Title Picture - TrustNews September 14



Photgraphy by courtesy of Penny Patton

Chairman's Jottings - TrustNews Sept 14

As I mentioned in the last TrustNews, Shione Carden wishes to retire from running the Planning Appraisal Group which monitors incoming planning applications for Winchester. In response to my pleas for help, Dr Mary Tiles has kindly come forward and offered her services. Unfortunately she is unable to start helping until towards the end of October and we are very grateful to Shione for agreeing to stay with the PAG team until the handover takes place.

We had a fascinating visit to Chichester in July. We were welcomed by the Mayor and given a talk by the Town Clerk on the city's political history. It was interesting to hear about the current housing demands the City is having to cope with; much of it

seems to be a repeat of Winchester's growth pains, although they have not a "Silver Hill" problem in their midst!

We are anticipating that Silver Hill is about to be resubmitted as a revised planning application very soon. The scheme was granted planning approval sometime ago with a previous developer who was unable to proceed with the development. A new developer is now progressing a scheme using the same firm of architects, working on the same arrangements for which planning approval was granted sometime ago. There are a number of revisions to the original scheme that have been required by the new developer, the main ones probably being to do with the housing content and the public bus arrangements. In fact the bus movements are the requirement of the bus company, not the developer or the local authority. Because of the revisions, the scheme is now having to be resubmitted for approval.

It is always very difficult for anybody to understand completely how a substantial development impacts on its surroundings. There are so many things to consider apart from the brief and client requirements. These include, of course, the content, street patterns, views in and out, materials, heights, spaces, servicing etcetera; the list is endless, but the one ingredient that is so illusive to arrive at is ambience. Can one enjoy the end result; does the environment created make you feel good; is there a sense of belonging and of 'place'? This is always difficult to evaluate and you can only really tell whether a development works well when it is completed and operating.

We have another substantial site that is currently being assessed, that is around the railway station. Another London based firm has now been appointed and is working to what we consider a good brief provided by Winchester City Planning Department. One could argue that this area is just as important to get right as Silver Hill — after all, it is one of the main gateways into Winchester and the first impression of a visit can leave lasting memories.

I hope that you have all had a good summer; we have had such wonderful weather here in the south. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual General Meeting, which is to be held on Monday 22nd September.

Keith Leaman

Planning Appraisal Group - TrustNews Sept 14

It is claimed, by both local officers and national inspectors, that each planning application is considered on its own merits and that therefore allowing a particular scheme will not be setting a precedent for the area. This is a claim that the Trust questions, because on occasions the reason given for allowing an undesirable extension (more often than not a shed-like structure on the rear roof slope of a terraced house) is that, as a similar extension has been permitted in the past, it is not possible to refuse the current one. Similarly, precedents are often used when applications or appeals are made.

The Trust has just had an example of precedent being used as the grounds for a development - by Linden Homes, when giving us a presentation during their pre-application round of consultation with local people for their proposal to build on land at **Pitt Vale**. They freely admitted that the development of 200 houses on the adjoining site at Pitt Manor, which was permitted after an appeal and against the City's wishes, was one reason why they had considered this development of 500 houses on a green?eld site outside the settlement boundary of Winchester. The other main reason given in support of their scheme was that they would be providing much needed affordable housing that the local authority had not been able to prove it could provide during the next five years. This is a claim that the planning officers dispute because they consider there is adequate capacity within the built-up area of Winchester, and this will be their recommendation for the draft Local Plan Part 2 that is under consideration. We felt that a very visible development on an important route into the city would be an unacceptable encroachment on Winchester's setting, as well as being a precedent that could encourage development on other nearby greenfield sites, and told the developers that we would object to any proposed development on this site.

We have also had two other interesting pre-application presentations. The first was for 11 dwellings behind **Wellington House & 78-79 Kingsgate Street**, a scheme reduced in size from the one presented to the Trust almost exactly a year previously. We welcomed the retention of the building on the corner with Canon Street and the sensitive relationship of the new building adjoining King's Gate, feeling that the design of the new buildings should fit into the street scene very satisfactorily. We did, however, raise concerns about the proposed parking in the central courtyard behind the houses, especially with access onto a narrow stretch of Canon Street when it was felt a small alteration to the layout would allow adequate access to be provided on Kingsgate Street; we also raised some other smaller worries.

The second was for another scheme for **21A Southgate Street**, where the previous proposal was recently refused on appeal. The reduced mass and height of the new infill was an improvement, as was the care that had been taken to minimise overlooking at the rear of the building, but one aspect in particular was disliked. This was the strong horizontal band of brickwork across the front elevation, which was felt would conflict with the vertical emphasis of the other buildings in the road, and we suggested that this should be broken up in some way and questioned the detailing of the brickwork, which was thought might benefit from a different treatment. Other concerns were also raised.

Two applications mentioned in the last TrustNews have been granted: the terrace of three houses of contemporary design on the steeply sloping land between **Quarry Road & Petersfield Road**, and WCC's affordable housing on the site of **Victoria House, Victoria Road**.

It was with considerable regret that we felt we had to object to two other WCC schemes, because neither was of a standard comparable to the Victoria House proposal, both having designs that were disappointingly unimaginative and would add nothing of benefit to their localities. The 21 affordable dwellings on the site of the **New Queen's Head, Stanmore Lane**, did at least have vertical solar panels on the flats, which we welcomed, but we were concerned about the loss of open recreation

space that would result from the 13 dwellings to be built on the land to the rear of **2-24 Western Road**. It would be good if those commissioning projects on behalf of WCC consulted the Planning Department at an early stage in the process, even if the development is sited outside a Conservation Area.

Shione Carden

Trust visit to Chichester - TrustNews Sept 14

We could not have wished for better weather for our visit to Chichester. This took place on Thursday 26 June. Our group of twelve arrived by various means, meeting at the eighteenth century Council House in North Street (begun and completed in 1731). We entered through the undercroft and made our way to the first floor Council Chamber where we were welcomed with coffee and refreshments. Richard Childs, Chairman of The Chichester Society, addressed us warmly and introduced The Mayor of The City Council, John Hughes, who described the elegant and beautiful Council Chamber, restored in 1976. It was obvious to us all that he was very proud of his city and was keen to show it to all.

He handed over to Rodney Duggua, Clerk to The Council, who gave us detailed exposition of the various functions and hierarchies of the organisations, in particular detailing the differing responsibilities between the City, The District and County Councils and how at times this can be very confusing for those seeking decisions. He also talked further about the room in which we sat. The decorative plaster ceiling had been restored by the Council as had the beautiful glass chandelier which suffered bomb damage during WW2 but fortunately was still in place. His talk was peppered with amusing asides relating to his long career with the Council. The Mayor was keen to show us the Mayor's Parlour on the floor above and we were delighted to view this room above the Council Chamber.

The next part of the programme involved a tour of the City Walls. Two groups of six were led by Cllr Anne Scicluna and a Chichester City Guide. Making our down North Street towards The Cathedral, we stopped to view the beautiful nineteenth century shopping arcade. The Market House had been modelled on Burlington Arcade and designed by John Nash in 1807. This now houses a variety of shops and restaurants and had been well-restored in 1955. Further down, we stood at the mediaeval Market Cross whose fine clock faces on each side of the hexagon. These are operated from one timepiece and until a short time ago, the clock was wound regularly by hand.

From there we made our way towards the Cathedral, passing Ernest Shackleton’s sister’s house where he had stayed before his fateful journey to The South Pole. Anne regaled us with memories of seeing Miss Shackleton when she was a little girl. We turned into Vicars' Walk, a beautiful row of Regency Houses and Victorian cottages, passing The Deanery, a fine Queen Anne building and George Bell House, named after the former Bishop of Chichester, George Bell, (1929-58).

We then entered Bishop's Palace Gardens, at one time part of the garden of the Bishop of Chichester. These beautiful gardens are now maintained by the District Council. There is much tropical planting throughout given the protection of the walls and the subsequent micro-climate. Climbing up onto the City Walls we stopped at the first bastion which in Romanesque times would been higher with additional timberwork. The view of the City from the sea would have been that of a well-defended citadel. Anne pointed out the site of a City excavation below and we also had a view of the River Lavant, albeit rather dry.

We descended from the Walls at Northgate, past the place where Eric Gill, the illustrator, had lived. The house is now demolished for a roundabout, although a plaque records the famous illustrator.

Leaving the Walls we crossed into Priory Lane and entered Priory Park which had been gifted to the City by the Duke of Richmond. We enjoyed an exceptional view of the park - a beautiful green space – below us the pristine Bowling Green and to the left the Romanesque motte and bailey, a scheduled monument. Passing the Guildhall Museum also situated in the park, Anne took us back along North Street to The Council House. Outside the building on the left of the door, she pointed out the Neptune and Minerva Stone, found nearby in 1723.

We adjourned to the Council Chamber to enjoy a welcome lunch together. After this the group made its way to the Cathedral where we met our guide, Mrs Pamela Digham, at the West Door. She commenced our tour in the Baptistry where we viewed the font. This beautiful piece of modern stonework, made in Cornish polyphant stone with an inset copper bowl, was designed by John Skelton in 1983 and is pan of the memorial to Bishop George Bell. We also saw the painting of the Baptism of Christ by Hans Feibusch which was executed in 1951.

Moving on, we visited the Chapel of St George and then entered the Chapel of St Clement, with its altar frontal, the icon of the Divine Light by Cecil Collin. Pamela Digham pointed out the memorial to the RAF, detailing the various air?elds around Chichester which were used during the last war. This was dedicated to the RAF in 2006. On our way to the High Altar, we viewed two rare Romanesque sculptures, depicting the raising of Lazarus and Christ arriving at Bethany. It was explained that originally these sculptures would have brightly coloured and there would have been jewels or semi-precious stones in the eyes.

At the High Altar we saw a major art work, the tapestry by John Piper. This stunning design hangs behind the altar; the central subject is the Holy Trinity. The work was woven in France in 1966 and caused much controversy at the time. This, amongst other works of art in the Cathedral, was commissioned by Dean Hussey. At the back of the High Altar we viewed the Anglo- German Tapestry, woven by Ursula Benker-Scirmer in 1985 - a dramatic work containing symbols relating to the life of St Richard of Chichester.

In a small chapel on the west of the building our guide pointed out the Graham Sutherland painting entitled Noli me tangere, the painting of the Risen Christ. Marc Chagall's dramatic stain glass window based on Psalm 150, culminated our visual experience of the Cathedral art.

Our guide gave us a wealth of information and background to the history and art in the Cathedral and our thanks are due to her articulate presentation and response to our interest and questions. Before our departure she pointed out the Arundel Tomb of the Earl and his Countess, the inspiration for a poem by Philip Larkin.

The outing to Chichester was most successful and thanks are due to Iain Patton for his excellent organisation and also to the Chichester Society which did much to make our day so enjoyable.

Nick McPherson

The St Catherine's Hill Mizmaze - TrustNews Jun 14

More famous and sophisticated is the mediaeval stone maze laid out on the floor of Chartres Cathedral, about 40 feet in diameter, it stretches from one side of the nave to the other. These ancient mazes, which are sometimes called labyrinths, are not mazes at all in the sense we use the word nowadays, because they are not puzzles with choices of route, but ‘unicursal’, having a single uninterrupted path leading inevitably from the entrance to the centre. They all seem to be variations of the same pattern, whether the church mazes of northern France, English mazes cut into the turf, or as depicted on Cretan coins of the 6th century BC. Possibly over 4,000 years old, a maze scratched on a rock face in Sardinia is believed to be the oldest known example.

On the wall of an 11th century church in Italy there is a small maze with a Latin inscription describing it as the labyrinth designed by Daedalus for King Minos of Crete. I do not know how this affects other people but it makes the hairs stand up on the back of my neck to think that the pattern I shuffled around in the rough grass with my children could be the very same which was known to King Minos thousands of years ago in a world I had looked upon as legend. This is not the only link to Daedalus either, for it seems that until it was taken for munitions during the Napoleonic wars there was a bronze plate at the centre of the Chartres maze depicting a minotaur.

There are 16 of these early mediaeval mazes left in Europe, but only 8 turf mazes survive in England and our mizmaze is one of only two with this name, the other being at Breamore in the New Forest. I have spotted small mazes in the mosaic floor of a Roman city in Portugal and on the wall of a medieval ruin in Ireland - it is worth keeping your eyes peeled as the discovery is something of a thrill. There are also an increasing number of modern replicas; how would it be if one were included when the Broadway is repaved?

What were they all for, these unicursal mazes? There are books and library references exploring the subject in great detail, but I shall only pass on one or two certainties and some conjecture. Obviously the mazes had religious significance, Christian at least in the cathedrals and probably a mixture of Christian and pre-Christian in the countryside.

The pre-Christian symbolism is perhaps to do with the sun and the moon as there appear to be links with the calendar in the layout of the early mazes, linked perhaps with stone circles and ancient games like hopscotch. The Christian purpose may have been to create a ritual pilgrimage for those who could not travel to the Holy Land, so that they might progress on their knees in prayer (each corner serving like a bead in a rosary), until they reached Jerusalem- as the centre was sometimes called. Some say that the return journey was also important, culminating as at Chartres with the blaze of light from the rose window, which it is claimed has a mathematical relationship with the maze.

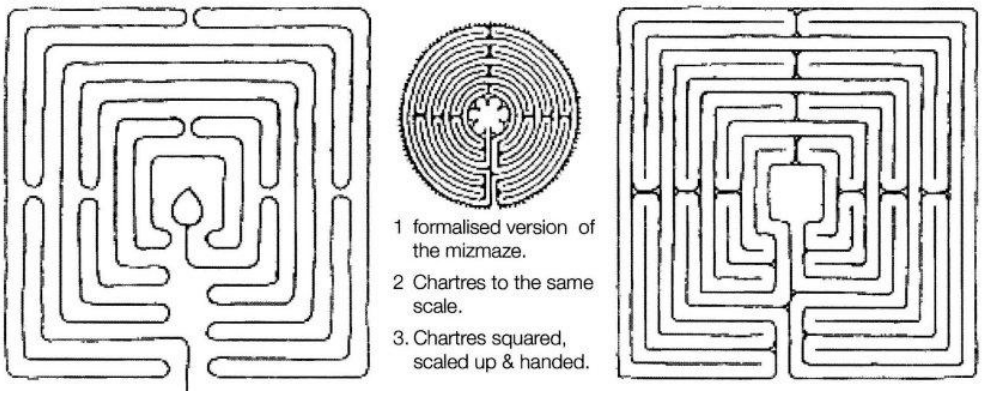
Such theories can seem conclusive, with mathematical measurement turning into proof. It is confusing, then, to learn that there is historical evidence of the Chartres maze being used for religious games rather than pilgrimages. Apparently the King and his court would watch while the clergy sang and danced around the maze, lobbing some object from one to another in festive worship. One can certainly imagine something more along these lines on St. Catherine's Hill than pious Wintonians painstakingly shuffling around the damp turf on their knees.

Which reminds me that the Winchester maze is said to have become distorted because, when it was first re-cut by restorers, the pattern was misunderstood. As a result, the bare earth has become the route, where it should form the lines of division between the encircling turf paths. And here there is another puzzle: what should be the pattern of the maze? There are 11 circular paths at Chartres but only 8 strips of turf at Winchester. Have 3 been lost? Certainly the centre seems over large in proportion and an outer ring could easily have been lost. So perhaps there should be 2 more in the centre and 1 outside? Or was it always an 8 ring version?

Another possibility is that there is a missing boundary line in each grass loop. This would make 16 paths compared with 11 at Chartres. Another interesting difference which may be relevant is that Chartres and other mazes tend to tease the traveller early on by leading the pilgrim close to the centre more than once before swinging away, whereas in our mizmaze the journey progresses by simpler stages towards the centre.

I remain mystified and hope that someone will see a clue which I have missed. All you need is some tracing paper and a great deal of patience!

Michael Carden
(revised from a TN article in August 1990)



The mizmaze now has a narrow earthen path between wide grass divisions (left) but might once have had a wider grass path between narrow ditches, more like the Chartres pattern (right). How would this have looked? Suggestions welcome....

Book prompts brewery tour - TrustNews Sept 14

My book *Time Gentlemen Please!* gave Sue Bell, local organizer for outings for the Brewery History Society, the idea of arranging a tour of the sites of Winchester's breweries, with the support of David Williams, a retired brewery architect who assisted me with the 3rd edition of my book. Consequently a full-day tour took place on July 9th attended by 20 enthusiastic members of the society from as far away as Bristol and even Newcastle, several of whom had never visited Winchester before. David conducted the tour with me filling in historical details on landmarks along the way. We commenced at Winchester College library, formerly the brewhouse, and finished at the site of Chesil Brewery in Chesil Street. During a light lunch at the Wykeham Arms David gave a brief talk on Winchester's breweries and I was able to sign copies of my book. Members then tasted samples of beer at Alfred's Brewery and the Red Cat Brewery at Winnall. The Brewery History Society was founded in 1973 'to promote historical research into all aspects of brewing and related industries both in the UK and abroad'. Judging by their enthusiastic response, the members certainly enjoyed their visit to Winchester!

Phil Yates

Membership - TrustNews Sept 14

A warm welcome to the following new members:
Mrs D.Hickson,
Mr and Mrs D Renshaw

Is this Winchester? - TrustNews Sept 14

As many of you know, the answer to Martin Biddle’s question (cover of last TrustNews) is yes. We are glad to report that he has promised to give more detail about the ‘White Lion’ print and acknowledge those of you who helped him with local information but this will have to wait until the December issue.

Footer - TrustNews Sept 14

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