close and cordial relationship with the City Council, and is consulted on all matters connected with conservation.

The Round Table - Trust Annual Report 1977

At the beginning of the year Mr Martin Biddle, the director of the Research Unit, gave an interesting and well attended talk to the members of the Trust on the recent investigations into the dating of the Round Table. It is interesting to note that, as a result of further investigations, the table may be even earlier than these initial investigations determined. The Trust wishes Mr Biddle every success in his new appointment in America.

The M3 Inquiry 1976-1977 - Trust Annual Report 1977

The M3 Inquiry was in session for 111 days, spread over twelve months. The right to examine need for the motorway was conceded in July 1976, because this had not been done at the 1971 Inquiry, and it was considered that the lapse of time and change of circumstances warranted a review of the whole scheme.

Attention has been focussed on the Navigation this year, because the original plan for the M3 required that it should be stopped up. It was pointed out at the Inquiry that no powers existed which could accomplish this as the Navigation was established by several Acts of Parliament dating back to 1665. These had never been repealed although the last barge made the trip in 1869. This made it necessary for the Department to open a second Inquiry following the side roads.

The ownership of the Navigation is vested in the descendents of the original shareholders and mortgagors, only a few of whom can be traced, but the crucial point is that the rights of navigation are independent of the ownership of the banks and any attempt to impede the course of the navigation is likely to result in lengthy litigation.

To meet this situation the Road Construction Unit hastily replanned the scheme and now proposes to re-route the navigation so that the flow and width can be maintained. This, however, presents formidable problems, and the construction of an embankment where the surface of the water will be 6ft above the water meadows with a higher tow path alongside. Some astonishment was apparent at the Inquiry, when it was learned that the water would be retained by plastic sheeting, a material which would be easily damaged by the frequent dredging required to maintain the flow. Another hazard will arise from springs known to exist under the watercourse at other places. This could lead to the appearance of 'Loch Ness Monsters' as water rises under the plastic. The Navigation, of course, has other important functions of irrigation and drainage, while to the people of Winchester it is an important area of recreation which would be greatly damaged if the M3 were ever built.

The Acts of Parliament provide that there shall be a number of Commissioners who still exist by virtue of their office. Thus the Mayors of Winchester and Southampton are Commissioners so is the Dean of Winchester and the Warden of Winchester College as well as magistrates of the district. It was the duty of the Commissioners to confirm the rates to be charged, to see that the navigation and irrigation were properly maintained, and to hear complaints from users of the navigation and the adjoining landowners, and to prevent as far as possible the abuses of a monopoly. Aggrieved citizens had the right to summon the Commissioners by posting a notice on the Butter Cross which was duly done during the summer by one of the societies interested in preserving the Navigation for the benefit of the citizens. It is believed that the Department of Transport could only have acted correctly if they had served notice of their intention to the Clerk of the Peace as convener of the Commissioners. The legal position is extremely complex.

A considerable length of the Navigation passes within the city boundary and thereby misses the protection of the designated area of out-standing natural beauty lying a little further to the east. It is a curious freak of legislation that the river Itchen itself and the navigation, the outstanding features of the valley, are without statutory protection. A request was made some years ago by the Preservation Trust that they should be protected, but this was ignored presumably because of the proposed M3.

Meadowlands House, Southgate Street - Trust Annual Report 1977

On 10th May members of the Trust visited the new office block recently completed known as Meadowlands House, and afterwards attended an open meeting at the County Club which was addressed by the architect, who in a very interesting talk, explained how he complied with his brief. The Trust considers that overall the design is satisfactory but the external appearance is marred by the use of a dark facing brick, and an even darker cement pointing. It is interesting to note that the front projection was planned on the assumption that the missing porches on the adjoining buildings were to be replaced.

Winchester Town Centre Plan - Trust Annual Report 1977

The Trust comments on the Issues raised in the Town Centre Plan were duly submitted to the Planning Committee, following an open Committee Meeting to which all members of the Trust were invited to air their views. This was a lengthy report, but a few matters of general interest are worthy of mention.

Tourism:

The Trust considers that the Cathedral needs facilities such as a tourist office, restaurant, and conveniences, preferably by adapting an existing building outside the cathedral. Financial assistance from the city council for such a project would be

justified. The Trust also considers that certain historic areas such as the Castle precincts, the College, Hyde Abbey, and Wolvesey, could be provided with better facilities for visitors. Wolvesey Castle has not yet been re-opened to the public, in spite of a promise by the Ministry concerned that this would be done.

Conservation:

The Trust supports the extension of the conservation areas to include the whole of the built-up areas of the city of 1875. It would not, however, be desirable to designate degrees of merit, and the water meadows should also be included. The Trust feels above all that prosperity in an historic town such as Winchester relies on enlighted conservation. Past mistakes must not be repeated, where whole areas of the centre of the city were devastated in the name of slum clearance.

The Castle of Winchester 1977 - Trust Annual Report 1977

The work of restoring the Great Hall of Winchester Castle, begun in 1974, has from the outset had as one of its objectives the improvement of the Hall's setting and the creation of an attractive approach to the building from the Westgate via Castle Hill.

In paving and landscaping this approach the County Council have it in mind to expose and incorporate into the overall design the substantial remains of the Castle of Winchester which lie just below the surface of Castle Hill. These remains consist of the base of a large round tower and a short length of the outer wall of the Castle on the city side of what was the north-east corner of the Castle. From this corner a length of the city wall extended to the Westgate, and a short length of the lower part of this wall remains, together with, on the north side, a substantial mass of masonry which formed part of a massive wall built by the Romans around that site in the 3rd century. A little to the south of the round tower lies the base of an earlier square keep of massive construction. Incorporated in the base of this keep are the remains of the outer wall of the Castle running from it to the round tower and the steps leading down to the Sally Port passage (which lies below the round tower, laid out in the form of a Y). These passages allowed troops to be discharged outside the walls of the Castle, and either inside of outside the walls of the city. The north-eastern arm of the Y now leads out onto the terrace below the Castle Hill, but the north-west arm, though of some length, is blocked. It lies now beneath the County Council offices built on Castle Hill in the 19th century. It is thought that the only similar example of a Sally Port to be seen in the country is at Dover Castle.

The base of the Keep probably dates from the reign of Henry II, but the walls of the Castle, the Round Tower, and the Sally Port were all part of the massive improvements to the Castle made by Henry III in the 13th century, which included the building of the Great Hall substantially as we see it today. On the completion of these works the Castle was a formidable structure extending southwards and westwards from the Westgate to cover much of the land now occupied by the Barracks.

A Royalist stronghold in the Civil War, the castle's destruction was ordered by Parliament in 1646. The work of demolishing it took many years, but eventually, with the exception of the Great Hall which was purchased by the County, it was completed, and having disappeared without trace the Castle survived in name only.

During the summer of 1977 the remains were partially excavated, and discussions are about to take place between the County Council and the Department of the Environment which it is hoped will lead to their consolidation and display. In the not too distant future a passer-by on Castle Hill may be able to gain a better understanding of how it came to be thus named, and a fragment of the past, extending back some 2000 years into the history of Winchester, may be available for all to see.

Planning - Trust Annual Report 1977

The 1974 Annual Report referred to the re-organisation of Local Government and the setting up of subcommittees, by Trust members, to examine planning applications, in Winchester. The reports of 1975 and 1976 underlined the work of these three committees dealing broadly with commercial, residential and amenity matters and 1977 shows no lessening of the pressure, on the City Planning department and the voluntary work by members of the Trust. Space does not permit of detailed references though mention should be made of special interviews arranged with the help of the City Planning department for Trust members to meet the architects for new shops and offices in Jewry and High Streets. (Building operations having started in August this year).

The other proposal for new offices of Conder International in Romsey Road was dealt with similarly and the Trust appreciates the trouble taken by architects to explain their schemes.

The Trust sponsored a scheme, prepared by the Winchester Consumer Group, for the development of the St. John Street area. This document prepared in 1976 was followed by the official City scheme this year and discussed at a public meeting in the Church Rooms in which Trust members took part.

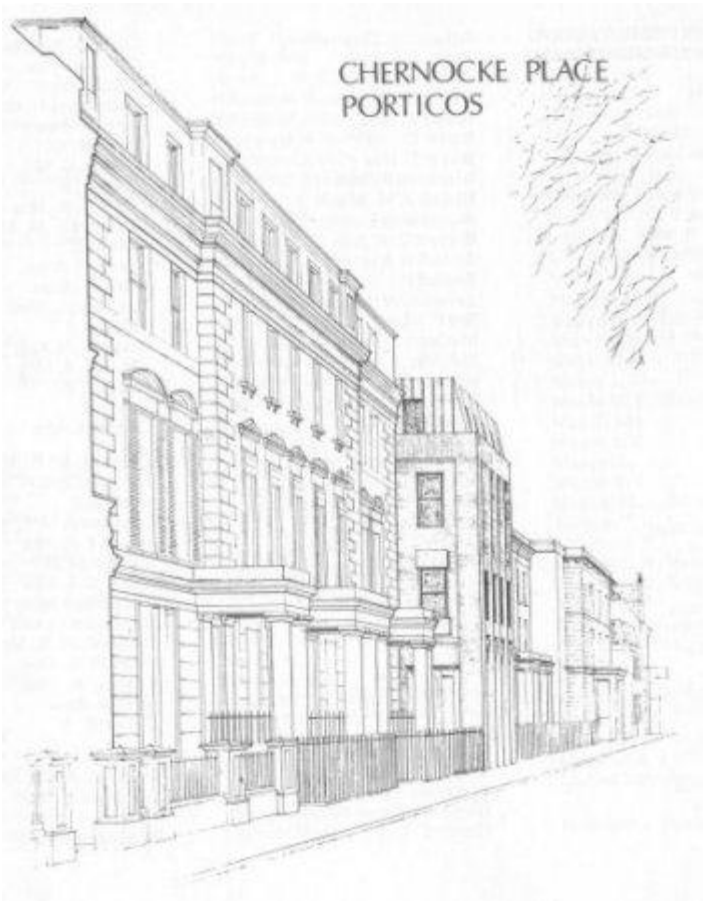
This idea of informing the public on planning matters is one in which the Trust is actively concerned and to foster interest an agreement has been reached whereby drawings of future buildings in Winchester will form a changing exhibition in the Jewry Street library.

The Trust has been concerned over the proposals for a new reservoir at Romsey Road, and as a result of our submissions to the Planning Authority, improvements have been made in landscaping and other matters affecting the environment.

Your committee also had an opportunity of commenting on the official proposals by the city for the control of signs and fascias in the High Street.

Towards the end of 1976 the Trust supported the Hampshire Branch of the RIBA with their publication of illustrated town trails of Winchester. In September 1977 members of the Trust were invited to accompany the three architects responsible for the guided walks which included the central core of the town, St. Cross, and the Kingsgate area.

Chernocke Place, Nos. 33-39 Southgate Street - Trust Annual Report 1977



This impressive terrace of early Victorian town houses was designed by Owen Browne Carter (1806-1859), an experienced architect with a national reputation, who also designed the Library in Jewry Street. The terrace was built in about 1844 on land previously owned by Sir Villiers Chernocke who lived in what is now called Carlisle House in St. Thomas Street. The four houses were in constant private occupation until the 1920's when other uses started to creep in. The porches deteriorated, presumably through lack of maintenance from this time on, and were removed altogether around the end of the war.

It has long been an aim of the Trust to see the porches restored, and the advent of the controversial new office building, linking Chernocke Place with its humbler neighbouring terrace to the south, has served to give this aim a sense of urgency. The return of the porches is now more than ever essential to the dignity of Chernocke Place and the street as a whole.

The Trust thinks it would be a suitable project to commemorate the Silver Jubilee, so with these thoughts, an appraoch has been made to the three owners and the City Council. It is too early to say what help they can give, but the initial reaction has certainly been encouraging. The next step is to make measured drawings and obtain estimates for the work to be done, either by traditional methods or in fibreglass, which is now proving a useful alternative material for the restoration of such details, as can be seen on the not dissimilar Nash terraces in London.