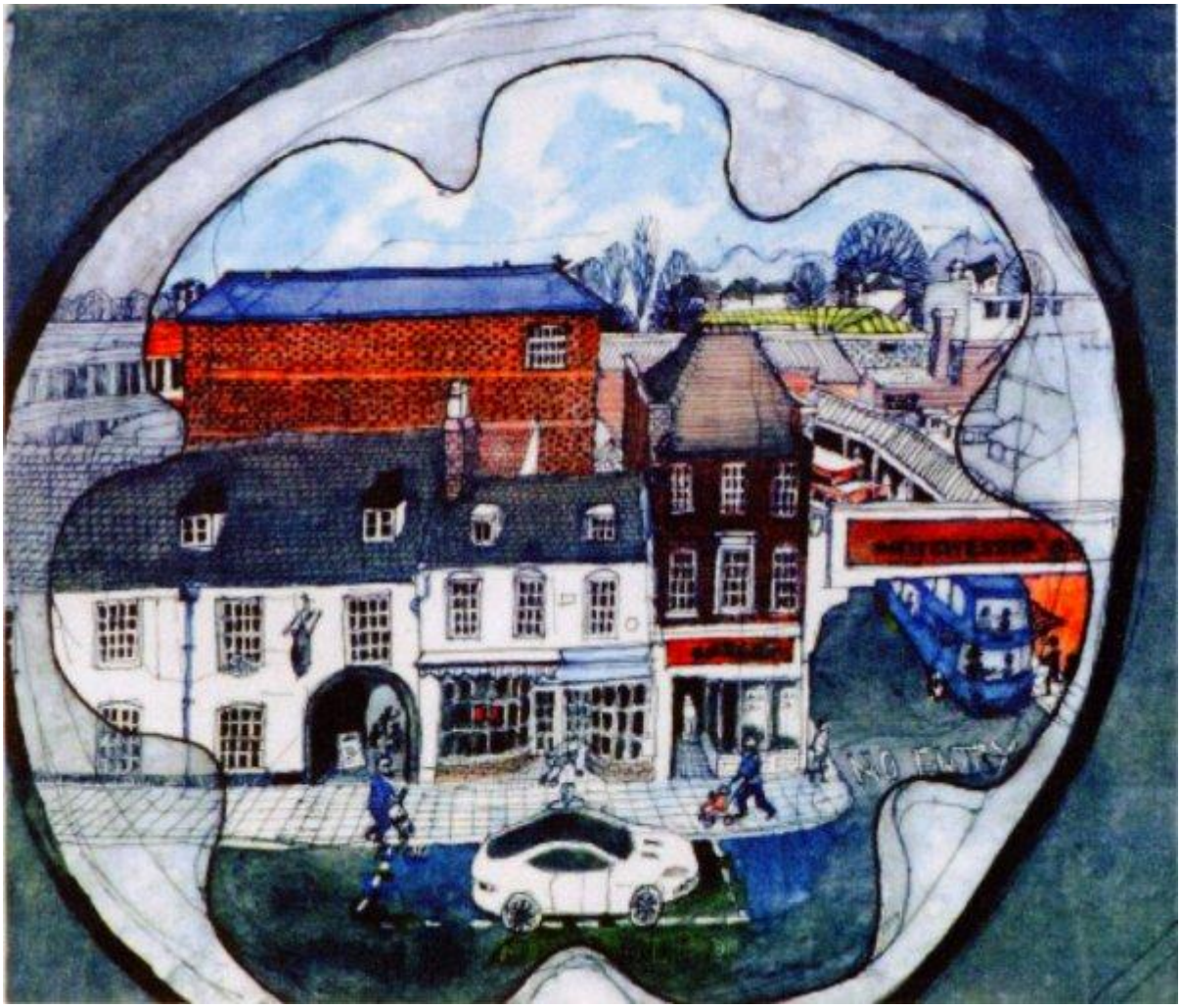
Title Picture - TrustNews Mar 17



Andrew Rutter Print - View of the Bus Station

Chairman's Jottings - TrustNews Mar 17

Thanks to Mollie and Janet, the Heritage Centre has recently been transformed. Accumulated and redundant paper has been dumped and the former two rooms have been reversed so the new office area looks really efficient, and everything works much better. Our thanks to both of them for undertaking this major overhaul.

RE-EVALUATED SCHEMES

Most members will no doubt be aware of the rumblings concerning Silver Hill and Station Approach. The central area of Winchester, which includes Silver Hill is about to be considered by J.W. Thompson Associates. This firm of architects has specialised in involving the public in the planning process and has delivered well-thought-out schemes around the U.K. So it should be interesting to see how they approach the Silver Hill area with its recent fractious history. Already it has been

suggested their area of remit is not wide enough; for example, I understand the Broadway was not included - it is now!

The two sites that constitute Station Approach, namely Carfax and Cattle Market, are also to be re-evaluated by means of a new competition. This time, RIBA are helping with the way in which the competition process is structured and we hope that the process will be more flexible allowing for revisions to be made as the schemes progress alter the initial selection process.

VEHICLE/PEOPLE MOVEMENT STRATEGY

With all the potential development that is earmarked for the near future, I find it difficult to understand why what seems to me a fundamental requirement - a vehicle/people movement strategy - is not put in hand. This seems vitally important when you consider major developments at Silver Hill, Station Approach, Barton Farm, the new Recreation Centre and potential development at Flowerdown and Bushfield Camp. Vehicle movement in particular is already creating problems in central Winchester, so surely growing Winchester by at least 25% is likely to create an unpleasant, frustrating environment. Only with good planning could this be alleviated, and make Winchester a place to appreciate and enjoy the assets that the City has in abundance.

I see Steve Brine, our MP, is calling for WCC to show leadership in order to deliver development and give confidence to developers, so that they are able to perform. I personally agree with the basic sentiments, but it's not just developers, it’s the citizens of Winchester as well. You need to bring together all the ingredients that provide the necessary information to prepare a good brief. The briefing documents are really important as they provide the basis for a successful conclusion to the whole process of delivering a satisfactory outcome.

60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRUST

This year is the 60th anniversary of the Trust and the 50th anniversary of ‘conservation areas’. For the 60th anniversary we thought a bumper issue of the Trust News should mark the event. Now we have to look around for some fabulous articles and art work appropriate for this auspicious event!

For the ‘Conservation Area’ event, we have already asked the Conservation Officers Department to take two walks around twoselected areas of the city to discuss and consider whether the original aims of this legislation have been successful or not. The walks will be part of a programme of walks put together by Paul Williams. I should like to take this opportunity to thank Paul as I know that organising these walks is hard work and sometimes frustrating, but when it comes together as an informative ramble around areas of the city how rewarding it is too.

Keith Leaman

There has been the usual slowdown in activity for the Planning Group over the Christmas period, although the number of applications for review seems now to be picking up again.

We continue to see, and to object to, cases where a developer is seeking to redevelop a site and trying to cram too much onto it. Just recently there has been a case on Park Road. In this case there was an existing permitted application to build 4 four-bed houses. The new application was for a total of 7 dwellings (5 four-bed and 2 three-bed). The Trust has strongly objected to this intensification of the development.

Another thing we are beginning to see more frequently are cases of transformation-by-accretion-of-extensions. These are cases where a single massive extension or roof conversion would probably not be allowed, but where successive applications are made so that it is pretty much impossible to see what the original dwelling was like. This has frequently happened to (now) large country houses in the past, but has been less frequent in urban settings, where the starting point may have been a modest bungalow. Sometimes these developments could constitute improvements, and it may be a matter of opinion as to whether one incongruous building in a row of bungalows is an eyesore or a building setting a trend to be emulated. Change is inevitable as society changes but one would hope that only the designs that in the long term make for good neighbourhoods will make it through the planning process. Unfortunately, given what is now allowed by central government under permitted development, one cannot be sure that this will be the case.

That same central government recently published its White Paper called “Fixing our Broken Housing Market", which can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/fixing-our-broken-housing-market. It is open for consultation from 7 February to 2 May 2017 and anyone can comment on it either electronically or in writing - instructions are at the end of the document. It is a complex document in which it is not easy to see what the net impact will be. This is in part because what it says on the one hand seems elsewhere to be, either explicitly or implicitly, contradicted.

This government, like the last, keeps trying to tinker with the housing market using financial measures while blaming the planning system for the problems. But part of problem lies in the very title of the document. It is presumed that housing is solely a matter for the market and that as such universal access to affordable housing could be delivered if supply could be increased sufficiently. But who has any interest in increasing supply in order to drive prices down? Certainly not developers. Those who might want lower prices (house purchasers) create the demand, which tends to put prices up, but are powerless to increase supply. Hence interventions by successive governments which only prove that this is anything but a free market. As others have previously noted, the only way in the past that housing supply has been increased is by large scale provision of public housing for rent (as after WW2). The white paper acknowledges this to the extent that it says it wants to encourage councils to build more homes for rent. But at the same time it wants to extend the very right to buy schemes that have reduced the supply of public housing.

The other part of the problem lies in the tension, throughout the document, between central control and local autonomy. The Government wants a policy that achieves their objectives and it wants to ensure it does that, but at the same time there is lots of lip service to local control and local decision making. Local people should decide how much housing and of what kind should be in their locality, through participation in a neighbourhood planning process. But central government will now control how the housing needs for each area are determined. There should be local control over design standards, but the rules on permitted development may be even further relaxed.

Winchester does at least have its Local Plan Part 2 almost finalised; it has been through all the critical processes. Effectiveness was evidenced in the recent dismissal of an Appeal against refusal of planning permission to convert Gentian House, on Moorside Road, from warehouse to residential use. The grounds for dismissal include reference to the content of the emerging LPP2, even though this is not quite in effect yet. On the other hand there is no ground for complacency as the review process has to start almost immediately (in 2018).

So, if you have time, please read and comment on this government document – it is one way you might try to take back some local control. There is no saying you will be listened to - but if sufficient responses are received it might happen. Sending a copy of your thoughts to your local MP might also help.

Mary Tiles

Central Area Regeneration - TrustNews Mar 17

Launch event 10.02.17 (attended on behalf of the Trust by Michael Carden and Arthur Morgan)



Community Planning advert

The event was to give an invited audience (councillors, planners, English Heritage, various groups, societies, etc.) a brief introduction to the Community Planning process, to be followed by a period when the professional team will be doing research, holding a number of road-shows and questioning relevant organisations such as the Trust, prior to the Community Planning Weekend in the King Charles Hall of the Guildhall on the 23rd (preview), 24th and 25th March, when it is hoped that as many people as possible will take part. For further details see the flyer at: http://www.jtp.co.uk/cms/pdfs/01306_CPW-Flyer.pdf which includes contact details for the JTP team should you want more information. After the planning weekend, the Team will hold a Report Back Event on 4th April at 6.30 - 8.00pm.

Three people gave brief introductions:
Vicki Weston (chair of the WCC Central Area informal Planning Group (IPG) explained the commissioning of the professional team led by John Thompson and Partners (JTP) which had been engaged to prepare the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) following the Community Planning process.

Marcus Adams (Managing Partner JTP) gave the names and roles of the members of the multidisciplinary urban design team which in addition to JTP includes Snug Architects, UBU Design Ltd, and Atkins, as well as property consultants Propernomics and Rocmor with Osmond Brookes.

Charles Champion (Partner and Community Planning Team Leader JTP) gave a detailed explanation of the community planning process, JTP's impressive experience in the field both in the UK and abroad, and the programme for Central Winchester.

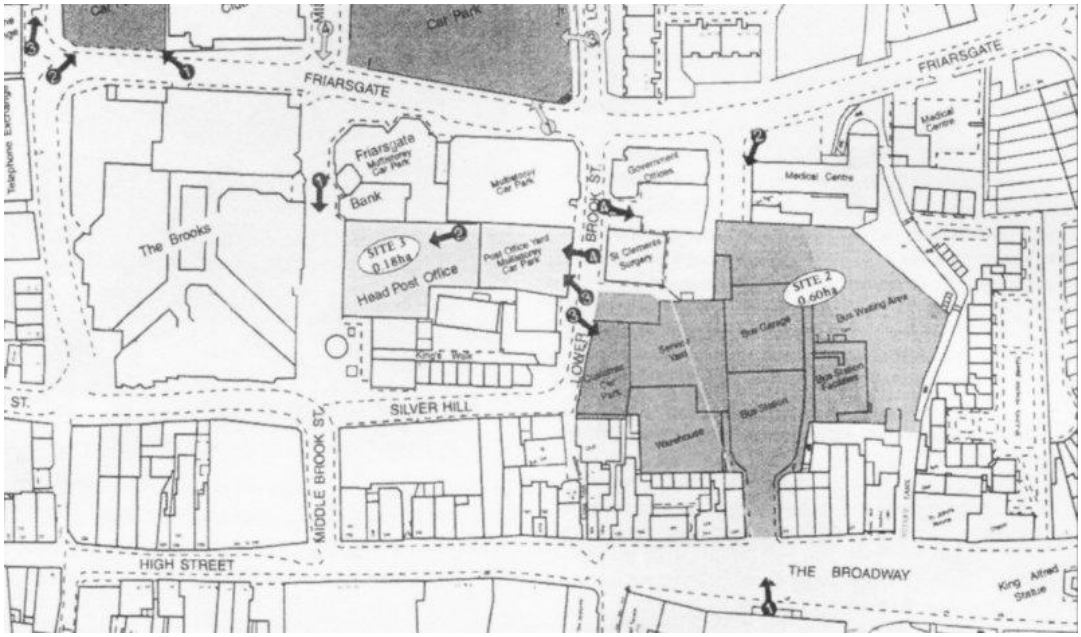
The Trust was involved in many Barton Farm meetings (via the 2020 Group) with JTP and came to know and respect Marcus and his assistant Architect Partner, Rebecca Taylor, who was also present at the Launch.

'The article on pages 6 and7 was included in a Trust newsletter in the summer of 1996, which shows just how long the regeneration of the central area has been under consideration! Ray Attfield is an architect urban designer who was a member of the Trust Council at the time and played a major part in a number of planning issues, not least 'The Future of Winchester - a Strategic Vision' which we published in 2003 and of which we are planning to issue an updated version this year.'

CENTRALWINCHESTER URBAN DESIGN WORKSHOPS

In the summer of 1994 John Gummer launched a discussion document called 'Quality in Town and Country' with the aim of promoting quality in urban design as a wise investment. This was followed in 1995 by the Urban Design Initiatives from DOE which invited local partnership groups to apply for funding to prepare proposals for specific sites which would later be exhibited. The response was much greater than DOE expected and the funding only stretched to about twenty groups. Winchester failed to gain funding, but this

year formed a group led by Simon Birch, the Chief planning Officer with the Central Hampshire branch of the RIBA and the Preservation Trust steering a wide range of individuals from various community organisations. The focus of the study was the area bounded by Friarsgate and The Broadway, see plan below, which was exposed to the critical examination of some forty people at two well organised workshop days held on 30 March and 22 June.



The area of Study, bounded by Friarsgate and the Broadway

There is not much doubt that everyone found both days satisfying, stimulating and enjoyable and will have left with a very different view of that part of Winchester and the issues associated with its future possibilities.

On the first day small working groups developed broad ideas for specific sites or strategic approaches to the area and on the second the intention was to focus on to more tangible proposals but throughout there was a persistent but very understandable problem of over-generalisation or over simplification. The working groups had to seek not only a proposition for their site but also think through the consequences of any change within a framework where the idea of expertise was being challenged by strongly held opinion, where understanding situations of enormous complexity was attempted on the basis of casual experience, and where reactions to problems were too easily accepted as adequate values by which to determine the idea of a better city. The workshops might have achieved an indication of general tendencies and preferences but were never likely, and were not expected to come to arty substantial conclusions. In spite of such limitations, discussing the future of the City with Planning Officers. Councillors, architects, students and residents in an atmosphere of mutual concern, was a novel experience which must be a plus for the workshops. But this mix of interests also revealed the particular imbalance in the group. Predominant were architects and members of The Preservation Trust. Absent (with the notable exception of one now retired) were

Councillors representing City Wards, the Chamber of Commerce, commercial and property interests, and other crucial players such as Highways. While it was a decision by the organisers not to invite those with a financial stake in the area, the interests of those participating is revealing. It has to be seen as a sign of concern by people already only too aware of what is at stake but equally as a sign of the disinterest by many with the responsibility and power to do something or influence the situation. In this light it is easy to regard the whole exercise as a side show, an acting out of the need to demonstrate public participation in the planning process. There has to be a degree of truth in this view but at the same time it is unfair on the very genuine intentions of the Chief Planning Officer who, on the face of it, has very limited means and little opportunity to ‘indulge’ in planning the future shape of the City.

One overriding fact is however confirmed by these workshops. There is no plan for Winchester. There is a document called the Local Plan which speaks in general terms of limiting offices and encouraging housing, and other policies which aim to reduce traffic and increase bus use, but no description of the physical plan. I would like to say that there is no vision, no sense of ideal or even ambition by the City as an institution for what the City as a place should be now or might become. but in relation to the apparently overwhelming reality of day to day planning matters, such thinking seems almost embarrassingly out of place.

Public participation in the making and continuing development of the City is fundamentally important but cannot, must not, be a substitute for an informed and carefully considered plan setting out criteria and guide lines for development before it happens. The physical reality which makes the unique City, the streets and buildings, the squares, gardens , alleys, arcades and markets have their own particular characteristics which should not be determined by the solving of existing problems, but by a positive desire to create particular places with qualities all their own. Traffic and transport will fit some places and not others but essentially must be accommodated by agreement and by management where appropriate and not determine the spaces of the City.

It was hoped that the workshops would come up with ideas for developing the area and in some ways they did, but interestingly some quite detailed schemes produced on the first day were not progressed on the second when discussion tended to go over the same problem, traffic. If one aim dominated the discussion it was the removal of traffic from the City centre but there were many who warned of the damaging consequences of responding only to the negative aspects without proposing a rational structure for the positive needs of all forms of movement into the centre. A lot of time was spent tinkering with where buses should stop and what route they should take but there seemed little awareness of the serious problem of too many over large buses dominating the City streets.

There were some clear conclusions. Create a key East West route - formed as a boulevard not as a road - to link a transport interchange at the rail station with the M3. This would give direct access to car parking provide lay-bys for buses and taxis along the tree lined space, and be in short walking distance from the whole central area. Much thought was directed at how Friarsgate could contribute to this idea since it has no role other than carrying traffic, few buildings face onto it and the need to

redefine its edges could be achieved with a substantial avenue of trees. Servicing the centre would be managed by timed access determined by need and type of vehicle. Car parks such as Colebrook Street which can only be accessed via the Broadway would be closed and coaches could even now use Chesil Street as their terminus though a better network of pedestrian paths across the river and beyond becomes essential.

The first workshop produced some quite strategic ideas which could fit easily into City policy:

To re-establish and give form to the network of streets and alleys which in this area are broken and disconnected and also include covered arcades passages and market.

To require that development faces the street and accepts the responsibility to develop the quality and usefulness of places, and does not tum its back on the public.

To realise the enormous potential of the brooks, ie the waterways, by bringing them to the surface in both garden and street settings. And while below ground consider the value of the whole substrata of archaeology.

To encourage ‘layered’ development which offers small retail at ground level, and residential above or behind, and support uses which build on cultural activities already established in the City.

To encourage good architecture on the basis of a rational assessment of its quality and contribution to the city rather than on stylistic criteria.

To develop more diverse, particular and useful public places and discourage the, assumingly accidental, creation of anonymous useless spaces.

The second day dealt with four specific locations:

Friarsgate, Silver Hill, The Broadway, and the M & S warehouse building but probably left more questions than answers.

Silver Hill is a back street made of back doors. It could link through to the bus station ‘square’, connect with the M & S warehouse, which everyone agreed is a valuable building with great character, and accommodate market stalls along its two blank sides. Any such improvement assumes a better location for taxis and has to be careful about competition with Kings Walk, the creation of which reduced Silver Hill to what it is now. Consideration of the M & S warehouse depended rather heavily on dream uses such as dance studio, cyber cafe, or museum [not another one], yet did little to address the real potential of its accessible frontage onto the bus station or more profitable possibilities for its use as a very practical space if it had better connections.

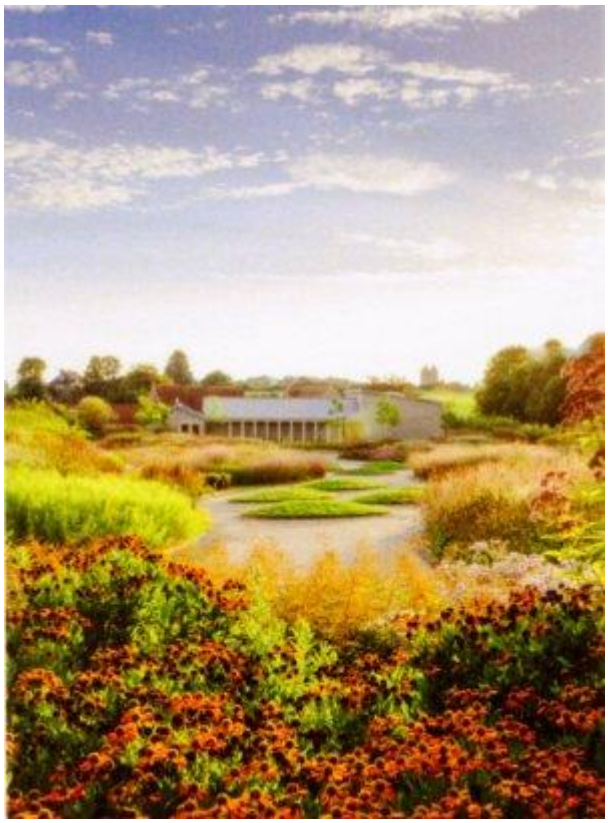
The big question which remained unanswered was the Broadway. It seemed almost too big to contemplate, too important to neglect, yet it has been cast aside as a

turning space for coaches and taxis. Someone said it was probably the easiest space to deal with. Create a broad flat ground surface with large scale paving, define it as pedestrian and life would flow in. Add some important parades and Civic occasions, perhaps a few more tree lines, a better connection with the brook and Abbey Gardens and enjoy the fruits of a great asset. Don't however divide it up into pieces of road and pavement or fill it with furniture like a Victorian parlour.

When you've got something good and big, flaunt it! When something is broken, mend it!

Ray Attfield

Trust Visits 2017 - TrustNews Mar 17



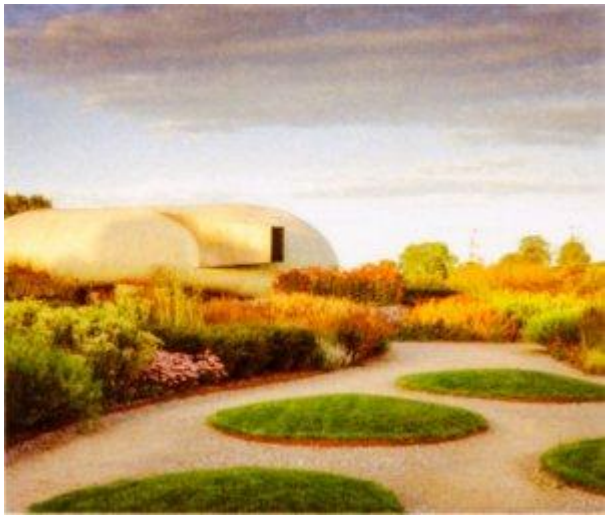
Tuesday 25 April 2017 Hauser & Wirth Gallery and Gardens, Bruton, Somerset

This visit by coach to Bruton is timed to coincide with the Elizabeth Frink exhibition at Hauser & Wirth. We shall leave Winchester at 9am and once we get to the gallery, there will be coffee, followed by a guided tour of the gallery and exhibition plus the celebrated gardens. We shall then have lunch in the Roth Bar on site. In the afternoon we shall have a tour of nearby Bruton church. We should be back in Winchester by 5pm.

This is a major solo exhibition of sculpture by the late Elisabeth Frink. 'Transformation' comprises a selection of Frink's distinctive bronzes produced in the

1950s and 1960s, alongside a series of drawings that highlight her skill as a draughtsman. Outside in the grounds are some of Frink's most important sculptures from later life, including the celebrated Riace Warriors.

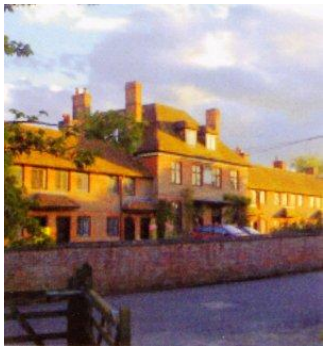
Frink’s art was directly influenced by her childhood and adolescent experiences. Growing up mainly in rural Suffolk, she enjoyed a countryside existence full of animals and birds set against the backdrop of war. Her father was a professional soldier who fought at Dunkirk. Frink was nine years old when the Second World War broke out. Living near an airfield, she often witnessed bombers fighting in the skies directly overhead, or returning to the base in flames. These events had a profound effect on her, as did her viewing of the first images released of the Nazi concentration camps. The impact of these experiences influenced Frink’s approach to her work and led to a life-long preoccupation with conflict, injustice and man's capacity for brutality.



Piet Oudolf, the internationally-renowned landscape designer from the Netherlands, designed the landscaping scheme for the entire site, including Oudolf Field - a large perennial meadow to the north of the farmyard and new gallery buildings.

Members are asked to complete the booking form and return it together with a cheque tor £40 per person to the Heritage Centre by 24 March 2017.

Friday 12 May 2017 Farley Hospital and Church, Borbach Chantry and New Art Centre, Roche Court



This visit to the Hampshire/Wiltshire border will include a tour of the Restoration almshouses, wardenry and church in Farley village built by local boy Sir Stephen Fox who returned from France with Charles II in 1660 and grew rich as Paymaster to the Forces. We will then go on to see the magnificent 17th century memorials in the Boroach Chantry in West Dean and, after a pub lunch there will be a guided tour of the sculpture gardens, gallery and artist's house at Roche Court finishing with tea and cake. Sculptures on show in the landscape at Roche Court include works by Antony Gormley, Laura Ford, Richard Long and Barry Flanagan.

Members are asked to complete the booking form and return it with a cheque for £25 per person by 31 March 2017. Please note that no transport is provided for this trip. Farley is about 40 minutes by car from Winchester.

Sue Owers



Visit to the Morris Singer Fine Art Foundry at Lasham 24th May 2017

Perhaps a little unexpected in rural Hampshire, this enterprise dates back to 1848, in London. Notable work in the past includes Eros. In 2015, it produced the statue of

Gandhi which stands in Parliament Square. We may expect to see castings being made. More information on the Foundry's website:- http://www.morrissinger.co.uk

We will start the visit at 10.30am and it will take about 45 minutes. Stout shoes necessary. Cost £10.

Our numbers will be limited to 15. Please apply to the Secretary or complete the booking form, not later than 20th April.

Iain Patton

Summer Walks 2017 - TrustNews Mar 17

18th May Thursday 18.00	**1. Parchment Street and St Peter Street** *Meet outside Boots on the High Street*	**Clare Dixon**
25th May Thursday 18.00	**2. TBC** *Meet at TBC*	**George Saumarez Smith** *Architect and Director Adam Architecture*
1st June Thursday 18.00	**3. Dreaming the High Street and how it connects to the city** *Meet at the Winchester Barracks fountain*	**Stephen Harte** *Retired Architect and Landscape Architect*
8th June Thursday 18.00	**4. Walking around West Hill** *Meet at the West Gate, High Street*	**Richard Baker**
15th June Thursday 18.00	**5. TBC** *Meet at TBC*	**Rod Graham** *Director, Design Engine Architects*
22th June Thursday 18.00	**6. St John's Winchester Charity** *Meet under the arch of no. 32 Broadway, St John's South*	**Clive Cook** *Director, St John's Winchester Charity*
29th June Thursday 18.00	**7. TBC** *Meet at TBC*	**TBC**
6th July Thursday 18.00	**8. Childhood memories - Phil at 90** *Meet under the Winchester Railway Station Clock - Walk in & around St Paul's and the Station*	**Phil Yates** *Local author, historian and Trust Member*
13th July Thursday 18.00	**9. Hyde900 TBC** *Meet at TBC*	**David Spurling** *Hyde900*

20th July Thursday 18.00	**10. Winchester High Street from a planning & design point of view** *Meet in Water Lane, by the entrance to the 'Black Bottle'*	**Andrew Rutter** *Retired Winchester City Council Conservation Officer and Trust Member*
27th July Thursday 18.00	**11. The Building Stones of Winchester** *Meet outside the West End of the Cathedral*	**John Parker** *Retired Geologist*
4th August Thursday 18.00	**12. Barton Meadows 'The creation of Winchester's newest nature reserve'** *Meet at end of Courtney Road, SO23 7ER*	**Susan Simmonds** *Assistant Education Officer, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust*

Details and conditions for the summer walks:
1. **Timings** All walks will **start** at 18.00 promptly.
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 12 3rd August**: Additional payment of £4 for Hampshire & Isle of Wight 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.

Personal thoughts about design and urban regeneration - TrustNews Mar 17

Precedent suggests, and I personally have no doubt, that regeneration of a large urban area should be designed in the manner of the time when it is done. Adoption of an historical style may be acceptable for infill or small developments, especially for housing that doesn't change much in purpose or scale over the years, but an attempt to reproduce historic incremental development over a major area of mixed use, with a high proportion of commercial buildings, would be absurd. The only exception is the accurate reproduction of old buildings of high and much loved quality that have been destroyed by war or disaster.

An attempt to reproduce historic incremental development over a major area would be absurd

So how should an area of regeneration be designed so that it fits comfortably into surroundings of strong but varied character that have been redeveloped in small increments over the centuries'? This small texture and scale was the result of unplanned regeneration of separately owned narrow mediaeval plots over many decades, the superficial similarity of the buildings resulting partly from weathering and familiarity, and partly from very slowly changing technology that imposed a limited choice of materials, and structural factors that dictated many aspects of the form of the buildings.

It has always been difficult to repeat this incremental pattern artificially, when regeneration is widened over more than one traditional frontage for use by a single property owner, this may not be too disturbing when the bigger shops or offices are relatively few and far between, but it starts to change the character of a place dramatically the more there are of them and the larger they become - until it reaches the point when regeneration concerns whole neighbourhoods, as Winchester is experiencing for the first time in the history of its central areas.

This new phenomenon is causing much controversy because we don't know how to make this scale of regeneration fit into our concept of Winchester's character. No one is very willing to define what that character is in terms that are of any help. There is no problem in recounting the City's history, and describing how it came to be like it is, with its narrow streets laid out on Roman and mediaeval origins. And it is not too difficult to repeat this sort of urban plan-form with new street patterns as Allies & Morrison did with their much admired masterplan for Silver Hill.

WINCHESTER'S STREETSCAPE

It is a quite different matter when it comes to devising a means by which the buildings that grow upwards from such a masterplan can visually relate to neighbouring areas. I suggest that it will require a good brief, understanding skill and imagination from the designers, and similar understanding and open-mindedness from the public. Can we first distil and then somehow repeat what it is we like about Winchester's streetscape without attempting to copy buildings and relationships that can never be repeated? What follows are some thoughts about how this might be done.

QUESTION OF HEIGHT

First there is the question of height. Are we to insist that no building in the future should be taller than the present tallest street building? That doesn't seem logical to me - how, for instance, did the present tallest buildings come about? If there had always been a height limitation Winchester (apart from its official buildings) would be a two-storey town. New buildings must continue to be allowed to grow larger and more sophisticated unless we wish to become another Colonial Williamsburg and all wear period costume for the benefit of tourists. But we could sensibly have constraining policies to ensure that contrasts in height are not too great between adjoining buildings. We could also require that wherever possible all existing buildings of any visual quality are retained so that they help to influence the heights of buildings in their vicinity. But we must also be sensible and not stunt the regeneration of a whole area by not allowing any exceptions to such policies. Part of

Winchester‘s character is due to surprising contrasts in height, material and style that we now take for granted.



Casson Block

Design variety can be introduced by the subtle allocation of building commissions between different architects and maybe even different developers, though all should work from the same masterplan, and within design parameters laid down in an overall brief in the way in which it was done for the attractive London estates of the 18th and 19th centuries.

HORIZONTAL ‘FACADE-SCALE’

A much harder problem is how to emulate the small horizontal ‘facade-scale’ of the central area of the City without resorting to pastiche - that is to say, without applying, like wall-paper, a style that does not relate to a building's interior or modern purpose. While buildings cannot change style across a wide single-purpose frontage, there are architectural means of introducing external rhythm or texture over a long frontage without any change in style as demonstrated, in an extreme example, by the Palace of Westminster. In Winchester a modern movement example is the Casson Block, where Sir Hugh subdivided the frontage into something similar to historic plot widths by expressing the structural frame on the exterior as a Tudor building might have done. This was much praised at the time, but is now sadly little appreciated because the building has been unsympathetically modified and sadly neglected, besides being in our current shadow-of-taste (see previous article). I have little doubt that there are imaginative modern architects who could now emulate the texture of a Winchester street far more effectively.

Michael Carden

A nostalgic climb - TrustNews Mar 17

Last August Phil Yates retraced a part of the countryside he remembers from childhood. Here he shares the memory.

In the late 1930s, as young teenagers, we combed the countryside around Winchester on our Hercules and Raleigh bicycles. One of our favourite locations was St Catherine's Hill which we climbed with our bikes from the Garnier Road entrance at Tunbridge. There were no steps in those days - just thick long grass to clamber over. Our first target on reaching the top was to run around the miz-maze (see footnote) and then walk over to the other side of the hill. And that's where the fun, for us anyway, began. The aim was to skid down the slope and see who reached the bottom first. It wasn't me! Today it might be called vandalism desecrating the countryside in that way.

Fast forward 75 years; on a hot August morning last year I set off, once again, with my friend Rod Youngman, to climb the hill from the same starting point. Steps, though very uneven, have been installed to reach the top. After regaining our breath, we stood for a few moments taking in the magnificent views across the city before walking through the famous clump of trees and tracking down the miz-maze, which is now unfortunately very overgrown – no chance of running round it today! Walking over to the far side we found the spot where the fun began all those years ago. This time, however, we walked sedately downthe steps placed there some years ago and called Jacob's Ladder, counting them as we went - all 331. Walking along the footpath leading the Five Bridges Road, we couldn't resist inspecting the Hockley viaduct before crossing the meadows to reach the Hospital of St Cross, where my grandfather was one of the brethren in the 1920s, and receiving the Wayfarer‘s Dole (a small beaker of beerand a piece of bread) at the Porter's Lodge which is part of the Beaufort Tower. After a tiring but pleasant day we then headed to the Bell inn, which stands at the entrance to the Hospital, for a well-deserved pint and lunch before catching the bus back home.

Phil Yates

FOOTNOTES

St Catherine's Hill: the two hills which overlook the city are St Giles ’s Hill and this one, which was inhabited during the Iron Age (400-1500 BC) when Celtic tribes settled here. The Hill takes its name from a Saint, said to be a virgin queen of Alexandria in the 4th century AD. Condemned to be ‘broken on the wheel’ (hence the name of the firework ‘Catherine wheel’) her body was said to be buried at the top of Mount Sinai. In the 11th century chapels were erected on hilltops dedicated to her memory. Beneath the famous clump of trees on the summit of the hill are the foundations of a chapel which was excavated in 1926 and covered up again. The hill was purchased in 1930 by Winchester College from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The miz-maze: One of eight surviving turf mazes in England, its origins are obscure. This one is believed to date from the 17th century when tradition has it that a Winchester College boy cut it out one summer having been banished to the hill for bad behaviour.

Letters - TrustNews Mar 17

Dear Mr Leaman

Bushfield Camp Development

As a long-standing member of the City of Winchester Trust, I am writing to put on record my and other local people's views on the above. Accordingly I enclose a copy of the brief statement I sent to Deloittes on their feedback form.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Allen

'We have used the whole Bushfield Camp area for walks for 43 years! It is a great sadness that it is going to be developed. The present wild area of the 20 hectares of the Site which will remain undeveloped is greatly treasured by local people. It is an area of peace and tranquillity - a place for enjoying nature and recharging one 's batteries - and people who use it at present would not welcome any change in the area apart from possibly designating it a 'nature conservation area'. We do not want cycle paths, bridleways or fitness trail. Certainly we would abhor formal or informal recreation areas or playgrounds; these are available in other places.

We would request that paths be kept open but not made too wide and that they be edged by brambles, scrub and small trees as at present. Any new area of open grassland and wild flowers should be restricted to the Agricultural Area. It is hoped that the avenue of trees be kept accessible for walkers and that they and the bank be kept as a barrier from the development.

Dear Mrs Allen,

Thank you for your letter on the Bushfield Camp area, enclosing your comments to Deloittes.

We attended an earlier meeting to the one you went to where the management and possible use of the land north of the parade ground site was discussed. We were given the impression by Deloittes that their recommendations to the Church Commissioners could be that the land north of the parade ground area was handed to an authority such as Winchester City.

We would agree with you that the area needs to be left as it is, that is “under managed”. We think that, if the reorganisation of the whole area was to proceed, then it becomes very important that this parcel of land is handed to a body that is sensitive to the issues you have raised in your comments.

Deloittes are preparing a brief for the whole area and are proposing to present this for discussion purposes in the spring. This should enable all those concerned to comment on their proposals.

Yours sincerely

Keith Leaman

Exclusive City of Winchester Trust cards and prints - TrustNews Mar 17

Are you sometimes at a loss to find just the right card, whether it be a simple ‘thank you’, writing to mark an occasion, or perhaps to give as a small but thoughtful gift? The Trust may just have the answer for you with hand-drawn and individual, non-mass-produced cards which have been left blank for your own message.

The Trust has a small quantity of cards, which are prints of original drawings by Andrew Rutter and John Bulford, displaying black pen and ink detailed sketches of well-known Winchester locations. The cards are A5 (postcard size) and are easy to write on, being flat and unfolded. They are printed on good quality ivory card and come complete with matching envelopes.

We also have a few, unmounted, A3 sized prints, again of popular Winchester locations which, when mounted and framed, would make a most acceptable gift - if you can bear to part with it!

The cards (of which there are 4 designs), are priced at £2 each and the prints (several views to choose from) cost £10 each, which is exceptional value when you consider that inferior cards cost so much more today.

If you prefer colour rather than monochrome, then choose our Chairman, Keith Leaman‘s card, showing a view of St Thomas Passage, Winchester (Giles Gilbert Scott telephone box), 10.5 cm x 15cm, and left blank inside. A pack of 10 with envelopes, costs £4.75 - that's only 47p each -unbelievable for something so special.

For more information/orders please contact The Trust by email: secretary@cityofwinchestertrust.co.uk or by phone: 01962 851664 leaving a message if unattended.



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Footer - TrustNews Mar 17

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