Chairman's Miscellany - TrustNews March 2008

When I wrote, for the last TrustNews, a warm tribute to Pat Edwards' work as Chairman, I could not have dreamt that she would be dead before that issue was published. Her sudden death was a shock to all who knew her and a particularly great shock to those, like me, who worked closely with her. Those who attended her funeral gained a great insight into her life and, particularly, her devotion to her family both when her daughter was growing up and later to her grandsons. Pat will long be remembered for her tireless work for our City.

The dark cloud which Pat's death cast over the Trust is lifting slowly and I turn to other matters. The largely unseen work of Shione Carden and members of the Planning Appraisal Group, the core activity of the Trust, has continued to be heavy. Since Christmas, in addition to an unusually large number of applications to consider, there were six evening presentations to members of panels and Council, all of which requires time to arrange, to take part in and to report. We are indebted to those who give so much time to this essential work.

Members have expressed understandable concern about news of a proposal by the Dean and Chapter to build a Choir school in part of the Dean Garnier Garden. At the moment, there is not a great deal of information but I am told that there will be public consultation starting in March. Last September, four of us from the Trust Council met the Receiver-General of the Cathedral to hear and discuss various building proposals which included the Garden plan and, though we could not give a view on behalf of the Trust as a whole, individual comments were made. We were asked that the discussion should be treated as confidential. Regrettably, it has been suggested that a plan to build in the Garden has support from the Trust. That is not so. The Trust can only express a corporate opinion on a proposed development after an open presentation to a representative panel of members or following a planning application. I anticipate that this will take place. I have written to the Receiver-General to avoid any further misunderstanding and the Trust will be represented at a seminar about the Cathedral Plan which is to be held at the Cathedral in early March.

Iain Patton

Planning Appraisal Group - TrustNews Mar 08

You win some, you lose some. This has certainly been the case with appeal decisions made since our last TrustNews. The appeal to allow the demolition of **Lang House, Chilbolton Avenue**, a house of importance to the character of the road, has been dismissed. However, the appeal to build four covered courts at the **Winchester Lawn Tennis Club, Bereweeke Road**, and the appeal by Sunrise Senior Living to build a 3-storey 80-bed assisted living home on the sites of **Warden Hill, Woodgate House and The Chestnuts, Stockbridge Road**, have both been allowed.

Decisions have also be made on a number of applications mentioned earlier. The **375 residential units on Queen's Road**, to be used by the University of Winchester, have been granted, as has the development on the site of the **Royal Observer HQ, Abbotts Road**, where we felt the style of the houses was not altogether satisfactory and that the development should not be gated. The proposal for alterations which we felt were very inappropriate at **3 Fordington Avenue** has been withdrawn.

The partial demolition and rebuilding of **31 Nuns Road** (NB not No 3 as stated last time) has been granted, something that obviously had to happen in view of the gap the unauthorised demolition has left in the terrace. We had objected to the proposal to install upvc windows, saying that new buildings can have efficient double-glazed timber windows; it is good to note that permission was given provided the new windows were of timber and matched the design and finish of the fenestration of the original building. We also considered it would be essential that everything (type of brick bond and mortar, etc) be undertaken in the way it would have been when the house was built, and urged that a very close eye should be kept on the rebuilding process.

The viewing panels have seen the usual quota of shop signs, extensions and loft conversions with dormers - mostly too large for the size of the existing house and few complying with the architectural description of a dormer window: *A window placed vertically in a sloping roof and with a roof of its own. The name derives from the fact that it usually serves sleeping quarters*. The requirements of sleeping quarters have clearly changed since this definition was made, because most of the so-called dormers we see seem more like sheds on the roof than windows.

While often welcoming contemporary schemes, we felt the minimalist shopfront proposed for **6B Parchment Street** would be detrimental because it failed to relate to either the Listed Building or the character of the street, and we therefore strongly objected to the replacement of the existing shopfront.

Another contemporary scheme we found unacceptable was at **Cranworth Hall, Cranworth Road**, for a 4-storey block accommodating five 2- & 1-bed flats and a childcare nursery on the ground floor. Neither the demolition of the existing building nor the proposed use of the site was a problem: it was the inadequate details provided, the design and the ungainly appearance of the building we objected to, because we felt it would be both uncharacteristic of the locality and an intrusive element on this important route into Winchester.

We have also strongly objected to the second proposal by Banner Homes to demolish **17 Bereweeke Road**, this time for 11 new dwellings. This Victorian house makes a considerable contribution to the character of the road, and although it was not claimed this substantial building is structurally unsound, the Sustainability Report quoted favourable values for replacing the existing structure with one of similar size that incorporated components desirable for sustainable development. The Trust wondered how relevant this was for a development consisting of five separate structures with their many external walls, especially as there was no indication that any of the suggested desirable components would be used in the development.

Another application to which the Trust has strongly objected is the Banner Homes proposal to demolish **Kirtling House, 52 Chilbolton Avenue**, to make way for 12 dwellings of very ordinary design. Again nothing was said about the building being structurally unsound (impossible, in view of the initial marketing ploy used for its sale), and the claim that the building had no architectural or historic importance and made less contribution than the boundary hedge seemed suspect for several reasons: hedges are ephemeral and can die and vanish, while the presence of the house (an original structure felt worth retaining in the LADS Area F) can be appreciated when travelling north along Chilbolton Avenue. We also disliked the access proposed to run immediately in front of the recent development at Nos 46-48.

There have been a number of evening presentations since the last TrustNews, some pre-application, while others were requested to provide additional details to ensure our comments were well informed.

Pre-application presentations included the demolition of **Barnaby, Northbrook Avenue**, for two 5-bedroom townhouses and two 2-bedroom apartments, which seemed acceptable and the conclusions made then have since been included in our comments, and the proposal to build on the land adjoining **The Croft, St John's Street**, for which we had presentations from both the developers and the local residents. The information provided by these presentations will be of great value when formulating the Trust's comments after the application for this scheme has been seen by the viewing panels.

Post-application presentations included a proposal to convert the barn of **Wharf Farm, Wharf Hill**, to residential use and build another 4 dwellings in the garden, to which we objected because it was felt the style of the new houses was not sympathetic to their surroundings and that too much was being crammed onto the site. We did not object to the three other schemes for which we had presentations, but made what we hope were helpful comments on the proposal to demolish the **Stanmore Hotel, Stanmore Lane**, for a 56-bed nursing home, the proposed 5-storey block of 75 residential student units at **Erasmus Park Student Village, Easton Lane**, and the 88 residential development in place of **Highcroft, Romsey Road**.

A busy start to the year!

Shione Carden

Memories of Patricia Edwards - TrustNews Mar 2008



And there you stood,
Proud Patricia,
Pleased as punch
in your domain;
Planted in your garden.
Andrew Snow

When Pat resigned as chairman at our last AGM, I experienced my own sudden transformation from President to Patron. As I look back over the past seventeen years and the performance of the four admirable chairmen of the Trust during that time, it was surely to Pat's credit that she outshone them all in the personal devotion and assiduous attention she gave to the Trust; boldly confronting the difficulties that arose, while continuing to win for the Trust the high regard in which it is so widely held today.

She concentrated on all aspects of the Trust's work, often volunteering to pursue many of the pressing questions on the agenda of the council's meetings, and sometimes even to the point of exasperating those who found that she had been there before them.

I recall with some satisfaction how I managed, with such diplomatic skills as were still left to me, to entice her to become our new chairman, though I had been warned she would always decline any such suggestion.

I shall always remember Pat's indomitable spirit, matched by the courage with which she faced the doctor's verdict on her condition.

Many of us will also recall the closing words at her thanksgiving service on 7th" December:

"You who live on will use your lives more fully having known Patricia and for having shared in her life."

Sir Peter Ramsbotham President 1990 - 2007

I knew Pat Edwards as a dedicated, selfless and strong minded City Councillor who was not shy in making her views known. I knew that she cared deeply for Winchester and had a good understanding of the planning system and plenty of experience in its operation. She recognised its importance in helping to shape the environment and to protect places and buildings of historic or architectural importance. She held very positive views about planning matters, but as Chairman of Planning was always prepared to listen to the views of others and the advice of her professional advisers. On some issues she held very firm views and would not be shifted. This might have resulted in bad feeling, but disagreements were neither personalised nor allowed to spill over into other issues. Thus there were effective and often lively debates between members and officers resulting, I feel, in the making of better decisions.

My knowledge of Pat Edwards was confined to our relationship in the work of the City Council. I knew where she lived, but I was ignorant of her personal family circumstances and there was no social contact. Her private life was just that, but nevertheless the news of her sudden and premature death came as a personal blow to me and many others and I am grateful for having had the positive experience and the privilege of working so closely with her.

Jack Thompson Director of Planning, Winchester City Council, 1974 -1990

I first met Pat in the early '70s when I joined the Winchester Tories, amongst whom she was a very live wire. We were both concerned about what was happening to the City - hardly credible today. The then City Council had (with HCC) supported the demolition of the Durngate Mill, of a length of roman wall, of terraced Georgian houses in the High Street and of 199 'two-up-two-down houses' in the City centre - all for the benefit of the car - as were the emerging plans for the M3. We became very active in the party doing all we could to shake up the 'twin-set and pearls' brigade, and then became Councillors supporting each other in many areas - often going against the Tory establishment - which made us pretty unpopular with them. I resigned to work with the Theatre Royal project but for over 20 years Pat was a dedicated and very influential Councillor, devoted to the City and her ward. She was clear thinking, strong-willed, brave, outspoken and very determined - with the real interests of Winchester (including the survival of the Theatre Royal) in all that she did. She was the ideal person to take on the Chairmanship of the Planning

Committee and, working with Jack Thompson as Director, achieved much in that role.

After leaving Winchester I would drop in to see her occasionally, often finding her happily pruning or digging in her much-loved garden - indeed her knowledge of trees and plants was often important in plans for new developments. Sadly she has gone, but all around us, in Winchester and the county, are buildings and spaces that owe their quality or survival to Pat; *si monumentum requiris circumspice*.

Jennie Bland Trust Council / Vice President 1974 - 1980

Pat's admirable characteristics stand out in the other contributions, so I have no need to enlarge on them, allowing me to say a little of the personal side of working with a colleague I have known since she joined the Trust Council in 1977.

On becoming vice- and then chairman of the City's Planning Committee she resigned and stood apart for 18 years so that there should be no possible conflict of interest. Pat was always a stickler for doing the right thing; on the last day of her life she signed a £1,000 cheque towards the Trust's Rutter book project; "make sure", she told her daughter, "that none of it gets spent on lunches!"

How good to know that her sense of humour persisted to the end. While she could drive one to distraction at times, humour was never far away and ensured, with her all-embracing affection, that no battle lasted longer than the moment. Moreover, though reticent about her private life, she was acutely self-critical and would regale us with accounts of her errors, whether falling over her cat or mistakenly making off with my coat and car-key for half a day.

She liked to be teased: Shione, exasperated by the chairman's tendency to do the menial task of re-arranging the furniture for meetings, started calling her Mrs Pickford; Pat loved it. This acquisition of extra duties was generally concealed from us: it was only by accident we discovered that the buffet laid out for a visit from another society, was all made by the chairman late the night before.

Wherever she is now, you can bet she's stirring things up and making many more friends than enemies in the process!

Michael Carden Vice Chairman

My mother was born in Ceylon where she was brought up on a tea estate with her two younger brothers. After early education in Ceylon, England, Northern Ireland and India she completed her education in South Africa. At Rhodes University she read Natural Sciences before returning to England at the end of the war. After secretarial training, she worked for a theatrical agency in London before returning to the family and marriage in Ceylon where I was born. In 1956, she and I returned to England, settling in Winchester and in 1961 Crabtrees became our home where she was a

dedicated mother and, with an enormous amount of hard work, created a beautiful garden. She was always an inspirational gardener with an encyclopaedic horticultural knowledge.

My mother had a keen interest in people and local affairs, so it was no surprise in 1973 that she was elected to Winchester City Council `to influence some decisions about traffic'. For twenty-four devoted years she served her ward and the council in many areas but it was education and planning that were her particular interests. She applied her energy and clarity of mind to three school governorships, one as chairman, and for eleven years as chairman of planning with the future of Winchester her great concern.

With all her commitments she found plenty of time for her family, supporting her elderly parents in Bexhill and taking a keen interest in her two grandsons, nephews and nieces and their young families. Outside the family she was a loyal and longstanding friend to many she met throughout her life, her steadfastness and home providing a haven of stability to those who knew her. In spite of her illness, her characteristic determination ensured a happy visit to her brother and his family in Canada only a few weeks before she died.

Susan Smith

Policy Group Report - TrustNews Mar 08

The Trust policy group has responsibility for looking at new policy documents and proposals which affect the City. Several Trust Council members meet to prepare responses to consultations from the City Council. Most recently we attended the workshop in the Guildhall on 17 January about the new-style development plan for Winchester over the next 20 years. We have just put together a Trust response dealing mainly with the vision and strategic objectives for the City, transport issues, how to provide affordable housing and the right mix of new housing. This exercise was fraught with difficulty where we were faced with questions which could not be given simple yes/no answers. We felt that some aspects of the environment must be made sacrosanct and that we should acknowledge the conflict but seek a commitment to evaluate priorities in the later stages of the plan.

The Policy Group has also considered several aspects of sustainability. The Trust has joined the Winchester Action on Climate Change Group and we attend its steering group. We have been pressing the City Council and the developers of the Silver Hill scheme to ensure as far as possible that the development will have "flagship" credentials for sustainability. We have contributed to and endorsed the response which the Winchester Climate Change Group put forward pressing for, among other things, the highest standards for carbon reduction in new development.

We also considered the Inspectors' Report on the South East Plan which is now being considered by Government. We were encouraged by the plan's original statement about the unique character of Winchester, but were then alarmed by the Inspectors' downplaying the historic and conservation issues. The next stage will be

a response from Government, probably in early summer, and we have already given some thought to a further Trust response.

We have been talking to the City Council about the way in which their 2007 document "Vision for Winchester" will be taken forward and the City is also forming a Futures Group which we hope will be looking into the Trust's idea of a conceptual framework for development. The Trust is keen to play an important, perhaps critical, role in these two pieces of work and we wait to see what happens next.

We do know that there will be a public consultation in March on the Winchester Town Access Plan. This will set out proposals to reduce demand for car-based travel, traffic management issues and "new solutions". The policy group will be actively involved on behalf of the Trust.

Patrick Davies

A cultural seascape on the World Heritage list? - TrustNews Mar 08

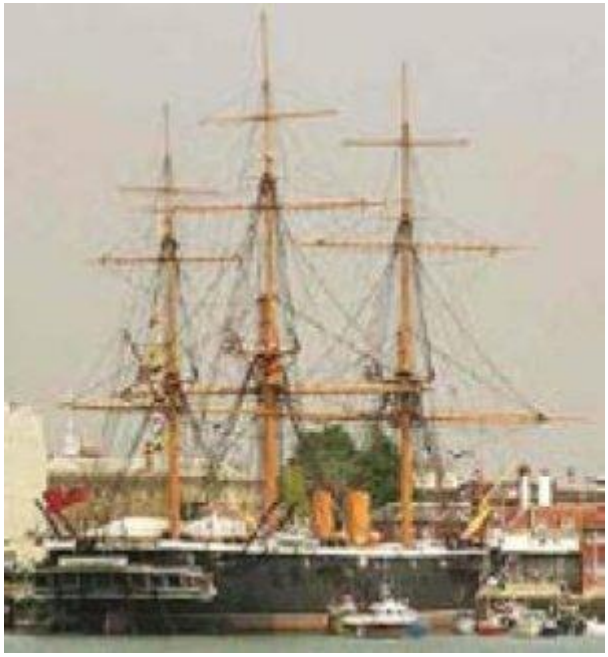


The communities around Portsmouth Harbour and Spithead are probably changing more rapidly than at any time in their history. Their developing creativity and enterprise is moving forward in exciting new ways. A new proposal — to work towards inscription of Portsmouth Harbour and Spithead as a World Heritage site promises to provide continuity from the physical and social legacy of the area's past towards a well designed, creative future, where new developments and enterprises are of the highest quality and distinctive aspects of the area's economy are enhanced, stimulated by what makes it worthy of world-wide recognition. There are clear gains in the myriad interests around the harbour and Spithead working more closely together, in what we all perceive as one place.

Portsmouth Harbour and Spithead are framed to the north and south by Portsdown Hill and Ryde, and it is the water — and parts of the coastline - which is the focus of the bid. The only other harbour on the World Heritage List is Willemsted in Curaçao, and our proposal 'for a 'cultural seascape' would be a world first. Our particular geography — a sheltered anchorage and a large harbour protected by a narrow entrance — has shaped the area's history. The process of making a bid will achieve many important medium-term economic and environmental gains for the local communities, making the journey worthwhile whether or not the bid succeeds. It will help local people to value the rich legacy of buildings, history and traditions around the harbour, and to ensure their sustainable future. In particular it is hoped that it will

result in forward-looking co-ordination of planning, transport and conservation policies, access, promotion and development.

Sites can only be included on the tentative list if submitted by the State Party to UNESCO - in our case the DCMS. The site has to be of outstanding universal value. The DCMS has commissioned research on the effects of inscription at six UK sites, and is to issue new guidelines for applicants — of which there are quite a number - in 2008. Nine sites are currently on the UK Tentative List, including Chatham dockyard, although their bid is land-based. The key requirement for success is that the dossier must demonstrate the 'outstanding universal value' of the site in accordance with one or more of ten criteria for cultural sites. There is also a category for moveable objects such as historic ships. Only one category is necessary. Our bid would be the first to include objects: Mary Rose, Victory and HMS Warrior. Authenticity is important: The Nara Document refers to authenticity of materials, design and setting, which have to be of worldwide significance. The theme of the bid is defence heritage - to celebrate centuries of activity - from the Roman Empire's Fort of the Saxon shore. Portchester Castle - to the British Navy's continued operation in Portsmouth dockyard and its supporting establishments, defences and supply lines.



The proposal addresses local conservationists' particular concerns: the future of Haslar Hospital and HMS Daedalus in Gosport, potential development of Hyde's seafront and skyline, lack of maintenance on key historic buildings such as Portsmouth City's Southsea Castle, the Round Tower and Square Tower and Eastney Pumping Station, and the MOD's Block Mills in Portsmouth dockyard - where a world technological first took place. Marc Brunel (father of lsambard Kingdom) led a team of brilliant engineers who developed the world's first steam powered mass production factory to produce the thousands of wooden pulley blocks needed for the navy's ships. After years of campaigning the exterior of Block Mills is being repaired, but it still lacks a sustainable long-term use. Other issues which a long term management plan would be designed to address include the lack of local

tall buildings policies, poorly designed waterside buildings, and decaying infrastructure such as Portsmouth Harbour station.

The Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust is being kept informed of progress on the bid, which involves five local authorities: Portsmouth and Winchester City Councils, Gosport and Fareham Borough Councils and the Isle of Wight Council - as well as maritime and underwater interests. Following a boat trip to explore the site at first hand during Architecture Week, a dossier and statement of universal value have been drafted. Support from the five local authorities is being sought and the many interested parties are being identified.

If you are interested in the proposal, please contact Dr Celia Clark on 02392 732912 or by email at CeliaDeane.Clark@btopenworld.com.

Celia Clark

Summer Walks 2007 Review - TrustNews Mar 2008

Our first venue was Winchester Cathedral for two separate tours in four groups with our guides David Farthing, Peter Innes, Bronwen Black and Julie Adams. One tour covered the story of Stained Glass and a detailed description of many of the windows; the other tour looked at the work of William Walker, the diver, who spent six years reinforcing the foundations in water up to 27 feet. Our guides conveyed the significant contribution made by both to the splendour of our cathedral.

The importance of Space, Proportion and Detail' was the title of our second walk, led by Keith Leaman. We walked to Park Avenue to look at the School of Art where the proportion of the windows was a significant element in the design. From the open space adiacent to Blue Ball Hill we enjoyed the views over Winchester before observing the detailed brickwork in St.John's Street. We ended by walking along Colebrook Street to admire the classical water feature at the east end of the cathedral, described by Keith as the best view in Winchester.

Our third walk coincided with Architecture Week with the theme 'Different Perspectives'. Our guide was John Browning who began by outlining a proposed scheme for integrating the Brooks w'th the High Street by 'swivelling' the High Street facade. We were given an insight into how development in Market Lane and The Square increased the commercial value of the premises by creating useable space. The hazards of working on old buildings near to collapse and having underground vaults were vividly described. We were taken upstairs from St.Clement's Yard to see how the space can be utilised for exhibition and offices.

Phil Yates was our guide for a walk associated with the Southern Railway. We met at the station where Phil described the development and route of the line to the New Forest. We walked via the bridge and St. Paul's Hill to a former goods yard and then through the subway to the north of the station. Winchester to Basingstoke was the last section completed, with the Wailers Ash tunnel and five bridges near the station.

We ended our walk at the 'Jolly Farmer' adjacent to Brassey Road, named after Thomas Brassey, the main contractor for this section of the railway.

For our fifth walk we visited the Hospital and Chapel of St. Cross founded by Henry de Blois, grandson of William the Conqueror. Our guide, as in previous years, was Trust Vice -Chairman, Michael Carden. In the Chapel we were told of the history and construction, with many contemporary anecdotes concerning the Masters, Bishops and Trustees. In 1450 the Almshouse of Noble Poverty was added by Cardinal Beaufort and we visited the 14th century Brethren's Hall and the 15th century kitchen. Our visit ended in the outer quadrangle beside the old brewhouse and site of the Hundred Men's Hall.

The events concerning Winchester in the Civil War were vividly portrayed by Elizabeth Proudman in our sixth walk. Life in Winchester under Charles I was described as we walked via the High Street to the Cathedral. When the conflict began in August 1642, we were told how Winchester was divided with one MP, William Ogle, supporting the King and the other, John Lisle on the side of the Parliamentarians. We continued via the City Cross to St.Thomas' Street to be told of the battles and eventual surrender of the castle, ending our walk appropriately on the site of the Peninsular Barracks.

On 19th July we visited the preserved Edwardian pumping station at Twyford Waterworks where our guide was Matthew Feldwick. After an introduction to the site we were shown the impressive 1914 Hathorn Davey Triple Expansion steam pump engine. The removal of asbestos from the boilers prevents operation at present, but we were invited to turn the pump by hand! We climbed to the lime kilns at the top of the site to learn about the water softening process. Finally, if you wondered what happened to the bus shelter from outside the library in Jewry Street, visit the waterworks. We were given great hospitality by our hosts and ended with tea and Vickys irresistible homemade cake.

Our eighth walk, 'Progression of the Traditional' was led by Robert Adam, starting with a walk to the cathedral close to learn about 'classical revival'. We proceeded to the High Street to study the various architectural columns and then to Market Street, dubbed 'PoMo corner' by Robert for its Post Modern architecture. In the Broadway we observed the architecture of the Guildhall before moving to the Wessex Hotel, described as 'neo-vernacular We ended by the Westgate at Elomfield corner' to compare the architecture of the Castle buildings, Queen Elizabeth Court and Mottisfont Court.

Walk nine was led by Robin Freeman who gave a detailed description of the buildings of the High Street. Starting in the Broadway, Robin gave a full account of the area including Eastgate House, St. John's House, King Alfred's Statue (and the Russian gun), Abbey House and the Guildhall. Moving west, the number of earlier premises allowed some members to recall Woolworth's and Giffords, the seed merchant. We continued to Southgate Street corner, observing Egyptian-style tapered windows by Owen Browne Carter. Our walk continued past the Black Swan and Stopher's corner, the former Star inn, and ended in the bar of the Westgate Hotel.

For our tenth walk we were led by Chris Webb to the Central Works Bus Station where we were greeted by the Chairman of the Friends of King Alfred's buses, Peter Murnaghan, and were provided with wine and nibbles. Peter described how King Alfred's Motor Services began in 1915 with Robert Chisnell transporting troops around Winchester, and more recently the formation of Friends of King Alfred's Buses in 1985. We were invited to inspect the buses in the garage and to look at the many articles and photographs on display, and to talk to several 'friends' who were present. At the end of our visit we were treated to a ride on the top deck of the AEC Renown (596 LCG) recovered from the USA. We drove past the former garages in Chesil Street to Bar End, returning via Morn Hill where the troop camps were sited. We disembarked in the Broadway after a memorable experience.

For our last walk, 'Beating the Bounds' Andrew Rutter first outlined the effect of the Silver Hill development on Middle Brook Street and the important axis from the cathedral to Park Avenue. We were then shown drawings of other proposed schemes as we were guided from Durngate to the city bridge and then around the city walls via Wolvesey, Kingsgate, Southgate and St. James'Lane. We were intrigued by the location of five iconic crosses around the city. The walk was illustrated with Andrew's inimitable drawings and we finished with novel views of the castle from the west.

Thank you to all the guides, whose knowledge and enthusiasm is so great and who have given so much time and effort in preparing and leading our walks. The weather was unseasonable but it did not deter our generous band of supporters who also deserve our thanks.

Chris Pile

Not Wasted! - TrustNews Mar 08



Picture Chineham Energy from Waste plant

In November a small group of Trust members went to see what happens to Winchester's waste. The content of your grey household waste bins is all taken to an energy recovery facility at Chineham, north of Basingstoke where it is burnt and turned into electricity.

Did you know?

All our domestic waste is burnt to generate electricity.

The heat from the furnace generates steam which is used to drive turbines and generators to make the electricity.

The Chineham plant supplies 8MW of electricity to the grid - enough for 8,000 homes.

The flue gases are passed through special cleaning processes which remove toxic and polluting elements.

Metals are extracted from the ash for recycling.

The remaining ash is sent for recycling in construction or to landfiil

There are three state of the art energy recovery faciliies 'n Hampshire - at Chineham, Marchwood and Portsmouth.

These energy from waste plants are built and operated by Veolia under a 28 year contract with HCC.

None of Hampshire's domestic waste goes straight to landfill.

For a future visit we hope to see what happens to the contents of cur green recycle bins.

Chris Pile

Talks and Walks - TrustNews Mar 08

All talks will be given at the Heritage Centre, Upper Brook Street, starting at 7.00pm.

Just turn up, but space is limited so admission is subject to availability. A suggested donation of 22 will be requested for the benefit of the Trust.

14 February	Hockley Viaduct	Chris Webb
28 February	Mr Richard's Academy at Hyde	Robin Freeman
13 March	The Bevin Boys' Story	Phil Yates
27 March	A stroll around the Godson Map	Chris Pile
10 April	Richard Andrews' Winchester Houses	Robin Freeman
24 April	Medieval life in Winchester	Graham Scobie
8 May	From Pillar to Post Town and country letter boxes	Chris Pile

Our programme of Summer Evening Walks begins in June. Advance notice of the first two walks is given below. Walks start at 6.30pm. Please arrive early to ensure prompt start. Full details will be in the June TrustNews.

5 June	**Alfred, The Final Chapter** (Meet outside Riverpark Leisure Centre)	Barbara Hall President of the Friends of Hyde Abbey Gardens
12 June	**Are Spaces Important?** (Meet outside Riverpark Leisure Centre)	Keith Leaman Architect and Trust Council, Member

Chris Pile

Winchester calling - TrustNews Mar 2008

In January six members of the Trust's Trustees visited Winchester Telephone Exchange. It started in 1940, which date and "G VI R" appears above one of the windows in Upper Brook Street. Was it built as part of the war effort to improve communications? Conveniently the location was behind the Winchester General Post Office which used to be in Parchment Street. The building was extended in the 1950s and again in the early 1980s, the later extension being on land owned by local wine merchants, Keith Bros, who insisted their shop (now Threshers) be included in the redevelopment.



The exchange is no longer owned by BT who transferred all their property portfolio to an investment and services company, Telereal, in 2003. A BT subsidiary, Openreach, maintains the exchange and undertakes installation work for BT and for all other companies who can now use the exchange such as Tiscali, TalkTalk etc.

Perhaps not surprisingly given the fast-changing technology, there is a good deal of semi-redundant equipment and the work of disentangling the old from the new is obviously complex and very expensive to do. Several areas have been cleared

leaving a fair amount of empty space available for the next generations of equipment.

All phone lines in Winchester connect to the exchange with their own unique pair of copper wires. However we were surprised to learn that all calls are then routed to Southampton by fibre optic cables where they are processed to connect them to the receiving number, so if you call your neighbour in Winchester your call is not processed in Winchester - much like your post it is processed in Southampton! The exchange also connects private company lines, for example lines between separate offices in the city, and secure lines such as bank transactions, Ministry of Defence etc.



Broadband equipment is now an important part of the exchange and much of this belongs to a range of ISP suppliers. The broadband connection is the first connection to a line which is why if there is a problem with your broadband your phone probably goes dead too.

There are hundreds of miles of wires within the exchange. How anyone can work out where they all go is a mystery! The system is backed up with batteries and a generator in case of power failure. Here the space saving of modern equipment is especially obvious with two large battery rooms made redundant, replaced by much smaller batteries within each bank of equipment.

All the major mobile phone companies have transmitters on the roof of the exchange with their own equipment rooms below.

Could the exchange be moved and redeveloped? When you see the complexity of the installations you begin to realise the enormity of the task. Is the building bigger than needed? Probably - but who knows what the next requirement for communication will be? What is certain is that there will be a constant renewal of equipment and plenty of space is needed to make changes while keeping the current systems working.

Our thanks to Chris Hall who showed us round and answered our many questions.

David Marklew



The viaduct, 2,014 ft (614m) long with 33 arches, once linked the Didcot, Newbury and Southampton railway with the the Great Western Railway, and was in use for passenger traffic until 1960, and freight until 1966.

Most local people know about Hockley Viaduct and its importance to the British cause during the Second World War, and perhaps also the fact that it is the oldest known major structure in Britain built of concrete and then faced with brick. It's owned by Winchester City Council which until now has felt unable to spend any money on its upkeep. Representations were made to central government to have the Viaduct listed due to these two important aspects of its existence, but the application was turned down. The City Council has now decided that upkeep of the Viaduct is essential and there are plans afoot to make it accessible to the general public for walking, bike riding and so on.

A small group of Winchester men have spent much time and effort trying to save this railway bridge, and have now decided to create a society of the Friends of Hockley Viaduct open to anyone who has an interest in Hampshire's history and relevance during the last war. The annual subscription is only £5.00 and the fact that there will be a large number of people interested in saving this structure may well help to change the minds of those in authority as to its present day importance.

Please join us now at the start of this new venture to save a well-known and loved landmark in our area – the more people who join us the more chance we have of persuading the City Council of the Viaduct's importance to us and our surroundings.

Julia Sandison

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A success story - TrustNews Mar 08

Phil Yates

The phenomenal success of the book

Time Gentlemen, Please!

Time Gentlemen, Please! has already resulted in the sell-out of the first edition! An up-dated Second Edition is now on sale at the two Waterstone's, P & G Wells in College Street, the Winchester Bookshop in St. George's Street, and the Tourist Information Centre - still priced at £9.95. I endeavour to sign the books before they leave the Heritage Centre for their destination. All proceeds from the sales go to the Trust. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my sub-committee who, over the past 18 months, have worked tirelessly in helping to plan, promote and distribute the book to bookshops and other outlets including several pubs. Without their dedication the success of this project would have been difficult to achieve. The Trust members involved were Iain Patton, Peter Radcliffe and the much-missed Pat Edwards who encouraged me to write the book in the first place.

Trustees 2007/8 - TrustNews Mar 2008

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President	His Honour Christopher Clarke QC

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Electronic mail **- TrustNews Mar 2008**

It would help us to keep you better informed if those with e-mail would send us their addresses. The best way to do this is by e-mailing the Trust to: secretary @cityoffwinchestertrust.co.uk.

We will not disclose the information to any third party.

The Soke - TrustNews Mar 2008

The Soke In the old eastern suburb of the city, the ancient liberty of the Soke, is Cheesehill Street, running north and south, east of the main arm of the Itchen which formed the military fosse of the eastern wall of the city. Cheesehill Street takes its name from being the site of the chesil or gravel bank on which the boats laden with timber and stone, &c., coming up the Itchen from Southampton were grounded.

New Members - TrustNews Mar 2008

Welcome to our new members:

Mr C Ferguson (993),
Mr J Page (994),
Miss H Gregory (995),
Dr A 011iff-Cooper (996),
Miss E Young (997),
Mr T Snow (998),
Mr J Hann (999),
Mr & Mrs D Barber (1000)