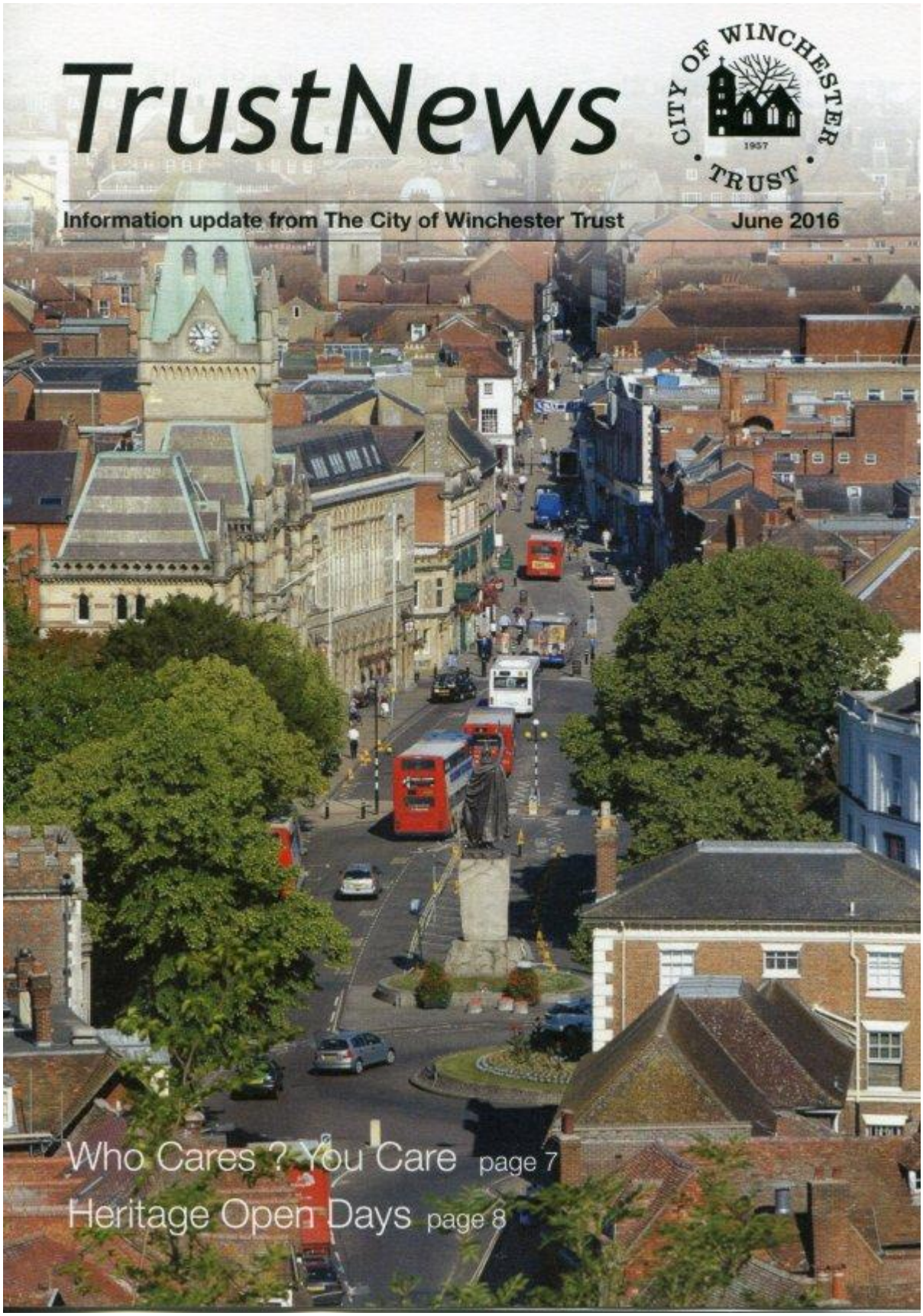
Title Picture - TrustNews Jun 16



View of High Street from top of Westgate

Chairman's Jottings - TrustNews Jun 16

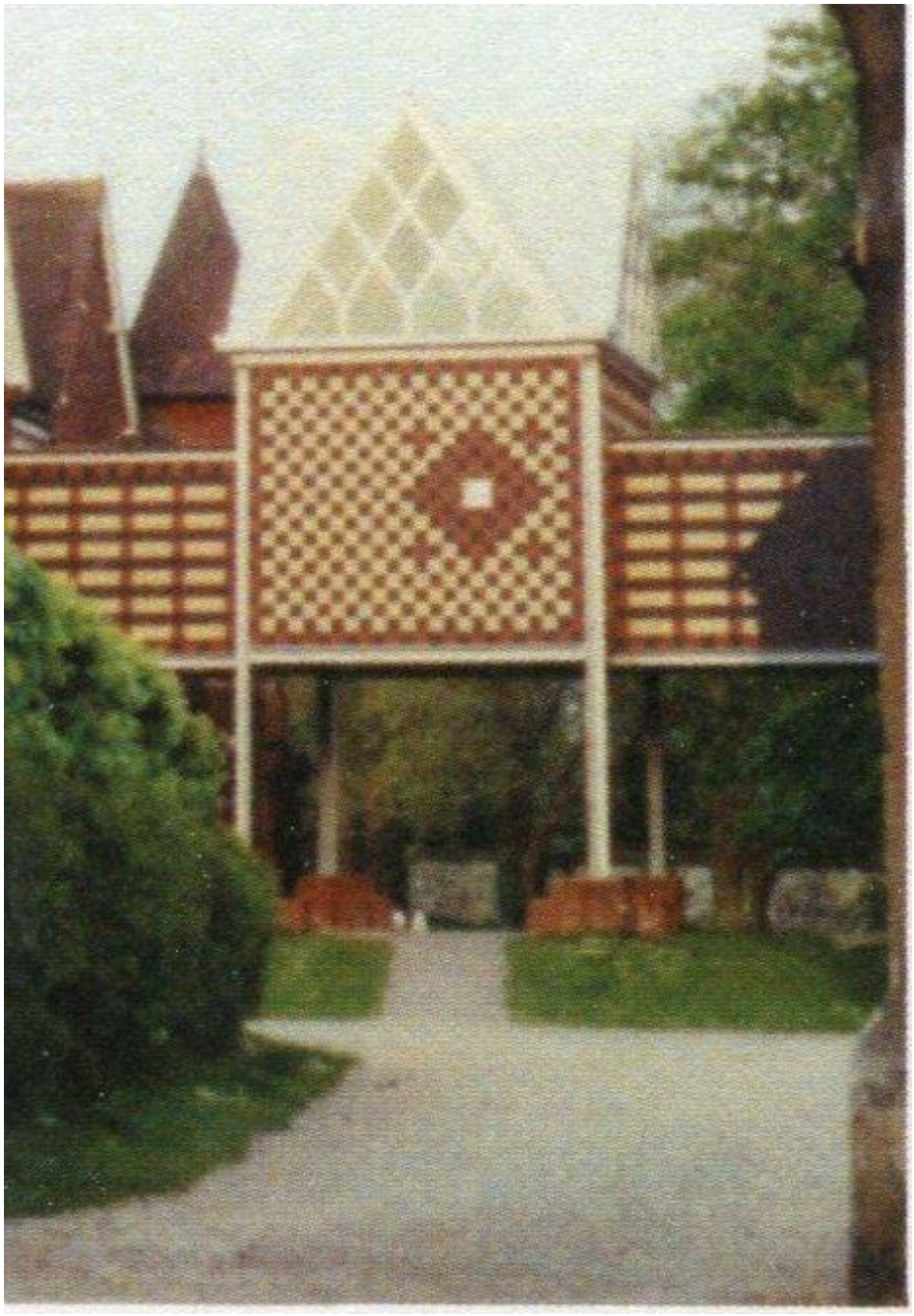
The other day a number of us were discussing the character of Winchester and what it is exactly that defines it. It became apparent that each of us had a different view on the subject.

The whole debate started with someone asking “how do you insert new blocks of buildings into Winchester in such a way that reflects the City’s character?"

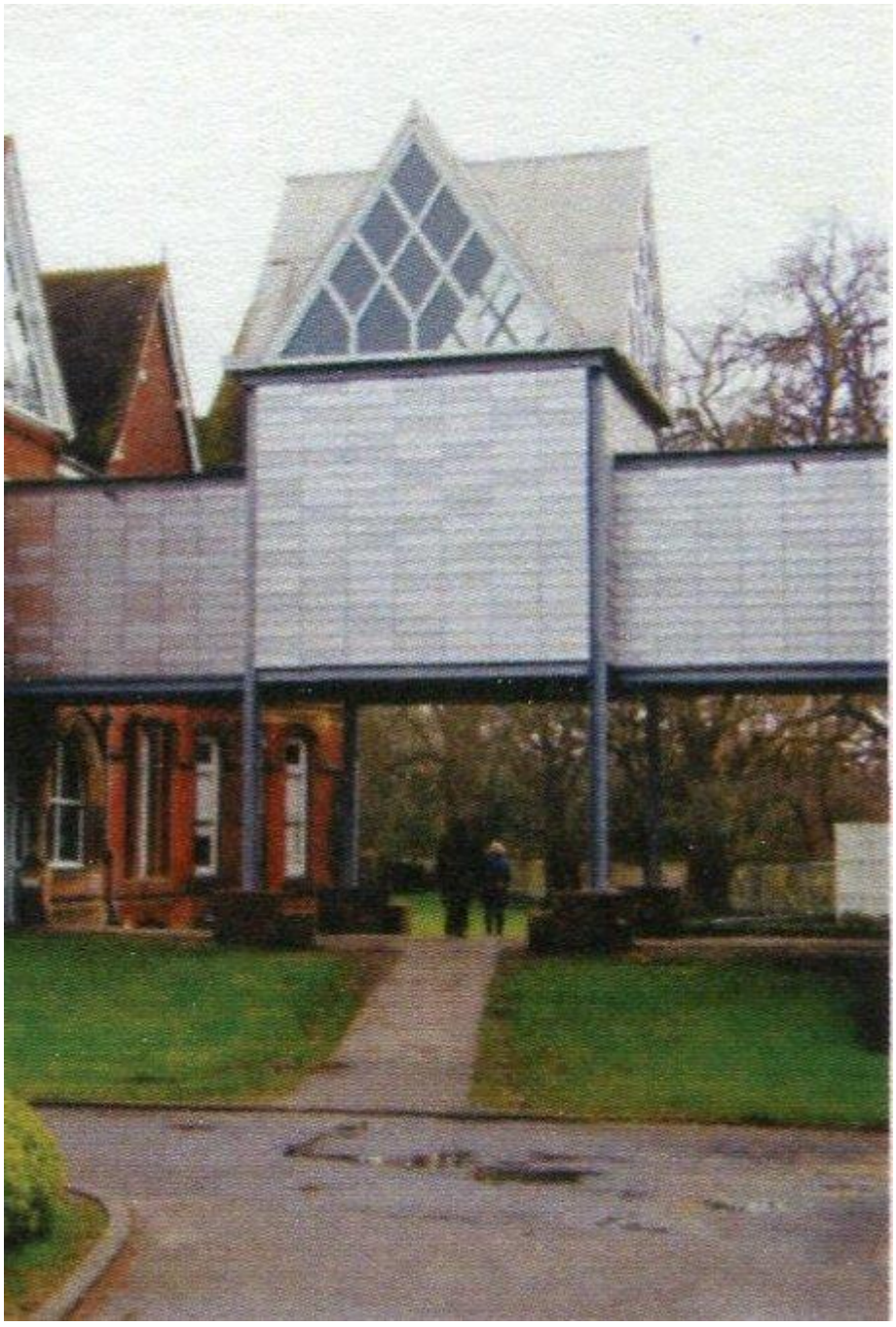
From my point of view, the character of the centre begins with the Roman/Saxon street grid of the central spine (the High Street) with roads that then radiate at right angles to the surrounding defensive wall that once encircled the City. Of course the City has grown over the centuries, and continues to spread. The buildings within the walled zone have also changed so that there is constant renewal going on somewhere. The character therefore seems to be defined by the distinctive road system. It is interesting to walk the roads, for it is then that one realises that each road you walk has a different character. For example, Southgate Street is defined by the rather grand 19th Century terraced houses; Jewry Street changes again with a wide variety of buildings of different scales and historical periods; the High Street has a huge collection of widely differing buildings with the street itself narrowing and widening along its length, adding another dimension to the visual feast; and so on. (See picture on front cover).

The underlying core character of Winchester therefore is defined by its Roman/Saxon/Medieval layout, topped by an ever-changing upper layer of buildings which reflect the pattern of many historical periods, but with each street differing in character. The spoiler in the design requirements today is always the demand for car parking. This demand can affect the whole character and economics of a scheme, making a sizable block of buildings almost impossible to fit and complement the small tight- knit scene that is Winchester.

The other day, I was walking along Kingsgate Street and was brought up short by glimpsing the link bridge designed by Ted Cullinen through the gateway to the Winchester College art school. I was struck by the fact that it seemed to have lost its sparkle and been severely compromised by losing a vital part of its design feature – a patterned tiled face that lifted the bridge from being ordinary to a little gem that gave back so much to the space it hovered over. Now it is just ordinary, having been refaced using a nondescript material, and it has lost its distinctive joyful quality which uplifted the whole area around it.



Bridge Before



Bridge After

It is difficult to understand how a highly respected institution in the education world can allow this to happen. They should be setting an example and providing a bench mark to which others can aspire. As for the Winchester City planning office with their team of experts, where were they in helping with their advice ?

Keith Leaman

Development on Chilbolton Avenue continues to be controversial. There are now appeals pending for two sites - 15 and 29. The appeal statement in regard to **29 Chilbolton Avenue** is a very lengthy and detailed document that seeks (among other things) to undermine, on legal grounds, the status of CALADS and any other Supplementary Planning Documents as a basis for refusal of planning permission. If these arguments are upheld, developers would be able to challenge any refusal of a planning application that made reference to one of the LADS (Local Area Design Statements) as ground for refusal. LADS are Supplementary Panning Documents and the status of such documents as compared to Neighbourhood Plans when it comes to appeals has been a topic of discussion at Trust Council meetings in connection with the City Council's quest for a way forward after the Silver Hill debacle. The problem with neighbourhood plans, particularly for a complex urban area such as the centre of Winchester, is the difficulty of setting up a process, its cost and the length of time it would take; it might be out of date before it was finished.

Another application which has raised policy issues is an application from a private developer to demolish four houses, **178-184 Greenhill Road**, (currently rented to students) and replace them with two substantial 3- and 4- storey blocks accommodating 161 students. Given the expansion of Winchester University and other educational institutions there is pressure for student accommodation and the City needs a strategy for managing this. But in this instance we felt the proposed development would have a significantly negative impact on residential amenity of the surrounding area. We were concerned that, since this is not being proposed or managed by the University, but by a private developer, the restriction to tenants without cars might be difficult to enforce.

Linden Homes' quest to develop land at Pitt Farm is ongoing. The City Council has received an amended outline application for development of the site at Pitt Farm (350 dwellings). The amendments are mostly to increase provision for traffic in the immediate vicinity of the site, but we are not convinced that these measures will go far to alleviate the traffic problems that would be caused once the traffic reaches Romsey Road. Building on such a green-field site, together with its associated traffic measures, would basically extend the City's settlement boundary and alter an important part of its character and setting. For these reasons, together with those stated in our response to the previous version, we have lodged a strongly worded objection to the proposal. Linden Homes clearly hopes to win at appeal on the basis of a claim about future housing need for Winchester given the stalling of development at Barton Farm. It is to be hoped that Cala Homes and Winchester College can before long reach an agreement over the required transfer of land so that building can proceed on that site.

Mary Tiles

Open House London — 17/18 September 2016 - TrustNews Jun 16

Open House London is the capital's version of Heritage Open Days. Founded in 1992 to promote public awareness and appreciation of London's buildings and to stimulate informed debate about architecture.

OHL run regular architecture tours throughout the year but the annual weekend in September opens up over 700 buildings to free public access. The variety of buildings which participate is breath taking - from tiny modern houses built into awkward spaces to grandiose government offices, cutting edge new offices, churches, temples, synagogues and mosques to Victorian fire stations and famous gentlemen ‘s clubs.

Many buildings which are normally open to the public simply open for free that weekend - but that rather misses the point of the exercise. The range of buildings which are not usually accessible to the public at all is extraordinary. Over the years I have visited the Spanish Ambassador’s residence in Mayfair, Marlborough House, the Stock Exchange, the Customs House, the Post Office Tower and 10 Downing Street. My architect god-daughter has dragged me to the furthest corners of Hackney and Brixton to discover amazing new houses carved out of unpromising post-industrial sites.

A guide to all the buildings which will participate in OHL is published during the summer and can be purchased from their website www.openhouse@open-city.org.uk. The guide gives details of opening hours, any security restrictions and whether booking is necessary. Most buildings will have staff members, architects or volunteers on site to answer any questions.

Armed with the guide, stamina and some forward planning, you can visit several buildings in one day. The whole project has been so successful over the past 20 years that the concept has now spread to more than 30 cities worldwide. Again, you can find details of other participating cities on the website.

If you are not otherwise engaged during the weekend of 17/18 September, I do urge you to hop on a train to Waterloo and explore parts of London you would never otherwise have a chance to visit.

Sue Owers

Trust visit to the Watts Gallery, Tuesday 12th April - TrustNews Jun 16

On a beautiful sunny day in April Trust members enjoyed a memorable visit to the Watts Gallery near Compton in Surrey. After refreshments on arrival , we were escorted to ‘Limnerslease’, the home of George and Mary Watts.

Although George was the more renowned of the two, Mary displayed her prowess in sculpture. Her intricate design of the ceiling in the entrance hall and her collection of artefacts portrayed her interest in a diversity of religions and cultures. A studio at the top of the house holds a collection of memorabilia of early life in the village.

Alter lunch we were given a wonderfully informative tour of paintings by George housed in the ‘Gallery’. Huge castings of his sculptures were on display in the basement.

Mary loved pottery and encouraged local people to participate in weekly terracotta pottery classes, which continued long after George's death in 1904. Nearby in the local cemetery Mary's expertise can be seen in the designing and building of a Mortuary Chapel in terracotta, dedicated to a variety of religious practices. She also designed the building of cloisters in the cemetery.

My thanks to Iain Patton for arranging this remarkable trip.

Linda Lacey

Summer Walks 2016 - TrustNews Jun 16

Work on the Trust’s Summer walks programme is still in progress. The first eight weeks are now firm – see the following chart. The rest will be announced in the June TrustNews and will include some interesting new ones.

Paul Rockliffe-Williams

19th May Thursday 18.00	**Does biodiversity prevent flooding?** Meet at Durngate Place, S023 8DX – entrance to Winnall Moors	**Rachel Remnant** Reserves Officer, Wildlife Trust See Note 4. Below – Maximum 20 attendees for this walk & fee
26th May Thursday 18.00	**Walk around West Hill** Meet at the West Gate, High Street	**Richard Baker** Retired Architect and Trust Member
2nd June Thursday 18.00	**Houses of the Cathedral Close**	**George Saumarez Smith** Architect and Director Adam Architecture
9th June Thursday 18.00	**Reinventing Hyde after the Dissolution** Meet at Hyde gate way. cancelled	**Dr Chris Grover** Autor and Academic, University of Winchester
16th June Thursday 18.00	**Station Approch & environs**	**Keith Leaman** Architect & City of Winchester Trust Chairman
23rd June Thursday 18.00	**King Alfred Buses and the GWR** (In memory of Chris Webb). Meet in front of the Guildhall Tourist Information office	**Phil Yates** Local Author, Historian and Trust Member

30th June Thursday 18.00	**Looking up in Winchester** Meet at the Heritage Centre, 32 Upper Brook Street	**A Winchester Architect**
7th July Thursday 18.00	**The Development of the Victorian & Edwardian Suburb of Fulflood** Meet outside Winchester Railway Station (Station Approach)	**Geraldine Buchanan** Winchester Tourist Guide
21st July Thursday 18.00	**The Building Stones of Winchester** Meet outside the West End of the Cathedral	**John Parker** Retired Geologist
28th July Thursday 18.00	**The Grange** Meet at the Grange	**David Brock** Principal Inspector of Historic Buildings, Historic England
4th August Thursday 18.00	**Eastern Lane** Meet in Tesco carpark - Opposite the car wash	**Andrew Rutter** Retired Winchester City Council Conservation Officer

Summer Walks, details and conditions for the summer walks:
1. **Timings** All walks will start at 18.00
2. **Donation** of £3 to the Trust is requested from each person on each walk.
3. **Booking**: Strongly advised to secure a place to avoid disappointment. Contact the Heritage Centre no later than midday the day before each walk. Email: secretary@cityofwinchestertrust.co.uk or telephone Winchester (01962) 851664. Generally maximum 25 attendees for all walks unless stated otherwise.
4. **Walk 19th May**: Additional payment of £3 for Wildlife Trust requested from each person. Wear suitable footware for a variety of surfaces. Maximum 20 attendees for this walk only.

Exclusion of liability of Trust: Neither the guide of each walk nor the Trust and its members shall be liable for any injury, accident or damage to person or property (including theft or other loss) during each walk to any person taking part in a walk whether a member of the Trust or not.

What's in a name? - TrustNews Jun 16

Phil Yates concludes the story behind a famous local bus company.

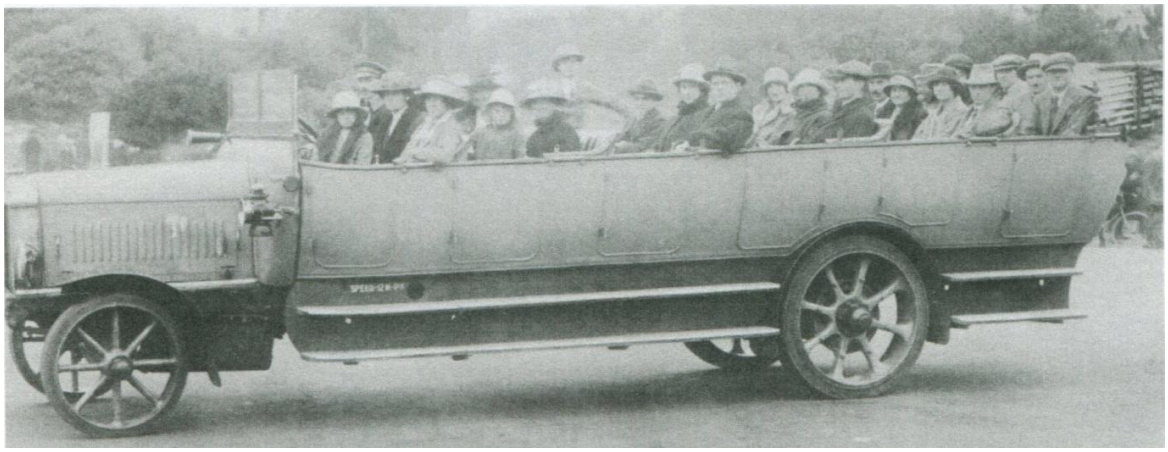
How did the buses and coaches come to be named King Alfred? An employee of the company, Harry Tremlett, was struck by an image of King Alfred's statue embossed on the van-doors of Aylward & Sons, wine and spirit merchants in Jewry Street. He took his idea to the Guv'nor who, after receiving assurance by Aylwards that they

had not registered the design as a trade-mark, promptly did so. He then employed a professional sign-writer to paint a version of the statue in gold-leaf amongst other colours to be used with the words KING ALFRED on the sides and rear of all the company's vehicles.

On New Year's Day 1983 the first 'running day' took place with just one vintage Tiger Cub King Alfred bus (the other being a Renault 1935 Paris bus). Held each New Years Day till 2014, the tradition of the Running Day soon became a great success, not only with King Alfred buses and coaches on display, but also with transport vehicles from other parts of the country. It now takes place every year on May Bank Holiday Sunday.

In 1984, the researches of James Freeman, Robert Jowett and Richard Murphy, all bus enthusiasts, resulted in the publication of their comprehensive book entitled King Alfred Motor Services — the story of a Winchester Family business. The following year saw the launch of the Friends of King Alfred Buses, with the aim of 'preserving the memory of King Alfred Motor Services 1920 to 1973'. Robert Chisnell (son of Bob) and Richard Chisnell (son of Fred) were elected Joint Honorary Presidents with James Freeman as Chairman.

I have fond memories, as a boy and later in adult life, travelling on the family-run buses to various parts of Winchester and getting to know the drivers and conductors, some of whom were faithful employees for many years. My thanks are due to Richard Chisnell, Rod Youngman and to references in the book for help with this article.



One of King Alfred Buses first Leyland Charabancs from the RAF believed to be driven by AV Holland

Phil Yates

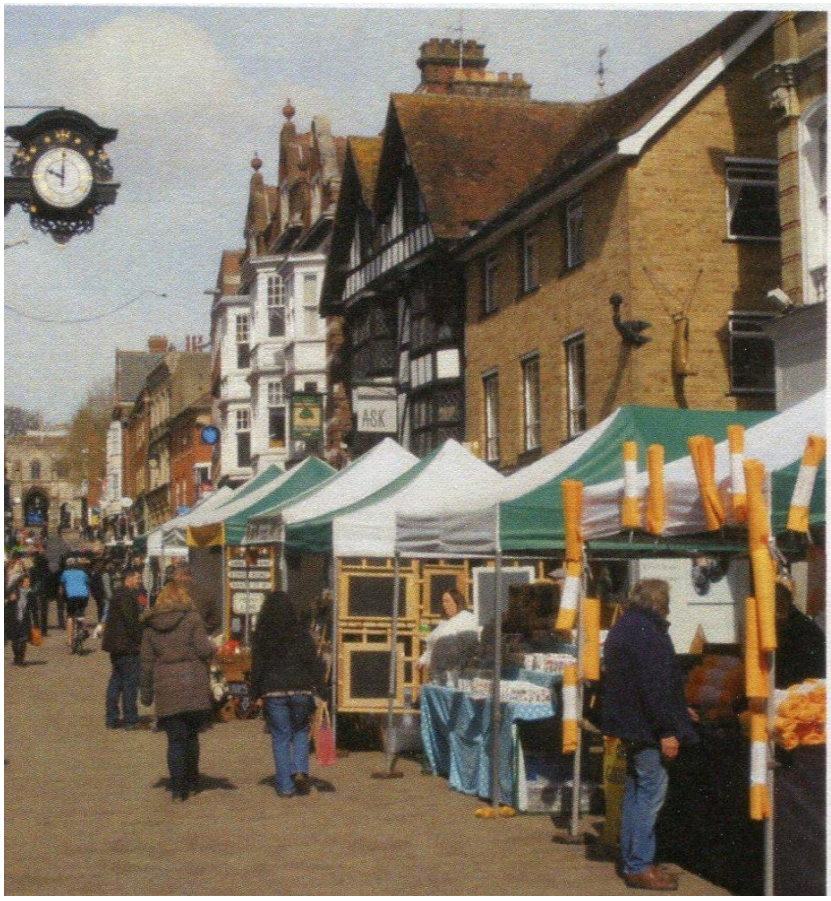
Phil's walk, based on the above, and the GWR, takes place on Thursday 23rd June, Referendum day, at 6 pm. For full details see Summer Walks.

Correction: In the March TrustNews Phil mistakenly implied that VE Day was in June 1945 when it was of course on 8th May 1945. He would like to apologize for this error.

Who cares ? You care - TrustNews Jun 16

The Trust received 48 responses to the issues raised in ‘Bakers Dozen‘ in the March edition of TrustNews. Thank you to everyone who put finger to keyboard and pen to paper.

The article posed the question, ‘Do we all see and feel the same way about Winchester?’ Reading the responses, as far as the 13 issues tabled are concerned, the answer is very much yes.



While many responded to all the issues, others chose to comment on a few. The majority of responses agreed with all the issues, with the planning policy ideas of proposing the designation of a Green Belt and the City having a Cathedral City status receiving almost unanimous approval.

The most controversial matter is the street market in the High Street. 33 responses did not like the market and 8 did. Some did not like the market because of its impact on business for the shops. Most would prefer to see a permanent site found for the market included in future plans for the Silver Hill area.

The outdoor cafe culture in the City received very favourable support, as did the new bus livery. In contrast the deterioration of the setting of the Cathedral and the condition of pavements received almost total agreement.

Some thought that the Cathedral should consider alternative ways of managing the Close to reduce the time that the south side of the Cathedral is denied its grass setting. At the time of writing, the seeded grass had just germinated only to be covered by a large marquee. It is difficult to imagine the wonderful verdant setting of the cathedrals in Salisbury and Exeter being subjected to similar treatment.

Much of the damage to pavements is caused by vehicles parking on them. The government is considering extending an all-out ban on pavement parking, which has been in place in London for 40 years to the rest of England. If this is done arrangements will need to be put in place for vehicles to unload and load.

While the congestion created by on-street parking was recognised many saw it as a traffic - calming measure.

Concern was shared about the impact created by the continuing growth of the University of Winchester and Peter Symond‘s College. While recognising the educational value of both, some thought that the catchment area for taking in students to Peter Symond‘s should be reduced.

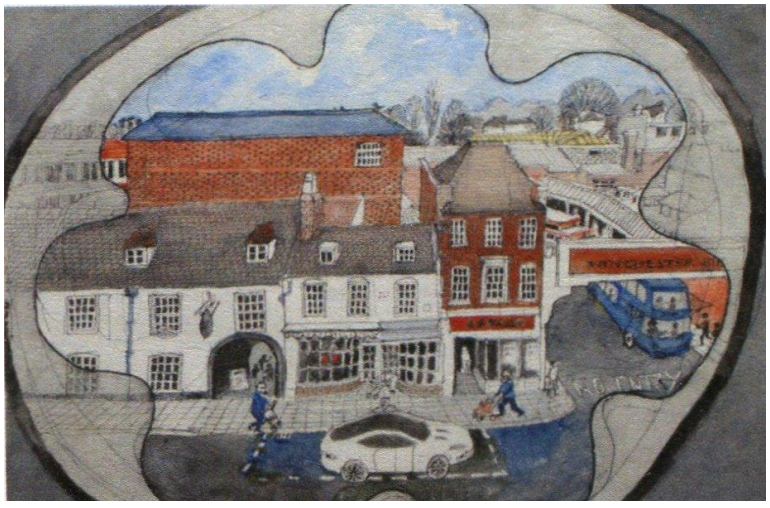
Extending the hours for operating Park and Ride with the use of smaller buses, no further urbanisation of the water meadows to provide more parking and a rethink about the design and use of the paved space in front of the Law Courts, were among comments made on these issues.

Other issues raised were on air pollution, litter and improved cycle routes.

These issues and comments reflect the need to retain and enhance the delight of the City, whilst promoting planning and management policies that provide solutions to the many pressures that erode the cherished qualities of Winchester. This is a task which is central to the work of the Trust.

Richard Baker

Andrew Rutter and John Bulford Exhibition - TrustNews June 16



During The Heritage Open Days (8-11 Sept) the City of Winchester Trust will be holding an exhibition of ‘a personal point of view on Winchester Buildings’ as seen by two artists, Andrew Rutter and John Bulford.

Andrew has managed to gain access to positions in buildings where he can observe unexpected views of Winchester that most of us are unlikely ever to see.

John has created the most detailed and exquisitely drawn subjects that make you look afresh at some well-known Winchester buildings.

This fascinating exhibition will be held in The Heritage Centre at 32 Upper Brook Street.

Heritage Open Days & Winchester, 8 - 11 September - TrustNews Jun 16

Poetry, fashion, film, comedy, jazz, cocktails and even ukuleles, to name just a few. With so many festivals jostling for a place in the Winchester events calendar it would be easy to assume that every possible theme has been covered. Wrong. Hard to believe but our once ancient capital of England is missing out on celebrating the very reason for which it is best known - its heritage.

Thankfully this September sees the return of Heritage Open Days to the city. Managed nationally by the National Trust, it is the UK’s largest and most popular heritage festival attracting over 3 million visitors to thousands of events up and down the country.

Free of charge and right on people's doorsteps, Heritage Open Days is an event for everyone, whatever their background, age or ability. By stimulating curiosity and discovery, the event connects people with their local places and helps foster a sense of belonging and place. It celebrates what makes local communities and neighbourhoods special. Heritage Open Days not only opens doors, it opens eyes and minds too and aims to educate, enlighten and entertain.

It is important to remember that heritage is not just about buildings and architecture but that it encompasses all manner of other things: plants and gardens, food and land management, traditional crafts and skills, folklore, poetry, music and dance. Heritage surrounds us. It helps us to understand where we have come from, what makes us who we are and it can also give us a signpost to the future.

Here is a chance to be a tourist on your own doorstep, to discover the often hidden or forgotten gems of Winchester and its surrounding areas and enjoy a wide range of tours, events and activities that bring local history and culture to life.

Heritage Open Days is here to stay. So let's celebrate, get involved, join in, and make heritage fun!

Heritage Open Days takes place from 8-11 September. The festival programme and online directory will be available from July - www.heritageopendays.org.uk.

Nicky Gottlieb, Heritage Open Days
Coordinator Winchester

Membership - TrustNews Jun 16

A warm welcome to the following new members:
Mr & Mrs C. Evennett,
Mr .J.Hearn
Mrs E.Newport

Footer - TrustNews Jun 16

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