Title Picture - TrustNews Sept 10



A view of Winchester Cathedral

Chairman's Miscellany - TrustNews Sept 10

In writing a regular column such as this, there is a danger of repetition and another danger of lack of inspiration so it is prudent to look back at the last issue. In the June

issue, I wrote of sadness at the death of our Patron, Sir Peter Ramsbotham. Later you will see details of the Memorial Service which will take place in the cathedral and I hope that many will wish to attend.

It is a matter of pleasure to record the knighthood bestowed on our Vice President, Donald Insall. This is richly deserved by a most distinguished architect with many brilliant restorations to his credit, not least at Windsor after the disastrous fire. Donald is a keen supporter of the Trust and has contributed greatly to our activities over the years. Congratulations, Sir Donald.

As I write, it is raining outside for the first time in many weeks, an uncomfortable change but good for our parched gardens. We chose well for the date of opening of members gardens to other members and their friends. This proved to be a great success as is recorded elsewhere in this issue by John Pilkington. His article is much appreciated and I urge members to offer contributions to TrustNews, either as articles or letters.

Finally, it is sad to recall the recent death of Corinne Bennett, a member of the Trust who served as Architect to the Dean and Chapter of Winchester from 1974 to 1989. In that time, she restored a large amount of the exterior stonework, particularly at the east end of the cathedral and of the rose window in the north transept. Later large restorations followed, including Brighton Pavilion and the Albert Memorial and, more locally, work at Mottisfont Abbey and Mompesson House at Salisbury. Many members will recall the tours of the roofs of Winchester Cathedral which she led with great spirit and a confidence at such dizzy heights which was not shared by all in the party.

A memorial service for the life of our late Patron, Sir Peter Ramsbotham, will be held in Winchester Cathedral at 2pm on Friday, 17th September.

Iain Patton

Planning Appraisal Group - TrustNews Sep 10

The past few months have caused a hiatus in the planning system, while our planners waited to learn what changes the newly elected government were going to make to existing directives.

There are many controversial developments waiting in the queue, some dating back to early in the year, and worried Winchester residents have consequently spent many hours arranging meetings and writing letters of objection.

One of the earliest and most controversial was the proposal to build 200 dwellings, together with 200 Park & Ride spaces, etc, at **Pitt Manor Farm, Romsey Road**. It seems that until the recent change of policy the Local Planning Authority wasn't confident it could successfully resist this if it was refused and the developers then went to appeal. This development has now been refused.

There are, however, no less than six other long-standing schemes mentioned in previous TrustNews that are still awaiting decisions. In date order, starting in March and finishing towards the end of May, these proposals are to:

- Replace **110 & 112 Cromwell Road and the allotment site behind** with ten dwellings;
- Build two blocks of student accommodation at the **junction of Sparkford Close & Sparkford Road**;
- Replace the **Snooker Centre, Radley House, 8 St Cross Road** and build six dwellings facing onto **Edgar Road**;
- Convert **Chestnut Mead, Kingsgate Road**, into three dwellings and build two houses in the garden behind;
- Demolish **Nos 45 & 47 Chilbolton Avenue** and build 14 dwellings, **together with land at the rear of no 49a**;
- Demolish **Lang House, 27 Chilbolton Avenue**, for two apartment blocks.

It will be interesting to see whether the change in guidance that gardens should no longer be considered as brown field sites, will have an influence on the decisions that have still to be made.

Another long-term application still needing a decision is a Hampshire County Council proposal to extend and refurbish **Beaconsfield House, Andover Road**, to which we objected in February of this year. The Trust welcomes contemporary extensions when they are sympathetic to both the building and its surroundings, neither of which was the case here. Being on the corner with Park Road, the site is very highly visible, and we felt that the extension had been designed without any appreciation of the either the scale or the architectural design of the simple and somewhat austere appearance of the original building. We await the decision on this scheme with great interest.

The Local Area Design Statement was quoted in many of the letters objecting to the proposed developments in Chilbolton Avenue and it was good to see it used by the Development Control Planning Committee as one of their reasons for refusing to allow **28 Chilbolton Avenue** to be turned into 11 letting rooms, despite the officers' recommendation to permit it. This advice was very understandable, however, bearing in mind the existing minimal requirements governing multiple occupancy that "Each separate occupancy shall be provided with its own bath or shower. Where this is not practicable, for all sharing occupants there must be a readily accessible bathroom or shower room" and the ratio then given for 11-12 people was "3 bathrooms & 3 WCs (separate WC not required)". The Trust feels most strongly that for a city such as Winchester this provision is inadequate for eleven people who might have no connection with each other, although it might be acceptable for a large family, and therefore welcomes the refusal.

Other on-going proposals for Winchester are for 2000 dwellings at **Barton Farm, Andover Road**, for which the Public Inquiry in early September has been postponed (as reported in the local press), and a revised scheme by the new developer for the land adjoining **St John's Croft, Blue Ball Hill**, for which an application still has to be made. The Trust had a pre-application presentation of this, and welcomed the

reduction of dwellings from fourteen to six, but felt that further thought should be given to some aspects of the scheme.

Another pre-application presentation was for added extensions and the refurbishment of **New Hall, Winchester College, College Street**. Lack of space meant this could only be to a limited number of the Trust's council members, who found the proposals generally acceptable. The Trust's pre-application opinion was endorsed by the three PAG panels looking at it, who welcomed the aim of making the building more sustainable than the existing 1960s standard, although they felt that several aspects needed more detailed information. However, from the adverse comments that have been made it seems that these favourable views are not shared by everyone!

We also had a post-application presentation of the scheme for 14 dwellings and offices proposed for the site of the **Winchester Laundry, Hyde Abbey Road**, which meant that the Trust was therefore unable to have any influence on its design, although it was very useful in helping our understanding of the development. The reduction from the original 31 units to 14 (the magic number not needing the provision of affordable housing) was welcomed and the general layout and approach was felt successful, although there was a mixed response, from the panels looking at the application, to the fenestration of the dwellings facing onto Gordon Road. However, all were agreed that the right solution for the corner office block had still to be found, and the Trust therefore objected to this aspect of the application.

We are currently seeking a pre-application presentation from Banner Homes of their scheme to replace **Park House, 21 Park Road**, with 12 new dwellings, which is causing a lot of concern in the locality.

Shione Carden

Summer/Autumn Evening Walks 2010s - TrustNews Sep 10

Every Thursday. Meet at 5.50pm. Start at 6pm.

(Please note that the subject of the walks on 2nd and 16th September differs from that shown in the June edition of Trust News which were incorrect.) Recommended maximum number is 25 for the convenience of the guide and the comfort and safety of all. To avoid disappointment please apply in advance by e-mailing or telephoning the Heritage Centre before 9.30am of the Wednesday of that week's walk. Non Members very welcome. Suggested donation £2.00.

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

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Winchester 2020 - TrustNews Sep 10

We recently reported the remarkable **'24 hours to save Winchester'** event when the Solent Centre for Architecture and Design challenged three volunteer teams of professionals, each working independently through the night at the School of Art, to come up with ideas for an attractive and sustainable City by 2020. The schemes presented to a large audience the following day were not only innovative and pleasing, but potentially surprisingly practicable. In the time available it was not of course possible to go further than ideas — each team producing an overall concept and one or two sample areas. Significantly the teams quite separately developed similar concepts that made the area within the old walls traffic-free (except for essential services and special needs), surrounded by sub-centres that would be self-sufficient for daily requirements, and with efficient public transport to the centre and between each other. However, the way in which each area was conceived varied imaginatively.

Ideas-based approach to the future

All who were present felt that this initiative should not be lost, so that leading members of the teams agreed to work with WinACC and the Trust to develop this ideas-based approach to the future of Winchester, and to commend it to the City Council. You will know that WinACC was formed with the object of creating a sustainable Winchester and cutting the carbon footprint of the district by a third by 2015, and that the Trust has been campaigning for a 'conceptual framework' to guide development so that it enhances rather than detracts from the character of the City. This ideas-based approach appealed to both organisations as a very promising way forward.

Genuinely practicable vision

The name '24 hours to save....' had served its purpose, so the new informal partnership has adopted the name **'Winchester 2020'**, with the objective of creating a genuinely practicable vision for a sustainable, enjoyable and characterful City by 2020. This chimes well with the City Council's recently expressed intention of reviewing and giving more direct focus to the Vision Document of 2006. All are agreed that the abandonment of Government directives on forward planning means that the Vision Document needs to become a vital element in the planning process. It will serve to investigate and develop a shared and practicable vision of the future that will inform the planning process from a local perspective replacing the remote top down directives.

So far Winchester 2020 has made presentations to the Winchester District Strategic Partnership and the Town Forum, and held preliminary talks with senior members of the City Council, meeting with reactions varying from approval in principle to considerable enthusiasm. The next step is to agree a plan of action that can be implemented in stages, to include further, more developed presentations to the Council and other organisations, and to mount a public exhibition with provision for debate and feedback. Should members of the Trust wish to make any comments or suggestions at this stage they would be very welcome.

Michael Carden

City of Winchester Trust Design Awards 2010 - TrustNews Sep 10

With over 20 submissions, there was a strong entry for this year's design awards, and after the initial scrutiny 16 projects have been shortlisted, an indication that the standard of design was high.

There were two new categories introduced this year: Public Art to encourage the sponsorship of paintings, sculptures and other works of art which are displayed in public places; and Sustainability which aims to recognise projects responding to the challenges of climate change by reducing carbon footprints. We are particularly encouraged by the number of entries under Public Art, but the response to Sustainability has yet to gather momentum, which is perhaps indicative of the failings in all of us.

Last time these awards were held in 2007, the visiting chairman of the judging panel was George Ferguson, a past president of RIBA, who did an excellent job in his famous red trousers as he inspected the various shortlisted buildings and then discussed the merits of each with generous praise at the awards ceremony. For those who were present, it was a memorable evening and one to encourage good design, which is the whole point of holding these events. This time around, Martin Willey, past president of RTPI has kindly agreed to be our external chairman. Some may remember him as an ambitious young planning officer in Test Valley during the mid 70's, so he is familiar with Winchester, although he has practised in the West Country for many years.

Members will get the chance to vote for their preferred scheme at the AGM on Mon 27 September, and once the judging panel has visited each shortlisted project during the first week in October, the awards will be presented at an evening ceremony at the end of October, details to be announced once the date and venue have been confirmed. This year we are hoping to secure a venue which is large enough to invite all members who wish to attend, so watch this space for further news.

Chris Higgins

Shortlisted Projects determined at judging panel on 26th July 2010

Ashburton Court, Queen Elizabeth II Court (Refurbishment & Sustainability)

Discovery Centre Bldg (Extension & Public Art)

Sparklers Sure Start Community Centre Winnall (Extension)

University Centre (New Building)

108 Stockbridge Rd (New Housing)

Abbey Gdns Lavatories (Refurbishment) Lighting in St Cross Church (Refurbishment) Warden's Lodgings at WinColl (Extension) Trinity Centre (New Building)

Emmaus Community Centre, Bar End (New Building)

Waitrose & Doctors Surgery (New Building) Painted Bollards in The Square (Public Art) Discovery Centre Wall Hanging (Public Art)

3 works of Art at UoW: Wall Hanging in Reception, Wire Dancers, King Alfred's Statue (Public Art)

The Kite Flyer, Parchment Street (Public Art)

Courtyard Mosaic and Sculpture at Osborne School (Public Art & landscaping)

It has been suggested the Trust should introduce a new category next time for "Hidden Gems" i.e. buildings hidden away or not easily seen by the public.

Southern Comfort - TrustNews Sep 10

Some members will know of Southern Comfort, but a very brief description might be helpful to others. In 1983 the Chichester Society invited Winchester and three other local societies to spend a day with them discussing mutual concerns. We all found it extremely useful and a 'comfort' and agreed that any 'southern' society wishing to host future such events should do so in whatever way suited them; the curious name arose from the heading of a published article reporting the first meeting. Such was the popularity of the idea that larger meetings have taken place every year or two since then, encompassing an ever-wider area until it became a potential burden for the organizers. Following a longer gap than usual we therefore decided to act as host again with a more modest gathering.

Representatives from a dozen societies accepted our invitation amounting, with other individual guests and Trust organisers, to about 40 people filling the Gurkha Gallery almost to capacity on Saturday 10th July. After a welcome from Iain Patton, there was a very lively and wide ranging discussion session chaired by Christopher Clark, skilfully and wittily managing a panel that included the Coordinator of Civic Voice and the Chairman of the SE Region. After a coffee break during which

discussion continued apace, we had an inspirational and beautifully illustrated talk from the internationally renowned landscape architect, Kim Wilkie, who happens to live locally and is a good friend of the Trust. It has long been our hope to get him to speak at an AGM but although very willing he has always been abroad at the time — next year, perhaps.

After a hasty sandwich lunch, we gathered in four small groups, each to debate one of a number of pressing issues affecting societies in the south: the future of Southern Comfort; membership of Civic Societies, recruitment and subscriptions; Historic Town Status; and the role of trustees and volunteers together with the management of our workforce.

The day ended with a choice of two guided walks, one around Peninsula Barracks under the expert leadership of Robin Merton, and the other across the road to the refurbished County Offices where Steve Clow, now head of Property Services but one-time senior architect, came back from a day on the coast to guide us around the building.

All present acclaimed the day as a great success, for which thanks are due to all who took part, especially in leading and organisational roles, and particularly to John Stanning and Vicky Feldwick who put the event together; thanks also to the staff of the Gurkha Gallery who were as usual both efficient and unobtrusive. For the benefit of all concerned, a detailed report is being written and will be on the Trust website before long. One gratifying outcome is that the Guildford Society has picked up the baton and will host Southern Comfort next year or the year after.

Michael Carden

Open Gardens Day on 20th June - TrustNews Sep 10



On a glorious June afternoon, a dozen Trust members generously threw open their gardens to fellow members and guests in the third of our biennial Open Gardens Days. These have become a popular fixture in the Trust calendar, and rightly so - it's hard to think of a finer way to spend a Sunday than enjoying these normally hidden Winchester delights. In just four hours more than 600 visits were recorded.

By happy serendipity this year's gardens were a perfect cross-section, ranging from tiny and intimate to sweeping and grand. The Open Gardens Day is completely informal, so we were relieved that our hosts had observed the call not to overdo the preparations! There were obvious highlights - the river flowing through Wolvesey Lodge, or the view over the city from 21 St John's Street - but it was also inspiring to see how with a bit of ingenuity a super garden can be created almost anywhere.



We were encouraged to wander, and it was wonderful how often this led to an unexpected splash of poppy or whiff of scented rose. Other surprises awaited us too. There was a rustic studio, a sensuous sculpture, a hidden pool - and who would have thought that behind an unassuming house in Greenhill Road we would find a model railway and a huge red sign reading 'Winchester Post Office'?

From the buzz of chatter at each garden it was obvious that people were finding inspiration in different ways - if the formal lawn didn't appeal, a rambling bower would be just around the corner. Something that appealed to everyone was Penny Patton's and Penny Neyroud's delicious teas, which were eagerly consumed by hungry and thirsty visitors as the afternoon drew to a close. A total of £420 was raised for Trust funds. Hopefully the next Open Gardens Day will take place in 2012, and if you haven't already enjoyed one I can warmly recommend it.

John Pilkington