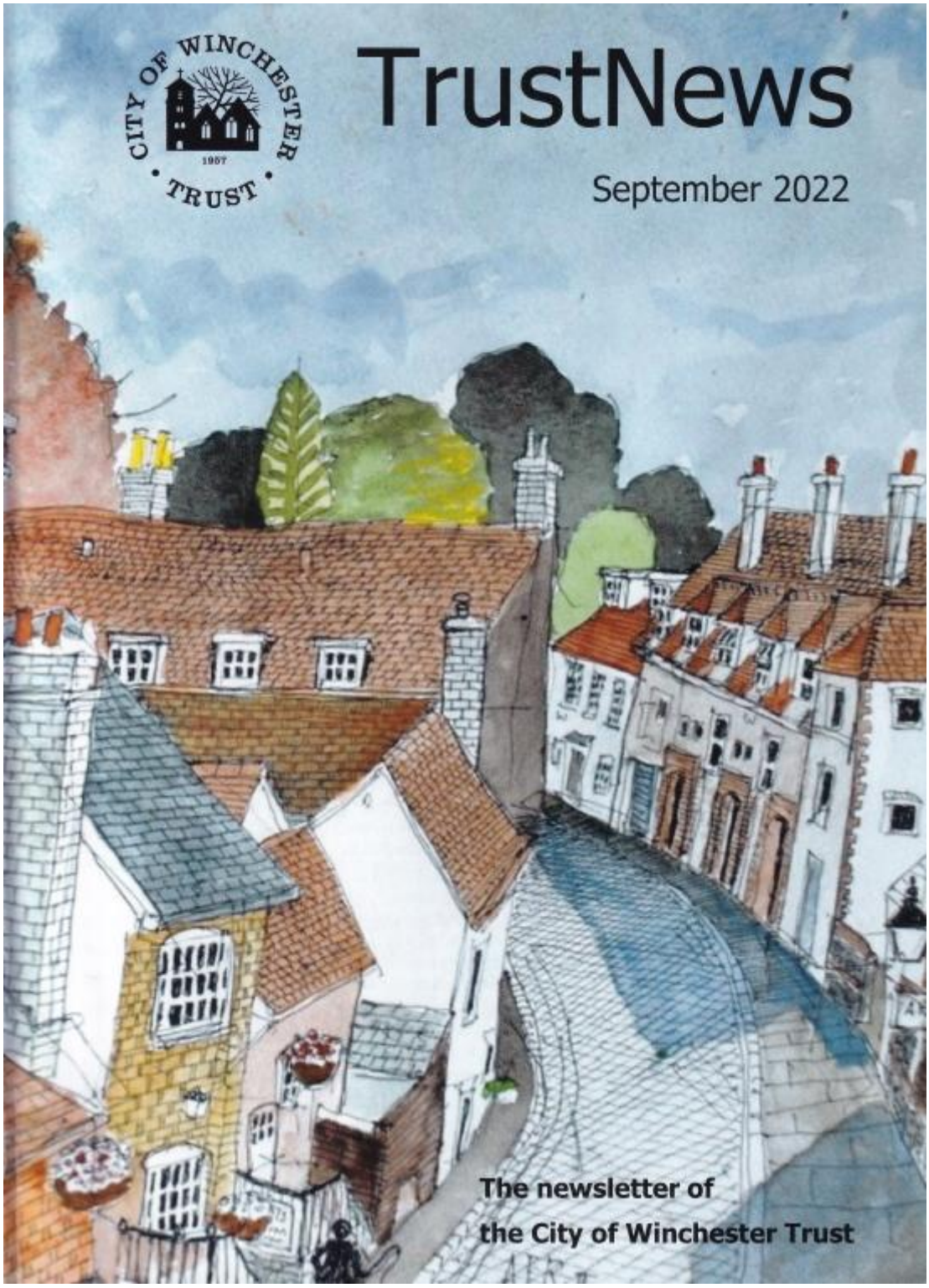
Little Minster Street - TrustNews Sep 22



Little Minster Street. Drawing by Andrew Rutter

Chairman's Jottings - TrustNews Sep 22



Station Hill looking towards Sussex Street. Photo by City of Winchester Trust

Recently a Trust member sent us the video of a thought-provoking Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) talk by a designer many of you will probably know - Thomas Heatherwick.

Thomas Heatherwick studied design at Manchester Polytechnic, and then attended the Royal College of Art , where Terrance Conran recognised his talent and became a mentor in his early business years. His design background occasionally comes to the fore, with eye-catching examples such as the new London Buses, the London Olympic flame holder and the Manchester Commonwealth Games sculpture. However, buildings seem to have become his passion, where he applies a refreshing industrial designer educated eye. In other words he designs 'outside the box'.

In the talk Heatherwick starts by saying "we are living through an epidemic of boringness where buildings are concerned." Although he is talking about recent capital city development, nonetheless you can apply his thinking to Winchester, in particular housing estates. In my opinion, these are probably the most boring and possibly the most difficult to design well, for it is generally against an uphill battle against hide-bound legislation and unimaginative big estate developers who seem to apply minimum standards for maximum profits. Developers generally do not want to go near a designer who thinks, for they cause trouble to housing developers' well-tried, bland housing layout standards.

It would be really interesting to issue a challenge to Thomas Heatherwick and an imaginative developer to see what sort of mass housing scheme might result.

Another thought-provoking theme Heatherwick questioned was the scandal of building demolition - 50,000 buildings were demolished in this country last year. Many of these were buildings built to become redundant after a limited time scale. Heatherwick considers it a crime to build buildings in this way, as well as pulling redundant buildings down that could be recycled. In his opinion, all buildings should be built not only to last for ever and to inspire, but also with flexibility and with emotion so that people can enjoy and love them.

Keith Leaman

Planning Appraisal Group - TrustNews Sep 22

We report on the group's work over the last quarter.

By the time you receive this issue, PAG panel members will have attended the latest of our regular meetings with Julie Pinnock, WCC's service lead for the built environment, who is responsible for development control. The problems with inadequate or missing documentation for planning applications and the rise in applications for student housing will both be on the agenda.

Andrew Rutter - TrustNews Sep 22

Keith Leaman profiles Winchester's first Conservation Officer and his legacy.



Parchment Street. Drawing by Andrew Rutter

The Trust has for some time now wanted to write an article on Andrew Rutter. Why? Because he has been a major contributor towards both the conservation of the City and an understanding of how it ticks.

Andrew joined the Winchester City Council planning department as Conservation Officer in 1974 when the City became Winchester and District. Andrew was qualified

both as an architect and as a town planner, his specialisation being conservation, for which expertise he was recruited.

Andrew had a great ability to communicate his thoughts with free hand drawings on 10 inch wide rolls of tracing paper using a thick black felt pen, on how a scheme would fit or not fit into an urban or rural setting.

With over 3000 listed buildings and 30 plus conservation areas, Andrew would be seen making his site visits across the District from Micheldever to Denmead in his green Citroen 2CV. He had a considerable workload assessing listed building applications and administering a budget for listed building grants. Sadly no such budget exists today. Andrew's desire was to get the very best out of every application. He certainly did not go in for box ticking!



Hanging sign designed by Andrew Rutter, outside Clarks Shoe, High Street

One of Andrew's trademark pieces of creative advice was to encourage shop owners to produce hanging signs indicating their trade. To help them do this he made full-sized cardboard profiles. This was greeted with enthusiasm and several hanging signs were produced. Andrew's encyclopaedic knowledge of Winchester's history

and architecture was encapsulated in words, photographs and drawings. This knowledge was turned into a successful book: Winchester: Heart of a City.*

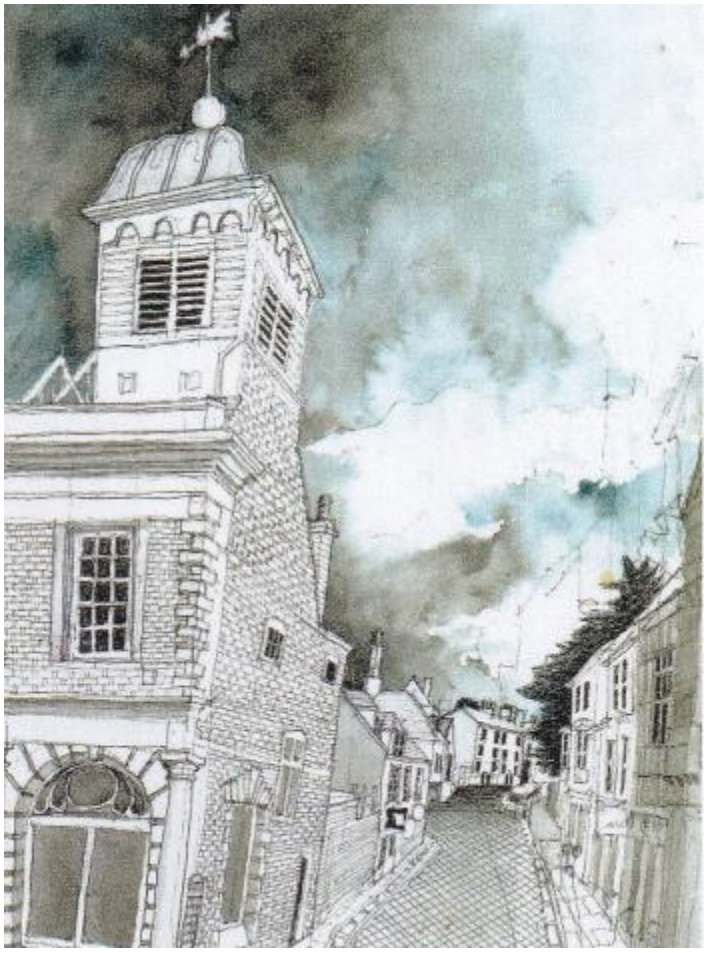
Even after retirement Andrew has continued to take a great interest in the City, for he has undertaken the extraordinary task of producing over 200 panoramic sketch views around central Winchester. These drawings plus commentaries are to be used to illustrate a publication Andrew is in the process of putting together.

I am not sure that Andrew could have worked within the current planning department. There seems to be no room now for a slightly maverick, highly motivated, creative character, willing to go that extra mile to squeeze the best out of a situation. Although I am aware his style of working was on occasions exasperating, everybody inside the planning department, as well as councillors, architects and other professionals, all recognised and respected his contribution to resolving difficult problems, many of which could have detrimentally affected Winchester's conservation areas. His persuasive sketches illustrated to all concerned the points that he wished to convey



Staircase in Serles House, Southgate Street. Drawing by Andrew Rutter

It would appear today that as far as planning and conservation issues are concerned, the departments do not interface with applicants in the same way as in Andrew's day, and the result can be a lack of confidence in the system as well as frustration by those attempting to obtain constructive information.


Curfew Tower and St Thomas Street. Drawing by Andrew Rutter

Leadership is always key to running any department successfully. It creates a confident, happy environment in which to operate. This attracts and motivates the best staff towards making positive decisions in which all can have confidence.

* Winchester: Heart of a City is out of print, but is available as a digital version from our website, cityofwinchestertrust.co.uk/shop

A selection of Andrew's quirky drawings is also available as prints and cards from our website.

A Royal Palace for Charles II - TrustNews Sep 22

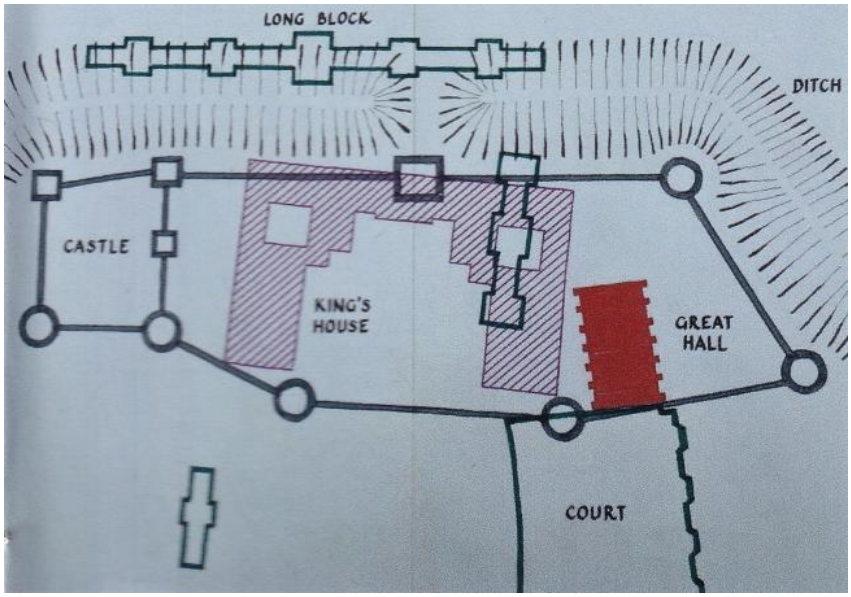


East elevation of King's House. Drawing by R. Baker

Early in the 1680s, the City Corporation placed an advertisement in the London Gazette promoting the attractions of Winchester and the nearby racecourses at Worthy Down and Stockbridge Down. Charles II was an accomplished horseman and had a palace at Newmarket, which burnt down in 1683. The King made his first visit to Winchester in 1682 and the City offered to sell the site of the former Castle and surrounding land for five shillings, for him to build a royal residence.

The King instructed Sir Christopher Wren, Surveyor to the King's Works, to prepare plans. He sited the Palace to the south of the Great Hall, on an east-west axis, aligned with the west front of the Cathedral. An agreement was made with the Justices of the Peace, responsible for the Great Hall, that it be demolished and a new hall built elsewhere. This would release land to create an access from the High Street for horses and carriages to the grand courtyard in front of the Palace.

On the eastern, city side of the Palace a grand avenue, cutting through Southgate Street, St Thomas Street and Little Minster Street, was to lead to the Cathedral, and be lined with new three storey buildings to accommodate the court of the King.

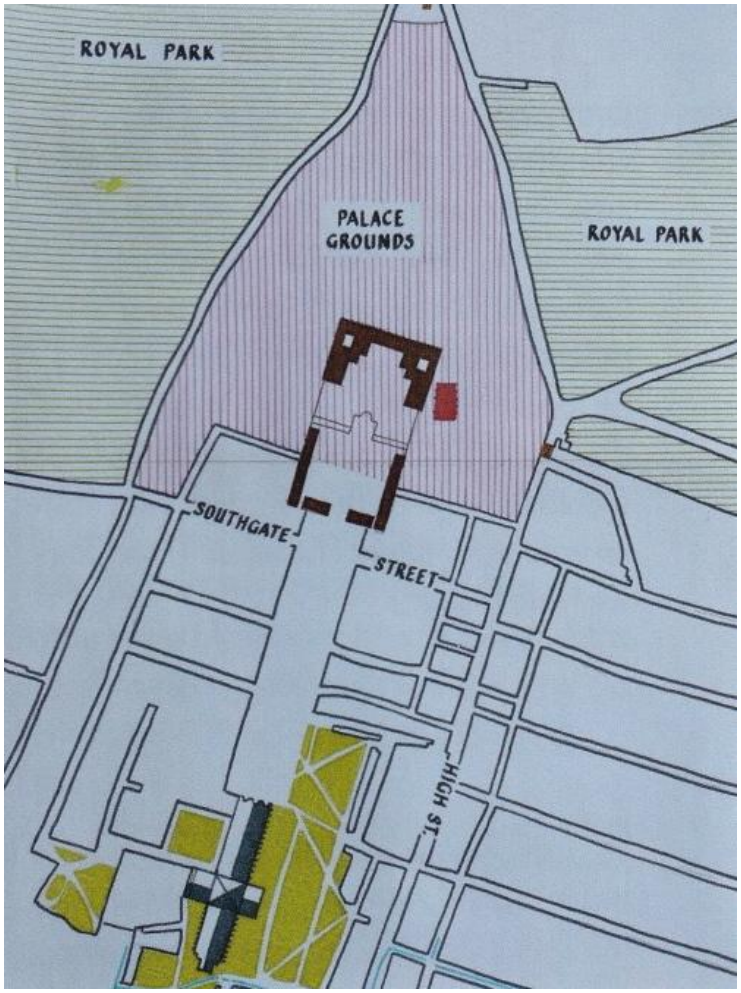


Plan of King's House and the Castle. Drawing by R. Baker

On the west side of the Palace, land on West Hill was to be used for Palace Grounds, with a Royal Park to the north over Oram's Arbour and a Royal Park and Hunting Grounds extending south down Southgate Street to what is Stanmore Lane today, and up to Romsey Road.

Work on the Palace, also known as the King's House, started in 1683. By 1685 the walls, floors and roof of the building were completed. Charles II died in 1685, and work on the Palace was halted by James II. The project was finally abandoned in 1687. The need to implement the deal to demolish the Great Hall in return for a new hall was not required.

The built shell of the Palace was used as a prison and barracks, until it was destroyed by fire in 1894. Fortunately, firemen were able to save the Great Hall from the flames of the nearby Palace building.



Plan of Palace and Park and the avenue between King's House and the Cathedral. Drawing by R. Baker

Had the plans of the King and Wren been realised, the form of Winchester's development as we know it today could have been very different. Could the railway company for the London to Southampton line have been able to give any thought to making a survey for a line through the Royal Park and Palace Grounds? Would their only option have been to take a line to the east from Kings Worthy to Chesil and

Shawford? Then, instead of Winchester expanding to the west, development of houses, schools, a hospital and prison would ascend the slopes of St Giles Hill and onward to the east, towards Morn Hill. With the royal presence to the west, the protected open countryside could today be a National Park.

The small-scale street pattern created by the Romans and the Saxons and the Cathedral Green and Close are core components of Winchester's conservation area. The grand scale planning of an avenue between the Palace and the Cathedral, shown in the conjectural drawing made by Stephen Conlin based on research carried out by Simon Thurley, the former head of English Heritage, would have given the centre of Winchester an entirely different character to the one we have today.



Conjectural view of the Grand Avenue. Artwork Â© Stephen Thurley. Commisioned by Country Life Magazine

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Local Plan timetable delayed - TrustNews Sep 22

John Beveridge reports

The City Council has announced a delay in the production of the first draft of the Local Plan. The plan will set out how the Council intends to accommodate the growth they need to plan for in the whole District, outside the South Downs National Park, for the period up to 2039.

One of the reasons for the delay is new guidance issued by Natural England on the impact of wastewater produced by new development on the integrity of nationally protected sites, which now includes phosphates as well as nitrates in the River Itchen Catchment Area. A six week consultation period will be held from 2 November to 14 December. Before that the Council's Local Plan Advisory Group will discuss the document in the middle of September and the Cabinet will discuss it on 18th October, so it will be available to read well before the start of the formal consultation.

Everyone will be able to comment on the Local Plan. The Trust will be doing so and anyone interested in contributing to its response is invited to email us. Members are encouraged to make their own personal comments.

Winchester.gov.uk/planning-policy/winchester-district-local-plan-2018-2038-emerging/local-plan-news

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Winchester Heritage Open Days 2022 - TrustNews Sep 22

The acclaimed free history festival returns 9-18 September

Winchester Heritage Open Days (HODs) is shaping up to be another fantastic festival packed with tours, behind the scenes and engaging talks. This year's festival takes place from 9 to18 September, with events not just in Winchester, but in the surrounding areas too. And the best part? Every event is FREE to attend.

Some of this year's highlights include performances by the Hampshire Regency Dancers at the Great Hall Open Day and Vintage Buses with the Friends of King Alfred Buses. Mock trials, tours of the cells and talks on "A Day in the Life of..." are also events on offer this year as part of the Winchester Combined Court Open Day.

The theme for this year's festival is "Astounding Inventions", celebrating innovation, pioneers and creativity. Code breaking and brickmaking, weaving in the Roman world and railway engineering are just some of the topics to be explored. Join Hyde900 and Professor Christopher Mulvey for a talk exploring King Alfred's Astounding Inventions or watch one of the oldest working watermills in the country in action at the Winchester City Mill Open Day.

Whether your interests are medieval or modern, in the everyday experience of people throughout history, technological advances, or courtly clashes, there is an event for you to enjoy. Many events you can just turn up to, but some require booking. To view the full programme of events, how to book, or how to volunteer, go to www.winchesterheritageopendays.org

Summer Walks 2022 - TrustNews Sep 22

This year's summer walks programme ended with a walk around the site of Hyde Abbey on 18 August. We were pleased to be able to offer a full programme this year, after two years of disruption caused by the pandemic, and it was truly heartening to have every walk full and most oversubscribed, and to hear such positive comments from the walkers.

The walks covered a varied selection of sites and subjects, from Hockley Viaduct to Winnall Moors Nature Reserve, from the Hospital of St Cross to The Castle, and from the stones that make up Winchesterâ€™s buildings to the history of Canon Street.

We would like to thank our guides, all of whom are volunteers, for giving up their time to share their knowledge and enthusiasm, and for making this year's programme such a success.

If you have an idea for a summer walk or would like to volunteer as a guide, please contact Tessa at secretary@cityofwinchestertrust.co.uk

Members' trips 2022 - TrustNews Sep 22

Greenwich

On what then seemed a hot summer's day in June, 16 Trust members caught an early train to Waterloo and walked down to the London Eye on the Embankment where several river cruise companies now compete for the tourist dollar on trips up and down the river. We had booked with the Uber boat and had a comfortable 45 minute journey down river to Greenwich with excellent views of all the Thames side sites and the city skyline.



St Paul's Cathedral and the Millenium Bridge

The pier at Greenwich is only a moment's walk from the Visitor Centre at the Old Royal Naval College, which contains an exhibition summarising the history of this extraordinary complex of buildings. This was the site of the Palace of Placentia or Greenwich Palace beloved of Tudor monarchs, but by the late 17th century it had fallen into disrepair and William and Mary commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to build a Hospital for Seamen. The veterans of the French, Dutch and American wars were housed in palatial surroundings until the Hospital closed in 1869 and the buildings were converted into the Royal Naval College. That in its turn closed in 1998, but educational use continues as much of the site is leased to the University of Greenwich and the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. This means that the grounds are full of groups of students chatting and working, and music wafts from the windows of every rehearsal room.



The Painted Hall at the Old Royal Naval College

Our tour guide led us through various parts of the site but concentrated on the Painted Hall and its Undercroft, the Nelson Room and the Chapel - all of which are open to the public without charge. The Painted Hall was created by Sir James Thorneyhill between 1707 and 1726 - his equivalent of the Sistine Chapel - and has been beautifully restored in recent years.


The view from the river through the Old Royal Naval College to the Queen's House

After an alfresco lunch at the Old Brewery on site, we made our way across the road to the Queen's House for our afternoon tour. Two knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides explained the history of the house and its architectural significance as the first truly classical Palladian building in Britain designed by Inigo Jones. Of course, it predates the Royal Naval College by 60 years so perhaps we should have done the tours the other way round - but the photograph above shows how Sir Christopher Wren designed his ranges of buildings along the axis of the Queen's House - and that UNESCO was right to designate Maritime Greenwich a World Heritage Site and describe it as "the finest and most dramatically sited architectural and landscape ensemble in the British Isles".

Our day ended with a whistlestop tour of the dramatic interior of the Queen's House and its art collection, including the Armada Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, one of George Romney's portraits of Emma, Lady Hamilton and many fine naval battle pictures by the Dutch marine painters William Van de Velde, father and son. We then wearily made our way back to the pier for another delightful journey along the river back to Waterloo.

Of course, we had not even attempted to include the National Maritime Museum, the Royal Observatory, the Cutty Sark or the wider parkland. Frankly there is so much to see at Greenwich that it is probably better suited to a long weekend than a day trip!

Sue Owers

Painted Churches

This much-postponed trip took place on 5 July, and could have been called Twenty Trust Members Go on a Coach Trip to Five Interesting Churches in Hampshire and West Sussex, Some of Them With Paintings.

The Church of St Hubert at Idsworth dates from somewhere around the 9th century. In 1913 the architect H.S.Goodhart-Rendel was commissioned to restore it. He did so with such sensitivity and artistry that experts still disagree whether some parts are mediaeval or twentieth century. Its major feature is a wall painting in the chancel dated to 1330. Half of it shows the dance of Salome and the beheading of John the Baptist. The other is a hunting scene in which the quarry is a very hairy man, variously identified as John the Baptist and St Hubert. Although there is no local population centre, the church is active and thriving.


Elizabethan roof timbers, Church of St Mary and St Gabriel, South Harting

The church of St Mary and St Gabriel in South Harting was built in 1300, but the most important date in its history is 1576, when a major fire destroyed it, leaving only the main outer walls. The rebuilt roof timbers are the most remarkable feature of the chancel. The nave ceiling is simpler but still a marvellous example of Elizabethan wood work.

St Paul's church at Elsted is described as Saxon, though it is likely that only the nave was built pre-conquest, with the chancel in the late 11th century or early 12th century. Like so many other local churches it deteriorated seriously during the 17th and 18th centuries. In 1951 , the vicar of Elsted, Rev Fernely Parkhouse, took on the task of restoring the church, employing the architect J E M McGregor, who used the surviving north wall but made no attempt to restore the original nave as it had been, using a lot of recycled stone and producing a robust but somewhat Spartan building which looks quite odd, but remains an active church.

St George at Trotton was built in the early 14th century in the decorated style. Its main feature is a huge Doom Painting occupying the entire west wall of the church. On the left (south) side are the seven deadly sins which have faded due to exposure to sunshine from the adjacent window, but on the right (north) side, the seven virtues are remarkably distinct after 800 years.

Between our visits to South Harting and Elsted, we had an excellent lunch at the Three Horseshoes in Elsted which was greatly enjoyed by all. Time constraints meant we were unable to get to the fifth church on the itinerary, East Meon.

Grateful thanks are due to our guide, Chris Maxse, and to Iain and Penny Patton, who did their best to keep us in order.

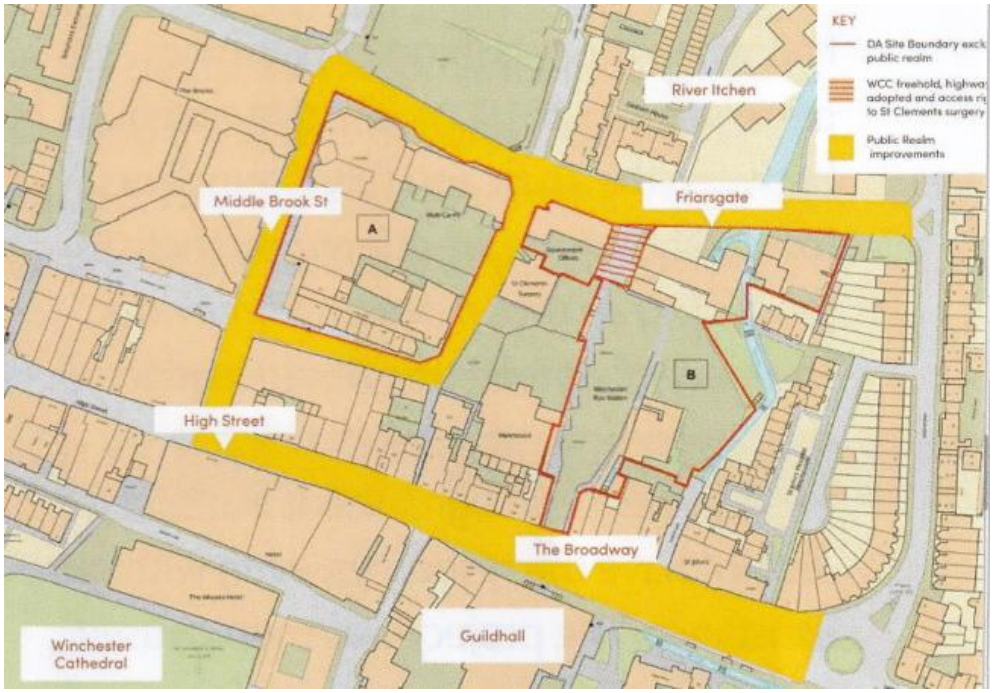
David Barber

Regenerating the Central Winchester Area - TrustNews Sep 22

Richard Baker on the latest developments

Last January, the Council decided to proceed with a procurement process for the selection of a single development partner. In March a procurement brochure was produced by the Council and their consultants, Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL), inviting developers to express their interest.

On the basis of the information in the brochure, the Trust is concerned at the lack of a comprehensive brief covering the extensive issues that need to be considered for the regeneration of the Central Area (formerly known as Silver Hill).



Map of the proposed development area, Winchester.

From New Life in a Timeless City: the Central Winchester Regeneration Opportunity, JLL and Winchester City Council 2022

The Local Plan Part II was adopted by the Council in 2017. Policy WIN 4 - Silver Hill mixed use site - sets out proposals and principles for a comprehensive mixed use development covering uses, design, historic context, public realm, pedestrian and cycle access, landscape, buses, coaches, traffic, car parking, archaeology and flood risk.

The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) adopted in 2018, prepared by JTP for the area, complied with policy WIN 4.

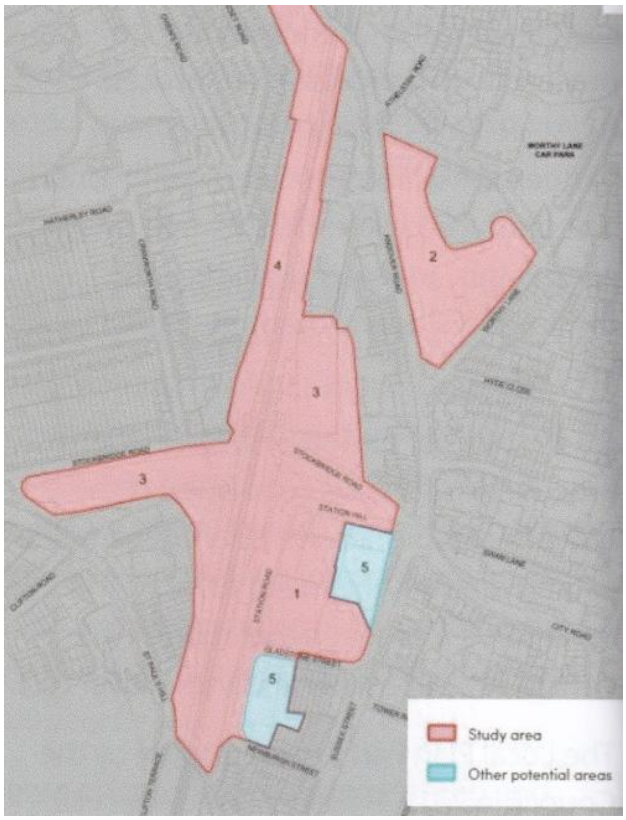
The procurement brochure makes no mention of WIN 4, and excludes mention of many aspects of the SPD. The site area has been reduced from 4.5 hectares to 3.67 acres (1.48 hectares) by omitting the bus hub located at the Middle Brook Street car park, St. Clements Surgery and the Woolstaplers Hall, the public realm, Lower High Street and The Broadway. This indicates a reduced vision for regenerating the area to that set out in the SPD.

It is understood that the Council has drawn up a short list of three candidate developers. The Trust will continue to monitor this selection process and the basis on which development is to take place.

Station Approach - TrustNews Sep 22

John Hearn reports on the City Council's next steps

Following the quashing of planning permission in 2019, productive meetings between the Trust and City Councillors took place where we offered our help in producing an urban design framework. The Council agreed this would lead to greater community/stakeholder engagement and agreement but said it did not have the resources, even with our assistance. The project was then paused by the City Council as a result of the Covid pandemic.



The Station Approach site. From winchesterstationapproach.co.uk

1. The Carfax-Gladstone Street car park the leased parking adjacent and the former register office and to the south of the Hampshire Records Office.

2. The Cattlemarket and Worthy Lane car parks

3. The multi-storey car parks to the east and west of the Station.

4 Car parking along the western side of the railway line.

5. Other sites in the vicinity.

It has been accepted by all that the pandemic fallout will inevitably result in a different design approach for the area, given the impact on work practices and travel patterns. Also, with the emphasis on sustainable development, underpinned by the adopted Movement Strategy, there will need to be changes to the types and amounts of development, with a focus on more creativity in townscape design, design of public spaces and movement patterns.

Things have obviously been going on behind the scenes as most recently the Cabinet has approved a process to "revise the Station Approach plan working with adjacent landowners and embarking on a comprehensive and active engagement with the communityâ€□. The Council has launched a public consultation which is open for comments until 23th October. It consists of a website, winchesterstationapproach.co.uk, which features an interactive map for comments as well as an online survey. The Trust will be responding to the consultation and all members are encouraged to do so as well.

The website includes a plan of the study which shows development opportunities on railway carpark land. Unfortunately, important areas of the public realm, have been excluded from the study area (Carfax Junction, Sussex Street, Andover Road, worthy Lane, part of Gladstone Street).

The Trust has met the Council to discuss the process ahead and we raised this and other matters.

As reported in the June issue of TrustNews, one important development to note is that the HCC Record Office has recently been listed by Historic England. This will be a significant constraint (and opportunity) in the design development of the Carfax site and the adjacent public realm. The Council has a duty to ensure that the setting of the building is respected.

Winchester Movement Strategy - next steps? - TrustNews Sep 22

John Beveridge reports

It is too soon to know the results of the public consultation on The County Council's new Local Transport Plan in which the Trust took part. If the Plan retains its general approach, it is truly radical in its potential to achieve significant change to the way we move about, and is quite different to the disappointingly limited disjointed proposals for Winchester which were consulted on earlier this year. But, like so much of local government's operations these days, achieving any change is dependent on central government for the finance to enable it to happen.

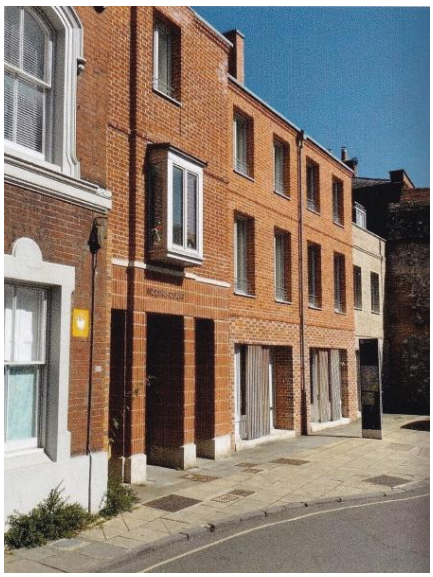
As an example of this dependence, one central government initiative underway at the moment is a study in Winchester and 18 other areas in England funded by government to examine the feasibility of introducing low traffic neighbourhoods. Their idea is to apply Dutch design principles that put the needs of people above cars. They exclude through traffic using barriers, while still permitting access for residents' vehicles, and they give priority to pedestrians and cyclists over cars. Connections between the different neighbourhoods will be encouraged by the creation of 'quietway' routes for cyclists and pedestrians with safe crossing points on the busier main roads. The study is to be submitted to government by the autumn of 2022 and a decision will be made by the spring of 2023 on which of the 19 areas will be awarded money to take the proposals forward. In all cases the public will have a chance to comment.

Appealing Design - part 2 - TrustNews Sep 22

Richard Baker considers the use of words to assess design

In the June issue of TrustNews, the Chairman sought an explanation of what 'good design' means. The issue also featured an article about a report published in April by Place Alliance, entitled Appealing Design.

Sir Henry Wotton, a diplomat educated at Winchester College, published The Elements of Architecture in 1624. Wotton said that, "Well building hath three conditions: firmness, commodity and delight", a quote often attributed to the first century Roman architect, Vitruvius.



Houses Ridding Court, close to Kingsgate. A response to context with careful detailing and selection of materials. Photo R. Baker

This simple and classical description of the three elements that a designer of buildings has to consider is still valid today. Four centuries on, another element that has to be considered when designing a building is context. The impact that a building will have on its surroundings. This is an issue that has today become central to the planning process.

In 2020 the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) stated (para.134) that, "Development that is not well designed should be refused, especially when it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design."

The research carried out by Place Alliance is based on design-based planning appeals. Since the revised guidance in the NPPF in 2020, appeal decisions indicate that there is a movement into a new era in which design quality should be prioritised by all local planning authorities when determining planning applications.



Multi-storey car park Barfield Close. A stand-alone functional building, whose structure in time will be covered in climbing plants. Photo R. Baker

Design is a process for producing something, be it a jug or a skyscraper. The aspect of 'delight' in Wotton's three conditions is the most elusive to define. It is the external appearance of a building that is in the public domain and is a material planning consideration. A number of factors combine to produce appearance - size, scale in relation to the human being and context, proportion, materials and colour. Proportion is the relation of the various parts or portions of a building one to another. The rules of proportion followed by Greek and Roman architects were used for 'classical' buildings. No formulae were used for the proportions of Gothic buildings. Contemporary architecture does not follow any precise rules of proportion, and is dependent on the judgement of the designer. We exercise this judgement with the human face. The proportion and size of the ears, eyes, nose and mouth to the size of the human head determine attractiveness. This judgement is not without subjectivity. In the east, for example, the large western nose is regarded as being ugly.

Seeing comes before words: the child looks and recognises before it can speak. The Trust, councillor and planning inspector first see plans and elevations of a planning application. Judgement of what is seen then has be put into words. The same applies to an art or film critic. The choice and meaning of words then become critical when assessing the visual quality of a building in terms of its appearance and the impact it will have on its surroundings, and deciding if it is well designed or not well designed.

The Place Alliance research was based on an analysis of design-based large scale housing development appeals. Appeals after the revised NPPF design guidance in 2020 show a change of mood, that rejects poor and mediocre design. Examples of this are reasons that are both specific and wide ranging. The words chosen by planning inspectors to describe what is considered to be good and bad design are varied and a selection is offered here.



Housing at King's Barton. The density and uniformity of form and materials has a major visual iimpact on the surrounding countryside. Photo R. Baker

Use of a mansard roof on a four storey block of flats - uncharacteristic and anti-contextual.

Remodelling of a police station - replacement of bands of glazing with recessed areas of dark cedar cladding, small window openings and bands of blue grey cladding would lead to a heavy, oppressive, almost monolithic feel and emphasise its incongruity in a more traditional setting.

High rise flats - out of character with its low rise suburban context.

480 flats in three blocks from 9-20 storeys - lack the exuberance and ambition that the best of Brighton's seaside buildings exhibit.

90 houses on farmland on the edge of a village - the relatively tight-knit pattern and density of development would be urbanising and contrast unsympathetically with the scattered arrangement of buildings which characterise this part of the landscape.

55 homes in a village - use of concrete roof tiles and wire cut bricks are not characteristic of the area and their use would render the scheme incongruous at the entrance of the village.

19 storey tower and its impact on the surrounding areas - the Inspector argued that there is a tension between identifying a building as an exemplary piece of design, which is an objective finding based on established architectural principles,* and adorning a building with the epithet 'beautiful', which is a subjective one. The inspector found that the building would attain a very high standard of design which is sufficient.

Design is one of many issues that have to be considered when commenting on and determining a planning application. It is to be hoped that the quality of the constituent elements of firmness, commodity, delight and context that combine to produce buildings, will be assessed and given increasing importance in the decision-making process.

***in view of my comments on proportion, it would be useful to know the source of these principles.**

Hares of Hampshire: an art trail in Winchester - TrustNews Sep 22

Arthur Morgan on some colourful additions to the city

Since 16 June Winchester (and Southampton) has been host to a drove of giant hares and their leverets strategically placed around and about our inner city.



Be your Beautiful Self Hare by Jenny Muncaster. Photo by A. Morgan

These eye-catching creatures have been further transformed into highly individual creative statements with rich, decorative designs painted onto their surfaces based on ideas and imagery reflecting our special environment, natural and man-made, and pertinent visual references to our history and cultural heritage. Each hare invites scrutiny to encourage learning and reï¬,ection by enjoyment through art, and on each plinth there are brief notes to inform and explain.

There is a nice balance between the serious and the whimsical (note their titles), and we are reminded that art doesn't have to be great to be effective - it can be just for fun and be none the less for that!

The hares were inspired by The Murray Parish Trust, a charity dedicated to paediatric emergency medicine in memory of their daughter; the creative engine that made this possible was through Wild in Art, a business that specializes in model castings of animals and has successfully created such charitable causes. It has taken something like two years to put all this together, not least inviting artists nationwide to submit competitive designs, gaining sponsorship and involving local schools to participate (in the decoration of the leverets).

All the hares and leverets will be gathered in the Great Hall for a final public viewing 9 -1 1 September prior to a Grand Auction on 13 September.

See also haresofhampshire.co.uk

Hanging signs in Winchester - TrustNews Sep 22



Frieda's Tearoom sign, Parchment Street



Boot sign



Top Nails sign, Parchment Street



Warrens sign, High Street



Pavia Lee, 11 parchment Street



Belgarum Estate Agent sign



Hampshire Chronicle sign

Footer - TrustNews Sep 22

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