Title Picture - TrustNews Mar 16



Cathedral Green

Chairman's Jottings - TrustNews Mar 16



We were recently approached by Norwich Trust reporting that one of their members had recently visited Winchester and was struck by the fact that there were no ‘A’ advertising boards. We were asked how this was managed in Winchester, as Norwich was struggling to control the ‘A’ board blight. I have to admit that I had not walked down the High Street for some time so, before replying, I thought I had better take a look.

I was taken aback for we too seem to have a rash of ‘A’ boards, but the ‘A’ boards in one case are compounded by rubbish bins. There is also a new form of advertising, in the shape of street compounds, which rope off areas for outdoor seating to the many snack/coffee establishments. So the High Street now is becoming cluttered up with tented kiosks, large bins, ‘A’ boards and canvas surrounded compounds.

I seem to recall that many years ago, the City Authorities banned the ‘A’ board and in return started to provide well-designed, wall-fixed direction boards, advertising shops within the side streets - a much better solution. (I would have thought that these ‘A’ boards, apart from being ugly, are also dangerous particularly for people with a sight impairment).

Having checked out the High Street, I walked into the Cathedral grounds. Here we have one of the great buildings of this country, Europe and indeed the world. It is visited by thousands of people every year, so the setting I would have thought was of paramount importance - it is part of the experience. The front door, that is to say the west end, approach is marred first of all by a rash of cars parked against the buildings on the north side of the green which have pot-holed and muddied the gravel surface. The parking area is emphasised by a series of scruffy notices. Another noticeable introduction is the large number of notices that surround the west end. Do they really have to be so blatant? Surely somebody to do with the Cathedral could organise the circulation information etc., in a way that reflects the dignity of this great building in a more subtle way. The grassed area on the west side, or rather the lack of grass, adds to the experience misery. As for the inner close, what a mess – cannot something be done about this? This great Cathedral and its immediate environment needs a champion, somebody who is visually aware, and is given, and willing to accept, responsibility for the presentation of the Cathedral and its environment.

Don’t you think the same applies to central Winchester? Where is the pride in our City?







Keith Leaman

Planning Appraisal Group - TrustNews Mar 16

As was to be expected over the holiday period there was a drop-off in applications processed followed by a something of a surge during January. Amid the applications for relatively minor modifications we continue to see a significant number of major extensions to existing houses by householders. On the other hand when a developer purchases a plot with an existing house surrounded by a relatively large garden they

usually wish to maximise the profit to be made from it and thus frequently seek to demolish the existing dwelling and replace it with multiple dwellings. This of course has been and continues to be the pattern of development in Chilbolton Avenue, which was mentioned in December. In addition to **15 Chilbolton Avenue** we also found that we really could not support a recent proposal for development on the site of **29 Chilbolton Avenue** even though we had received a presentation about it.

This prompted some further discussion about the continued relevance of the Local Area Design statements, some of which were completed more than ten years ago. As previously mentioned, these documents are still regarded as a basis for planning decisions and until revised are incorporated by reference into the new Winchester District Plan Part 1. Any review conducted with a view to updating these documents would be a considerable undertaking that would need to reconvene representatives from the groups originally involved. This is not something that the Trust, acting on its own, is in a position to undertake although it would certainly hope to have a role to play in any such process.

Once procedures associated with finalising the City's Local Plan Part 2 have been completed it might be time to review other strategic planning documents such as the Local Area Design Statements and the Strategic Plan for the Winchester Conservation Area. Such documents, and the debates associated with their review provide a framework within which the Planning Appraisal Groups continue their work of assessing individual applications. It would be useful to hear from Trust members what they think about this and whether they would be willing to participate in and/or assist with facilitating such a process should there be support for it. This might include making contact with City Councillors to help get things moving.

Mary Tiles

The essence of the Trust - TrustNews Mar 16

From time to time the Trust may forget how it came to be founded - just one year short of 60 years ago - and what exactly its intended purpose was at the time. In the early '50s extensive demolition in Winchester became imminent due, I was told by the Town Clerk, to a Government directive that all local authorities must eliminate their slum dwellings, with the options limited to refurbishment or demolition. In Winchester's case - then a small town council quite separate from the large surrounding rural district authority - there was no money to do anything other than demolish all its sub-standard housing. In the brave-new-world climate of the time most councillors embraced the project with enthusiasm and a complete absence of concern for the character o f the City. A small number of citizens objected, but were overruled, although they were grudgingly given the opportunity to preserve a few buildings of historic interest if they were able to raise sufficient money to buy them. These included an ancient inn, an 18th century mayor's house, little 19th century terraces and so forth. Unable to do this in the limited time available they decided to form a pressure group to be better prepared in future, and with the status of a trust for the scope this would permit.

So the Winchester Preservation Trust was formed with a small council of active members, who invited others to support them with their subscriptions and their help when needed. This is the way the Trust has worked ever since, not seeking members' views or votes - this would have been too ponderous a process - but hoping for continuing support because of what it does, and by aiming to keep members well informed on a regular basis so that comments can be made, help may be offered and new members and trustees can be recruited. Very fortunately, due to the gift of two small properties it has been possible to keep subscriptions lower than most similar organisations, and to do more than subscriptions alone would permit. Additional fund-raising by means of such things as guided walks, cards, meetings and publications helps to maintain a reserve as well as bringing members together from time to time. The Trust is essentially both a think-tank and a lobby group dedicated, as the founders were, to the preservation of the character of Winchester.

The trustees have always believed this character to be composed, not only of its ancient fabric and ambience, and the part it has played in the history of the nation, but by the way it has developed over the centuries, ever changing with the times while retaining its vibrancy and enduring essence. There will always be disagreement between individuals about exactly what this is; opinions, like the City itself, will be forever evolving and the Trust Council has a never-ending debate, to which all are welcome to contribute. In this way the change of name arose in response to a growing perception that the word 'preservation' implied fossilisation, and the awards scheme was introduced to celebrate good and appropriate design of any style.

The Trust's achievements over the years are easily forgotten and far too many to list here, but they include such diverse things as obtaining a loan that made it possible to save a redundant mediaeval church and convert it into the Chesil Theatre; campaigns to prevent the demolition of Canon Street, Granville Place, and much of St John's Street; the restoration of the porticos to the major terrace in Southgate Street, and the railings around the corner of Eastgate Street, together with widespread treeplanting. The Trust played the leading role in the diversion of the M3 away from the Water Meadows, and the abandonment of the dual-carriageway-inner-ring-road that would have crossed the river into Eastgate Street and run up North Walls and City Road. And all the while Trust working groups monitor all planning applications in the City, review proposed developments and comment on all strategic plans, endeavouring to influence decisions when necessary - by no means always to the extent we would wish, and sometimes not at all - probably the biggest failure being the Brooks Centre.

No assessment has been made of our successes versus our failures, but we think our founders would be proud of the Trust, and we hope that you are.

Michael Carden

Who cares ? - TrustNews Mar 16

A recent radio programme posed the question 'Do we all see and feel things the same way ?

This article poses the same question, but in a more specific form ' Do we all see and feel the same way about Winchester ?'

I suggest that answers will vary according to where we live, St Cross, Fulflood or Harestock, how we use the City as a mother, a commuter or a shop assistant, or the level of awareness and expectations of living in an historic city.

The Trust cares about the City and tries to address and respond to issues that will maintain and enhance the character of the City, by influencing decision-makers to keep it as a pleasant place in which to live, work and to visit.

The issues that erode or enhance the character of the City are many, everchanging and diverse.

This, as a member of the Trust Policy Planning Group, is a personal (Baker's dozen) miscellany of issues, in the form of observations and ideas. It is intended that you as a member will react – oh yes I totally agree with that – what on earth is he on about – I really have never given that a thought.

1. The new livery of King's City buses is very smart and is a welcome addition to the streets of Winchester.

2. The sacrificial grass on the south side of the Cathedral in The Close exposed, following the Christmas market and ice rink and the car parking north of the Cathedral Green detracts from the setting of our premier listed building.

3. The outdoor café spaces in the High Street, Jewry Street and The Square are attractive and bring vitality to the City Centre.

4. The City enjoys an attractive landscape setting amidst the surrounding hills of chalk downland. Continuing expansion of the City to the north, west and south will have a detrimental impact on this setting. Consideration should be given to designating a Green Belt around the City to link up with the South Downs National Park to the east, to protect the setting.

5. The character of the pedestrian section of the High Street, with its long history, fine buildings and pavement, is seriously compromised by the street market.

6. As part of Silver Hill Plan B, consideration be given to converting part of the Brooks Centre into an indoor market, open to the surrounding streets.

7. The City has many fine open spaces such as St Giles Hill, Joyce Gardens and Orams Arbour. Others, such as the area in front of the Law Courts, are dull and poorly used.

8. The University of Winchester and Peter Symonds Sixth Form College have fine reputations and are assets to the City. The time has come to consider the capacity of the City to accommodate their continuing growth and expansion.

9. In many parts of the City the pavements, grass verges, kerbs and gutters are in poor condition. They suffer from damage caused by cars and lorries mounting kerbs. A difficult problem, but a programme of enforcement and the use of more robust and durable replacement paving materials is required.

10. Trying to park nearby and go for a walk in the water meadows at weekends is becoming more and more difficult.

11. The Park and Ride schemes work well.

12. The free movement of traffic in residential roads is becoming more and more dependent on the availability of vacant parking bays for use as passing places.

13. Winchester is such a special place that it should be given a Cathedral City status which would mean that the protection of its character, to be clearly defined and understood (no easy task), is a planning designation that should override all other considerations.

All very interesting you may say, or perhaps not. If you do care please could you e-mail your view on these 13 issues to the Trust, secretary@cityofwinchestertrust.co.uk on the subject Who cares ?

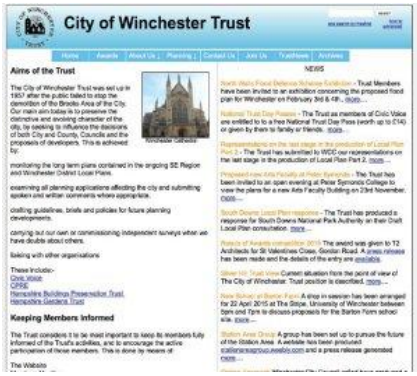
Agree with nos.....

Disagree with nos.....

What about the issue of.....

The Trust will publish your responses in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Richard Baker



The City of Winchester Trust website was first set up in 2004 and consisted of 2 or 3 pages. I took over in early 2006 when it consisted of 5 pages. The original website simply had general information about the Trust and its activities. Over the intervening years a number of upgrades and reorganisations have taken place.

Since 2006 the number of pages has increased to several thousand. The functions have been extended to covering the planning comments made every month to Winchester Council and the annual Summer Walks programme. The larger part of the expansion has been including a lot of information from the Trust archives, there are now about 3,000 images recorded on the website, many are interesting historic views of Winchester, including the setting up the King Alfred statue in 1901.

TrustNews

Every AGM Report from 1962 to 2000 has been digitised and included (later AGMs have not been included because most information is now in the regular TrustNews editions). In addition all TrustNews editions since 1984 have also been digitised and recorded on the website including the very latest. Finally all the publications the Trust have produced over the years have also been digitised and included in the Website. To access all this information a search engine is provided on the homepage and allows searches across all the information allowing items to be easily found.

News Section

In recent years a News section has been provided on the Home page that allows all News to be readily available to members including reports, activities etc. The most recent News items are immediately available in a scrolled area and a ‘News Archive’ separate page gives access to all News items back to 2006.

A major reorganisation of the website was made last Summer separating the Archive material from the ‘front office’ pages that can now be easily be rebuilt in future.

To enhance communication with members an emailing system, E-update, was setup several years ago to inform members about latest news and activities. This is really useful when, for example, the Trust was invited to a special viewing of the latest Silver Hill proposals on short notice. Such notices will also appear on the website News section. Our main problem with E-updates is the lack of email addresses of members. We have only about 240 addresses out of 5-600 members. Just email secretary@cityofwinchestertrust.co.uk to ensure we have your latest email address and include you in the E-update transmissions.

Barrie Brinkman

Summer Walks 2016 - TrustNews Mar 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	**Subject TBC**	**George Saumarez Smith** Architect and Director Adam Architecture
9th June Thursday 18.00	**Reinventing Hyde after the Dissolution** Meet at Hyde gate way.	**Dr Chris Grover** Autor and Academic, University of Winchester
16th June Thursday 18.00	**Subject TBC**	**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	**The Grange ? TBC**	**David Brock** Historic England, South East Region
7th July Thursday 18.00	**The Development of the Victorian & Edwardian Suburb of Fulflood** Meet outside Winchester Railway Station (Station Approach)	**Geraldine Buchanan**

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.

National Trust Free Day Passes - TrustNews Mar 16

We sent an e mail alert early in January to those members for whom we have e mail addresses that one free National Trust day pass is available for each of our members from the Heritage Centre as a result of our membership of Civic Voice, the national body for Civic Voice. They have negotiated this concession with the National Trust. Some of you have already collected passes from our office. We are now able to distribute them with Trust News to all members who have not already collected passes. These passes are valid until the end of May and can be used by our members or their friends. We hope this arrangement will continue for the following 12 months and we will let you know if it is the case.

Organisation - TrustNews March 16

President	Professor Joy Carter, Vice - Chancellor of the University of Winchester
Vice President	Donald Insall CBE FSA RWA FRIBA FRTPI SP dipl (Hons)
Vice President	Capt. Antony Skinner RN

Trustees 2014/15	
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Vice Chairman/Policy Group	Michael Carden MBE AAdip RIBA
Vice Chairman	Iain Patton
Vice Chairman	John Beveridge
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	Sue Owers BA
	Peter Radcliffe FCA
Membership	Judith Rich O.B.E

	John Stanning BA
Chair Planning Appraisal Group	Mary Tiles PhD BPhil

TrustNews Editor	Matthew Huntley
TrustNews Printer	ADH Printing, Kingsworthy
Website	Barrie Brinkman
Archivist	Nick Hirst BSc (Hons), MRes

Outing to West Dean Gardens and Goodwood House - TrustNews 2016

Monday 16 May 2016

Details of the Trust visit to West Sussex on 16 May were given in the last TrustNews.

The plan is to travel by coach leaving Winchester at about 9:15am to arrive at West Dean Gardens for 10:30am and tour the gardens at our leisure.We shall then have lunch in the licensed restaurant at the Gardens and then travel on to Goodwood House for a private tour starting at 2:30pm. The tour will end with a cream tea in the Ballroom and we will hope to be back in Winchester by 5:30pm at the latest.

The cost will depend on numbers but is likely to be £60 each for the coach, entrance fees and cream teas. Lunch will be paid for separately and a menu will be circulated nearer the time.

Please return the enclosed application form to the Heritage Centre as soon as possible and not later than 31 March.

Outing to Sherborne - TrustNews Mar 16

Tuesday 7 June 2016

There will be a Trust visit to Sherborne in Dorset to on Tuesday 7 June to visit Sherborne Castle and Abbey.

We will travel by coach leaving Winchester at 8:30am in order to arrive by 10:00am for a private tour of Sherborne Castle before it opens to the public.

The Castle was built by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594 before he fell from royal favour. It has been lived in by the Digby family since 1617 and the grounds were landscaped by “Capability” Brown.

We shall then have lunch in the licensed tearooms at the Castle and then travel into the town centre for a guided tour of Sherborne Abbey, “a Perpendicular masterpiece in glorious Ham stone with some of the finest fan vaulting in England”. There should

also be an opportunity to visit the adjacent 15th century almshouses before returning to Winchester by 6pm at the latest.

The cost will depend on numbers but is likely to be £50 each for the coach, guides and entrance fees. Lunch will be paid for separately and a menu will be circulated nearer the time.

Please return the enclosed application form to the Heritage Centre as soon as possible and not later than 31 March.

Sue Owers.

What's in a name? - TrustNews Mar 16

Phil Yates recalls the story behind a famous local bus company

Remember the buses with the golden inscription King Alfred embossed on their framework? The story starts with Robert Chisnell, a Wintonian born in 1870, who owned two traps as a means of transport until 1914 when his horses were commandeered by the army. Not to be deterred, he then acquired a Darracq motor car which he converted into a van, soon followed by more vehicles to form a fleet. When the military camp was established at Morn Hill for troops waiting to embark at Southampton, Robert saw an opportunity to set up first an 'SPO' business (sausages, potatoes, onions) in Winchester and secondly a transport service to and from the city. After the war in 1918 a further opportunity arose when Leyland Motors started to recondition their trucks which had seen war service with the RAF and sell them mainly as chassis. Robert saw the potential to expand his taxi service and purchased two chassis which he fitted with charabanc bodies – the start of a new adventure into the public transport business.

The first King Alfred charabanc set off on a trip to Bournemouth on Whit Monday 1920, starting a tradition in popular coach excursions lasting over 50 years. When Winchester City Council began building their first council estate at Stanmore, Robert was approached as a possible provider of an omnibus service to connect Stanmore with the city centre. As a result, on 9th October 1922, the bus service started not only with two runs to Stanmore but also runs to Twyford and Flowerdown (near Lyttleton). Over the ensuing years the fleet of buses increased with the introduction of double-deckers in 1944 (utility style at first). The radius of routes also extended as far north as Basingstoke and south to Fishers Pond.



In the mid-1920s, Robert's daughter Evelyn and sons, Fred and Bob, joined the business which became R.Chisnell & Sons Ltd on 6th August 1939. After a lifetime of service to the city Robert died on 5th June 1945 aged 75, just three days before VE Day. Despite problems in the 1960s the familyrun company – now with two of another generation on board - continued until 28th April 1973 when Robert's grandson, Richard, drove Leyland Panther 417 on its last journey to Weeke (Route 13) at 11.35pm. The company had been sold to Hants & Dorset Motor Services (National Bus Company).

But the story does not end here and I will reveal more in the next TrustNews. In the meantime, this year's 'running days' are Saturday 30th April and Sunday 1st May.

Phil Yates

Visit to the Watts Gallery, Compton, Surrey - TrustNews Mar 16

Visit to the Watts Gallery, Compton, Surrey - 12th April. The programme for this visit is now complete. As set out in the December issue of TrustNews, we will visit, with a guide, the Gallery for the major works of George Frederick Watts and exhibitions of tiles by William de Morgan. Also, Limnerlease House, home of Watts and his wife Mary which was designed by Sir Ernest George and includes gezzo ceilings created by Mary (photo below).

We will take a light lunch together. This is essential because the café is small and easily overwhelmed. Our order is for homemade quiche and salad and tea/coffee. Wine is available. If a vegetarian meal is required, please indicate when you book.

We will also visit the Chapel, which Mary created in memory of her husband and which sits in an island of tranquillity with a dazzling interior. Grade I listed.

Travel: By car, an easy 60-75 minutes from Winchester. Parking next to the Gallery.

Some walking necessary: About 10 minutes up to Limnerlease House and the same, downhill, to the chapel. No wheelchair access to these buildings.

Overall time: 10am to 4pm. Inclusive cost: £35.00 Application by form enclosed or by e-mail to Secretary. Apply not later than 21st March

Programme
10 -10.30am – Tea, coffee and biscuits in the Old Kiln
10.30-11.45am – Tour of Limnerlease House (including walking time)
11.45 - 12.15pm – Explore the Watts studios, adjacent to the house
12.15 -12.30pm – Return to Old Kiln for lunch
2.30 - 1.30pm – Lunch
1.30 - 2.15pm – Gallery tour
2.15 - 3.30pm – Tour of Chapel (including walking time)
Depart at leisure.



Iain Patton.

Footer - TrustNews Mar 16

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