Title Picture - TrustNews March 10



The Chippindale Venture, students at Compton C of E Primary School in 1998 with their design exercise

Chairman's Miscellany - TrustNews Mar 10

Since I wrote in the December issue of TrustNews, our time and effort have been absorbed greatly by planning and development matters. The largest of these related to Barton Farm and you will find a lengthy and informative article in later pages.

I want to use that as an example of the amount of time and energy which has been given by members of the Trust to this substantial threat to Winchester. In the early stages of the Developer's consultations, members attended various workshops and other meetings. Then in January, CALA Homes gave a very full presentation at the Heritage Centre to some twenty members of the Planning Advisory Group and the Trust Council. That presentation and discussion lasted for about four hours and afterwards Shione Carden laboured to render our collective view into a submission to the Planning Department. I have pressed her for an estimate of the time she spent on that and in setting up the meeting and she tells me ten hours. I suspect that is too modest. Add to that the time spent by those who attended the presentation and, earlier, the workshops and a large figure emerges. We must be grateful that such a level of commitment is available to the Trust.

Looming now is an application to build on a large area at Pitt on Romsey Road. We did not like what we saw of this earlier and I anticipate more time will be devoted to that in the next few weeks. We also recently learnt of the unexpected placing into administration of Thornfields and resulting halting of progress on the Silver Hill development. The Trust is taking a Baldwinesque view of “Wait and See” on this and certainly fears the possibility of a complete abandonment of the scheme or piecemeal development.

This TrustNews features “eyesores and delights”, which is also the theme of our winter talk on 8th April. Let us know what pleases and upsets you about our wonderful city.

Finally this edition of TrustNews has more pages than usual and our thanks must go to the authors and the production team for the time and effort this all takes.

Iain Patton

Planning Appraisal Group - TrustNews Mar 10

Much of the panels' time is spent looking at schemes to extend existing accommodation, due no doubt to the present difficulty in getting mortgages for buying new houses. Single or 2-storey extensions to the side, rear and front, perhaps over or in an existing garage (so what happens to the car at present housed there?) and conservatories are all grist to our mill, as dormers are also, alas!

The architectural description of a dormer is: "A window placed vertically in a sloping roof and with a roof of its own." The only connection between this and many of the dormers we see is the word's derivation, that its use is for sleeping quarters. The word `dormer' now seems to be used for something resembling a shed on the roof, or even a full-blown rear extension at roof level.

We again objected to an amended scheme for **27 Canon Street** (see last *TrustNews*) because of the alterations to the rear windows and the treatment of the dormer, but it was granted.

Two other rear dormers in adjoining houses at **102 & 104 Stockbridge Road** to which we objected have also been granted. At **No 104** the description given was "attic conversion with dormer", but in fact it stretched across the whole width of the roof and was more like an extension. At **No 102** the alteration was for the conversion of roof space for master bedroom & en suite shower room, including a flat-roofed dormer at the rear. This euphemistic description was for a rear extension with a roof that would completely replace the existing roof and have a façade that lined up with the rear wall of the house. Our concern was that permitting these alterations at the rear of this terrace would result in the kind of ugly roofscape that can be seen at the rear of terraces in Cheriton Road and nearby roads, and we therefore very much regret the precedent set by these decisions.

Permissions have also been given for some schemes mentioned previously: the **refurbishment of the Guildhall**, the building of a **business, enterprise &**

innovation park at the Chilcomb Centre, and the demolition of the **Stanmore Hotel, 212 Stanmore Lane**, for a 56-bed care home. The proposal to convert the first-floor office of **St George's Chambers, St George's Street**, into a 6-bedroom flat, to which we objected because of the cramped living conditions, has been withdrawn. A similar scheme to which we had objected has also been refused. This was the conversion of the 5-bedroom house at **28 Chilbolton Avenue** to multiple use for 11 letting rooms. Sadly, the reasons for refusal all referred to external problems relating to parking, survival of trees, the inadequate provision of public recreational open space and failure to provide for the improvement to the transport and highway network – doesn't the local authority care about the people who would live in these cramped conditions?

We have also had several pre-application presentations and discussions, and some of these schemes are now wending their way through the planning system. We had hoped for a pre-application presentation of the CALA Homes development at **Barton Farm**, but this was prevented by their previous commitments. However, this delay was more than compensated for by their willingness to explain their scheme to us at a later date, as is described in the separate report.

Other pre-application discussions were for an amended scheme to convert **Chestnut Mead, Kingsgate Road**, and build two houses at the rear, a scheme to replace the **Pastoral Centre, St Peter's Church, Jewry Street**, and the refurbishment of **Sunley House, St George's Street**. We very much appreciate being consulted before an application is submitted, as this makes the most productive use of the skills and experience of the Council & PAG members who attend these discussions, and we welcome the opportunity to influence schemes before they become 'set in stone' for the actual applications, when we can only raise objections.

Winchester is still under threat from incremental additions to its housing, thanks to directives from central government, decisions made by planning inspectors who may always fully appreciate local conditions and the interpretation of the situation brought about by the deferment of expected central developments, at **Silver Hill** and on the site of the **Hampshire Constabulary HQ**.

This caused the withdrawal of the City's objection to Redrow's appeal to build on land adjoining **Francis Gardens, Worthy Road** and we fear that, if the recent **Pitt Manor, Romsey Road**, application is half-way acceptable, permission may be given for 200 houses to be built there, which we feel would have a very damaging impact on this part of Winchester, as well as on its infrastructure. This is under assault due to the cumulative effect of many smaller-scale developments, such as the 88 dwellings under construction at **Highcroft, Romsey Road**, 14 dwellings at **St John's Croft, Blue Ball Hill**, and several developments in the **Chilbolton Avenue area**, to say nothing of many other small infill proposals.

Technology is wonderful when it works, but rather disastrous when it doesn't. Thanks to a change in WCC's IT system in the middle of last year, the Trust was not informed about a number of planning appeals and therefore did not write to support the City when we might otherwise have done so. More recently — and more worryingly — it seems that a backlog in the processing of applications resulted in too many of them accumulating within the memory capacity allowed for incoming

applications, with the result that the overflow fell into a black hole as far as the lists of new applications on the website were concerned. This means that although neighbours may have been informed about a nearby scheme, during this period the Trust and other members of the public were unable to comment on these applications because they did not appear on the weekly lists.

Shione Carden

Obituary Gill Graham - TrustNews Mar 10

Gill Graham, our last Hon. Secretary, died on 5th December 2009 and we extend our sympathy to her husband Ron, also a great supporter of the Trust. Gill, who served the Winchester Preservation Trust for eleven years until 1988 when they moved to Devon, was renowned for her comprehensive grasp of Trust affairs and her sense of humour. Perhaps the best illustration of her value to the Trust was a question put by David Middleditch, then Chairman, when he learned of Gill's intended retirement. "What would you regard as the worst fate that could befall a Chairman of the Trust?" A heartfelt cry which sums up her great contribution.

Barton Farm Development - TrustNews Mar 10

Despite snow and ice in January the Trust held a midday presentation by the CALA Homes representative and their architect. We especially wanted to have the additional information they could provide before we made our comments to the planners on the new outline planning application to build 2000 houses on the green fields of Barton Farm. This was much appreciated by the 20 members at the Heritage Centre, and the Trust is immensely grateful to the presenters and our members who, despite the awful travelling conditions, all gave up a large part of their day to attend. It enabled us to understand the thought processes leading to the present scheme, which includes closing the Andover Road and routing its traffic through the new development. The presenters left us shortly before 3pm after which we embarked upon a lengthy discussion of the scheme.

The general consensus was that this was a great improvement on the previous proposal, but that more evidence was needed to support the diversion of traffic from Andover Rd. Against our concern that the innovative traffic calming proposed on the new route might not prove effective, we learnt that HCC were considering using the proposal as a research project. We felt able to support this with the proviso that any alterations made to the present Andover Road would not prevent its reinstatement as the primary route should the proposal prove unsatisfactory.

We felt that further thought was needed as to who would actually use the Park & Ride site: 200 spaces seems too small to cope with not only Peter Symonds students whose cars currently trouble local residents, but also commuters wanting to work in the city or travel elsewhere by train, as well as visitors to the city centre. It was felt important that bus services should be established very early during the

construction of the development to avoid the risk of first residents becoming too reliant on using their cars. With this in mind, we also felt that the pedestrian and cycle connectivity with the city centre was inadequate, and that improved conditions for this along Andover Road were needed.

The land on the east side of the railway line seems vulnerable to future development and we would like its designation as part of the green infrastructure to be made a condition of any permission. We further suggest that part of the southern end of the area could be used to meet the current demand for more space on the Park Road allotments.

The completion of a development of this size is likely to take at least 10 years from the time that permission is given, and we regard it as essential that some way is found to put in place a master plan that sets out the original concept and high standard of design, and so ensures that the integrity of the scheme is retained, whether or not a phase of the development were ever sold on to another developer. The Trust agrees with WinACC that each phase should aim at the highest levels of sustainability that are current at the time of construction.

Despite our recognition that this is better than the previous proposal and that it is a designated local reserve site fit for development, the Trust continues to believe that permitting this large development at this time would damage the character of Winchester. Other proposed developments in the city's centre and its suburbs that are still to be built would provide about half of the housing currently demanded by central government. Proof is therefore needed that this scale of additional housing is required and that the local infrastructure can accommodate the demands of these extra 2000 dwellings. If this and the other highdensity developments were built, would the already stretched resources of our present infrastructure be able to cope with the extra demands brought about by their residents?

The Trust therefore **objected** to the scheme as being premature and detrimental to the character of Winchester.

Shione Carden

West Hill Cemetery - TrustNews Mar 10

While researching the background of some of the people buried in West Hill Cemetery for the Trust's pamphlet "A peaceful place to rest" I failed to discover the eventual fate of Captain Edward Lawrence MC DCM.

My original informant told me that there was no record of his service after he was transferred from the 1st to the 10th Battalion of The Northumberland Fusiliers. Now thanks to the staff of that now disbanded Regiment's Museum at Alnwick Castle, the ultimate fate of this brave man has been uncovered.

On the 23rd March 1918, the 10th Battalion had been withdrawn from the front line "all grimy, bearded and dead weary, but absolutely unconscious of any question of

defeat", and were accommodated in a hutted camp near the village of Mercatel, not far from Bapaume.

By the 27th they were back in the front line. Captain Lawrence was then commanding 'X' Company. The Germans started shelling the Battalion's position at 3 a.m. on the 28th. The battle that followed was one of desperate fighting, and the order 'No retirement' was obeyed to the letter. The enemy fire eventually was turned on to 'X' Company sector, and Lawrence and his second-in-command, Lieutenant Rose, were both killed. The casualties inflicted on the Company were very heavy and by dark on that day 'X' Company had ceased to exist.

No record of Captain Lawrence could be found in the Battalion's War Diaries, which is unusual, as it was customary to record the death of officers as they occurred. It seems incredible that so little is known or written about this very brave man. Nowhere is then any indication as to why his memorial stands in West Hill Cemetery. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records show him as having "No known grave", but his name does appear on the Arras Memorial (Bay2-3) in the Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery.

More detail of his earlier service can be found in the Trust's booklet "A Peaceful Place to Rest" which is available from the Trust's office (manned on Monday and Wednesday mornings). You can also view this booklet on this website: "A peaceful place to rest".

Robin Merton

Hyde 900 - TrustNews Mar 10

Trout return to Nuns' Stream

A community project in partnership between Hyde900, the Environment Agency, Winchester City Council, Hampshire Wildlife Trust and the Wild Trout Trust has enhanced the Nuns' Stream where it runs alongside Saxon Road and the Abbey ruins, from Monk's Road to King Alfred Terrace. The work has provided a better environment for chalkstream wildlife and made it a more interesting and attractive feature of daily life in Hyde. With the help of local volunteers a new natural bank has been created and gravel added to provide spawning grounds for fish. It seems that the changes have had a much more rapid effect than anyone expected! In December, just days after the work had been completed, wild brown trout were spotted spawning in the stream on the new gravel by Lawrence Talks, local resident of Hyde and officer with the Environment Agency that led the project. You can even see the trout on YouTube, search under 'wild brown trout Nuns' Stream'!



Treasures of Hyde Abbey Exhibition,
Winchester Discovery Centre,
6 March - 2 May

Founded for the burial of King Alfred the Great in 1110, Hyde Abbey grew to be one of the richest and most powerful monastic houses in the country. Treasures of Hyde Abbey is the first event in a year of celebrations exploring the legacy of the abbey and celebrating the people and heritage of this well-loved Winchester ‘suburb’ of today. The exhibition will be colourful and interactive, giving visitors the opportunity to discover the scale of the abbey and some of the people who lived in and around it. It will bring together in one place for the first time in five centuries a selection of late Saxon and medieval treasures from the abbey, loaned by national institutions including the British Library, the Bodleian Library and the V&A Museum. Treasures of Hyde Abbey is supported by grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and WCC and is sponsored by Denplan, 3PB Barristers, Beachcroft solicitors and The Old Vine, Winchester. Admission is free



Where has our civic pride gone? - TrustNews Mar 10



Many traffic signs are dilapidated.



Some shops gave up on window dressing a long time ago.



This tourist map has been missing for years.



Too many bins?... or not enough?

.....Ah! Here it is!



Hyde Abbey Garden. A jubilee project inspired by the local community.



Many shops do still have expert window dressers.



Parchment Street. Recently enhanced thanks to efforts of residents and businesses.

“Eyesores and delights” is the topic for the Trust’s Winter Talk on 8th April.

Tell us what delights you in Winchester!

What now for Silver Hill? - TrustNews Mar 10

Many Trust members probably had mixed feelings when they heard that Thornfield Ventures Ltd Group – (the parent company of Thornfield Properties plc and Thornfield Properties (Winchester) - the intended developers of Silver Hill had gone into administration. It is apparently only the parent company which has been placed into administration and this was as a direct result of the current economic recession and a bank takeover. The City Council tell us that the risks had always been clearly identified and there was no action which the Council could have taken to prevent the present situation. It does not mean that the regeneration of the Silver Hill area will not happen at some stage and the City Council is now reviewing all options to identify the best way forward.

Some of the comments we hear are these: “Oh good let’s have a better scheme.” “Can we now have an architectural competition?” “Can the Council not look at other alternatives?”

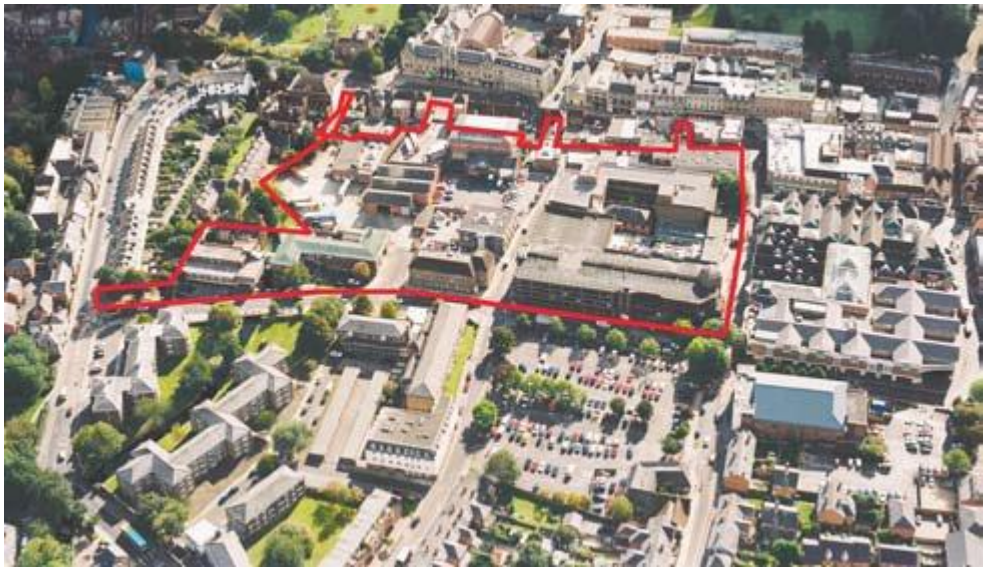
When the present scheme for redevelopment of the Silver Hill area eventually came to the City Council the Trust made very detailed comments but was generally supportive of the redevelopment. We particularly welcomed the regeneration of what had become a very run down eyesore in the heart of our historic City*.

Believe it or not the original proposals for redevelopment of this whole area date back exactly 21 years and started when Stagecoach (who owned then and, as far as we know, still own a large part of the site) floated the idea to the City Council of closing their bus station and putting all their buses out on to the Broadway! This they could have done without any permission from the City Council. As a City Councillor at that time I remember the concern we all felt that this should not happen and that a comprehensive new scheme to include a replacement bus station should be sought. The Bus Company were already talking to the Thornfield Group about a joint venture for such a scheme.

It was not until February 2009 that the current planning application was finally approved after almost 3 years of detailed negotiations. Just to remind ourselves this would involve the retention and conversion of the Woolstaplers Hall, the construction of 9 new buildings, including significant new retail shopping, 287 dwellings, 15 live/work units, a new bus station, a youth centre, a replacement club and parking. The Trust had significant reservations about the scale of the buildings but felt that the whole package, if delivered in accordance with the detailed planning agreement, would improve the appearance and vitality of that part of the City Centre. We certainly believed that higher sustainability standards would be needed when further detailed plans came forward. For several years as a Policy Group we have carefully monitored progress on the scheme, with regular questions to Council officers. We knew that the City Council had undertaken all the necessarily time-consuming and complex work before serving a compulsory purchase order on all the landowners involved. This was about to happen and would have allowed the comprehensive redevelopment to proceed. As the funding for this was dependent on Thornfield the City Council has now suspended this process. The Friarsgate Doctors' Practice has already moved to their new home at Weeke; the St Clements' Doctors' Practice was due to be relocated in new purpose-built premises in the City Centre, as part of the overall scheme.

So where do we now stand? At the recent Trust Council meeting we all agreed that our general support for this redevelopment should be maintained. It cannot be in the best interests of this historic City for the dilapidation and neglect of such a significant area to continue indefinitely. We still do not know what the City Council's next move will be. The City actually owns very little of the site and it was always dependent on the active co-operation of a wouldbe developer. It is certainly a depressing thought that we could face several more years of inactivity as the whole area grows more and more neglected and unloved. We are now pressing the City Council for a full explanation of what real options they now have. We were encouraged throughout the earlier discussions that the significant mix of new housing was retained, including rented housing for local needs. We will be keen to ensure that any new changes retain this significant mix of housing to bring vitality and life to that area, which should not become a ghost town after the shops close.

Once the City Council has carried out its current review with its professional advisers, the Trust will look further at how we can help to move things forward.



Patrick Davies Chair, Policy Group

**The Silver Hill proposals involve redeveloping the following buildings: Bus Station, Marks and Spencer's warehouse (Woolstaplers hall) and car park, Friarsgate Multi Storey Car Park, Iceland, St Clements Surgery, Friarsgate Medical Centre, Ciotbury House (NHS), Antiques Market, Kings Walk shops and offices, the ROAB Club, Lloyds Pharmacy, Sainsburys supermarket and the old Post Office and sorting office.*

Summer Walks 10 - TrustNews Mar 10

Thursdays. Unless specific instructions are shown in the programme below: Meet at 6.20pm;

Walks start at 6.30pm; starting point is the Heritage Centre Upper Brook Street.

Maximum numbers for each walk is 25 for the convenience, comfort and safety of all. To avoid disappointment, arrive in good time or apply in advance by e mailing or telephoning the Heritage Centre by 9.30am on the Wednesday, the day before each walkThursdays

Non members very welcome. Suggested donation £2.00

3rd June	**Seen and Unseen: a walk around the Abbey of Hyde** Meet at entrance to River Park Leisure Centre	**Barbara Hall** City Guide

10th June	**The Soke, St John's Church and St Giles' Fair** Meet at King Alfred Statue	**Elizabeth Proudman** City Guide
17th June	**Winchester High Street in the 1930s** Meet at the Westgate	**Phil Yates** Director Author and CWT member
24th June	**Past Trades in Winchester** eet at Heritage Centre	**Richard Baker** Retired Architect and Planner
1st July	**The best of contemporary and traditional design** An urban designer' perspective. Meet at Heritage Centre	**John Hearn** Senior Planning officer Winchester City Council
8th July	**Recent developments at the University of Winchester** Meet at receptoion King Alfred Campus Sparkford Road	**Tommy Geddes** Deputy Vice Chancellor
15th July	**Pilgrim's School** Meet at Pilgim's School Cathedral Close	**Martin Kelly** School bursar
22nd July	**Wolvesey the Two Palaces** Meet at entrance gates of Wolvesey	**Michael Carden MBE** Architect and CWT Vice Chairman
29th July	**Winchester College** Meet at entrance in College Street	**George Saumarez Smith** Director Robert Adam Architects
5th August	**St Michael Church to St Faith's Church Yard** Meet at St Michael's Church St Michael's Road	**Tony Humphrys** City Guide
12th August	**St Cross Park Excavations** Meet at Porter's Lodge St Cross	**WARG Member**
19th August	**Heights Widths and Shapes** Meet at Heritage Centre	**Keith Leaman** Architect
26th August	**St Thomas Street** Meet at Lloyds Bank High Street	**Andrew Rutter** Retired Conservation Officer
2nd September	**Victorian Houses of the Western Vale** Meet 5.50pm entrance gates of West Hill cemetery St James Lane	**Robin Freeman** Archectural Historian
9th September	**Queen Elizabeth II Court Hampshire County Council new offices**	**Steve Clow** Assistant Director of Property Services HCC

	Meet 5.50pm at entrance in Sussex Street	
16th September	**Building Materials through the Ages** Meet 5.50pm Guildhall The Broadway	**Michael White** Conservation Officer Winchester City Council

Please note there have been some changes since the March edition of TrustNews.

Winter Talks 2010 - TrustNews Mar 10

The City of Winchester Trust invites its members to attend our forthcoming series of talks All talks take place at the Heritage Centre, 32 Upper Brook Street, starting at 7.00pm. Suggested donation of £2 per person. Tea and Coffee will be available.

Space at the Heritage Centre is limited, so please arrive in good time to avoid disappointment. Space will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

For more information please contact the secretary on 01962 851664 or e-mail: secretary@cityofwinchestertrust.co.uk

Thursday 11th March	**Winchester High Street of the 1930s**	Phil Yates
Thursday 8th April	**"Streets Ahead – eyesores and delights"**	Members meeting led by Trust Council members

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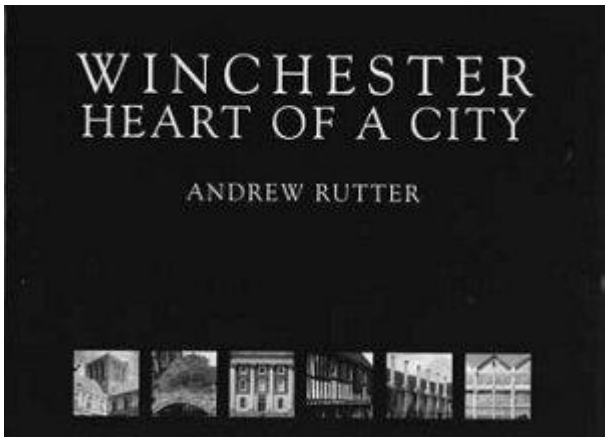
Book Review by Professor Sir Colin Stansfield-Smith - TrustNews Mar 10



This is a beautiful book. On opening it, the first impression given by the exceptional illustrations, drawings, watercolours and photographs, is a visual and aesthetic one. It creates a real desire to walk and explore this fascinating historical city, so diversely and richly described.

The author claims that the book is a personalised view, but it is imbued, through its attention to detail, with much scholarship. It is composed, essentially, for the citizens of Winchester who are familiar with its morphology, its buildings, its streets, its spaces, and its landscape. For the visitor, it offers an invitation, and the promise of a rich historical experience.

The introduction to the Winchester Conservation Area and the analysis of the Conservation Area setting are particularly interesting, and visually attractive. Most of the text tends to be descriptive, with a format shaped by the conservation districts and suburbs, and this determines the sequence of walkways and promenades. It does not prioritise; even a unique and remarkable environment like St Cross relies mainly on a commentary expressed through beautiful photos and drawings. The maps and diagrams are an essential part of this analysis or 'reading'.

The City Walls are described somewhat indirectly, and in association with other features in the chapters titled 'The Walled City'. The City Walls are elements which define the layers of history. Winchester removed most of its city walls after the Civil War, and in the early Twentieth Century, and yet, as the book describes, it remains a city of walled enclosures - an urban form of precinct within precinct. Winchester's city walls only remain as fragments, but in spite of this their survival as primary elements is a continuous reminder of historical permanence and continuity. The walled presence is now psychological and surreal, depending on its physical materiality and location. They cannot be recreated and they are psychological. Walls that had a function of defining territory, of protecting inside space from outside intrusion, of making a statement of power and privilege, of excluding the non-privileged, have finally become benign artefacts in their own right; significant museum pieces.

The book's interest is, therefore, culturally all embracing - historically, socially and artistically. Aldo Rossi's commentary in his book 'The Architecture of The City' has a poignancy and relevance for Rutter's descriptive analysis:

'This city makes its own statement of a collective memory, and is a theatre of human events. This theatre is no longer just a presentation, it is a reality; it absorbs events and feelings, and every new event contains within it a memory of the past, and a potential memory of the future'.

There is a passing comparison with Salisbury, and the book creates a yearning to extend such a study to Winchester's rivals, Chichester and Canterbury, both full of similar layers of history and ingredients, but dominated by a cathedral with differing emphases.

Winchester's past has given it an unrivalled superiority in its enjoyment of royal and privileged patronage. The book describes the commissioning of national status architects by rich sponsors; particularly of Christopher Wren in the building of a royal palace, the legacy of which leaves the city with a formal renaissance space, stunningly situated on the site of the former barracks. Nineteenth Century Architects like Blomfield, Tite, Champness, Owen Browne Carter and Baker are represented in college, hospital and County Council. Historically,Winchester has a confidence about itself which is not now reflected in its commission of architects in the late Twentieth and early Twenty-First Century. Not surprisingly, the text is understated and

somewhat diffident in its commentary on the contemporary scene, but one would have thought the work of Plincke, Leaman & Browning was worthy of a credit, given its contribution over some forty years to the quality and character of the city.

What is interesting is that, although by training an architect, which is evident in the text and drawings, the author demonstrates a planner's range of focus. The book offers a contradictory account where the major strategies of contemporary vehicular access and movement are irreconcilable with the rhythms and precious qualities of a historic city - all part of the confusion and complexity of modem urban thought.

Civic Voice replaces Civic Trust - TrustNews Mar 10

For nearly a year Civic Society Initiative (CSI) has been investigating the potential support for a national body to replace the Civic Trust, which was obliged to close down a year ago having lost government contracts on which much of its funding depended. This has been possible because of temporary funding from the National Trust and others who believe in the need for an organization to represent local society interests.

The process has entailed numerous local and regional forums, a national conference, bulletins and a website. We have been very impressed by the efforts of the two provisional officers, Tony Burton and Ian Harvey, whose output is prodigious.

Support has been overwhelming, the prime reason being the need for what Griff Rhys Jones called a "loud barking voice" to represent our concerns to government. Some have also wanted the new body to provide advice and support for their own activities but, to minimize costs, we and others have argued that at least to start with this can be achieved via the website.

All have agreed that our national body should be funded by and answerable to the societies alone. This is not only a matter of financial stability, but of independence. We resigned from the Civic Trust a few years ago because we considered it had ceased to represent our interests and was too influenced by government. Many felt it had become self-serving rather than the campaigning organization it had been.

Provisional assessment of the optimum annual cost is £300,000 to £400,000, the equivalent of about £1 to £3 per head of each participating society's membership. We believe this is not too much to pay because, with many of the most important issues we face, the local authorities are powerless to influence policies that are handed down with severe penalties for non-compliance. And whenever we have made a case direct to central government, it has been politely brushed aside; it would be a different matter if made by a body representing around 1000 societies.

Consequently, we have offered to contribute £1000 per year for the next three years to help the national body become established. We are currently able to do this from general funds, but after that we could only maintain a sum of this order by increasing members' subscriptions. We believe that three years should be long enough for the

organization to prove its worth both to us and to you, and we shall keep you posted and consult you well in advance of any subscription increase.

Following responses from societies several important decisions have just been taken: the name of the new body will be Civic Voice; annual contributions from societies will start at £1.50 per head of membership rising to £2 next year; there will be only two full-time employees; the object will be to campaign in various ways, and to give expert advice to member societies as well as running the website, etc. Less urgent decisions will await the formation of a board of trustees for whom all societies may put forward names and will then have the opportunity to vote.

Civic Voice will be launched in London on 17th April when we shall be represented. There is much more than this to be said, but no room to include it here, so we urge any of you who are interested to explore the website:
www.civicvoice.org.uk

Michael Carden

Trust Open Gardens Day, Sunday 20th June - TrustNews Mar 10

Once again the Trust is holding an open gardens day, giving you the opportunity to look behind the walls of some private gardens or even for you to welcome others in to see the results of your own labours.

So far Penny Patton, Lady Angela Stansfield-Smith, both Christchurch Road; Mrs Joanna Matthews, The Weirs; Mrs Penny Neyroud, Compton and Mrs Julia Grice, St John's Street have offered to open their garden gates for your enjoyment.

Have you thought of opening your garden? It is a very informal affair and no extra weeding necessary!! It is however very popular with members and a very pleasant way to raise a little money for the Trust. Full details will be in the next edition of TrustNews.

The Chippindale Venture - A Unique Environmental Education Project - TrustNews Mar 10

Frank Chippindale was a former head of the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Leeds who retired to Winchester where he established an urban studies group. He believed that it was important for children to develop their understanding and appreciation of the urban environment, ideally to be studied in school during the formative years of their education.

Following his death, the Trust set up a venture in 1987 in his memory specifically designed to involve young people and teachers in schools. Teams of primary and secondary children worked with local architects, planners and landscape architects in primary and secondary schools. The aim was to develop and foster not only an

increased and informed knowledge and awareness of the built environment, but also the processes and forces that shape it. The practical task for each school team was a hypothetical environmental design exercise with an actual site. Each venture was designed to be closely allied to the original version of the National Curriculum.

The venture was managed by an organising committee in four stages over two terms in each school. It was financed by generous local funding, private donations, sponsorship and grants. HCC provided a considerable degree of support and goodwill.

There were five separate ventures over several years, each with a specific brief from the organising committee, a clear starting point for children and professionals alike. Five primary schools, two secondary schools , a private school and numerous children were involved.

There were distinct benefits from the professionals working with teachers and children. Their purpose was to enable the children to learn how to coherently develop and express their ideas, to stimulate and facilitate design possibilities and bring them to final presentation. As role models, their influence on the thinking of young people about how to look at and possibly design the built environment was crucial to the content, process and outcome of each venture.

Preliminary work is now being undertaken to see if the Trust can resurrect the venture whilst sustaining the original objectives. It will be necessary to see whether it will fit the current National Curriculum. It will explore the willingness and current capacity of professional partnerships and the goodwill of schools to participate in a potentially challenging and exciting project.

Peter Rees

New Members - TrustNews Mar 2010

A warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined:

Miss Jane Boyles

Mr Christopher Edwards