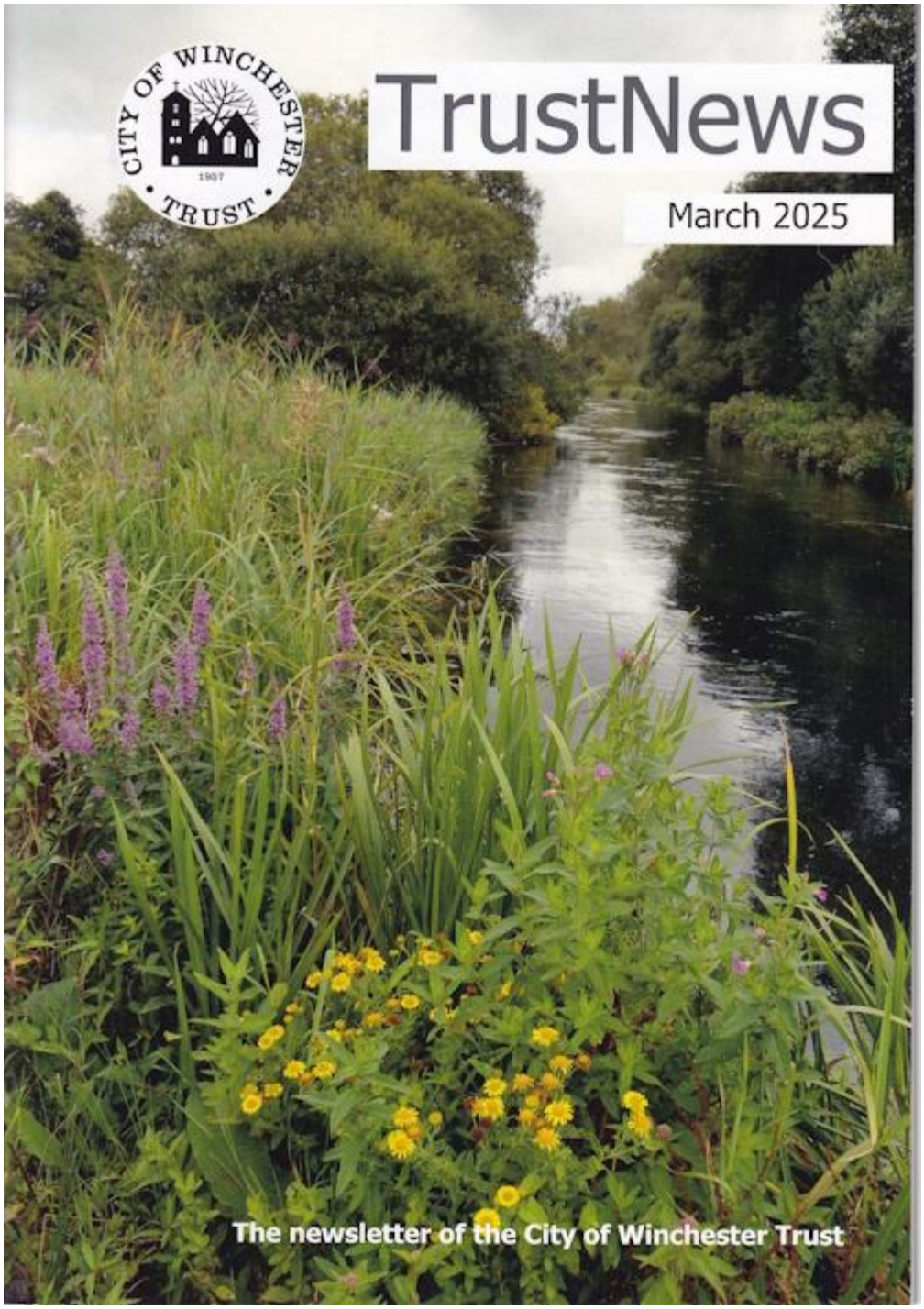
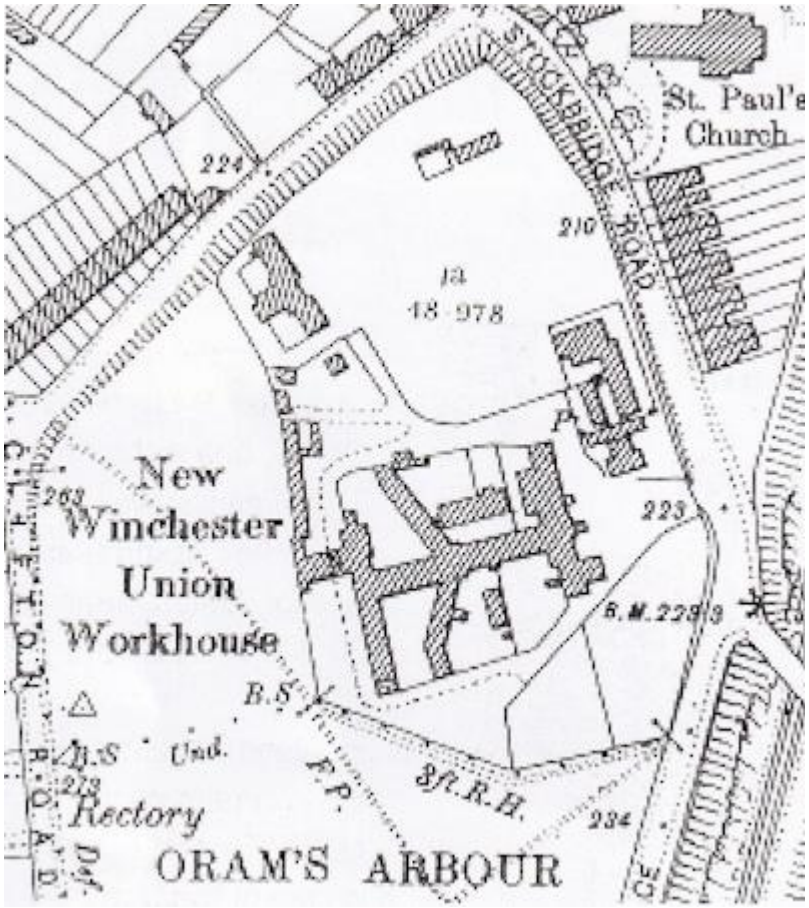
Winnall Moors Nature Reserve - TrustNews Mar 25

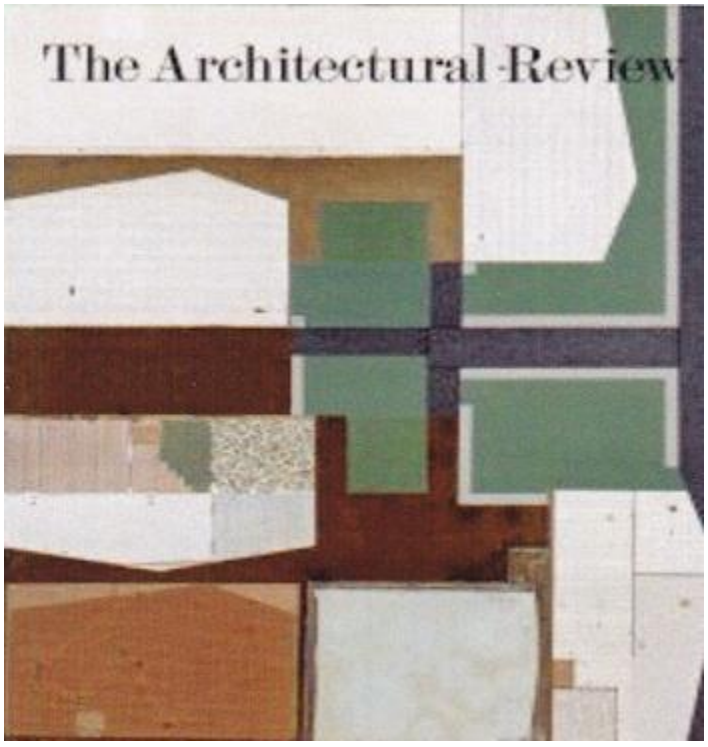


Winnall Moors Nature Reserve (Photo Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust)

Chairman's Jottings - TrustNews Mar 25



The Winchester Union Workhouse site in 1894 (map taken from workhouses.org)



I was trawling through the programme for the talks that Penny Patton is organising for the Trust this year and noticed that Judith Martin is down to give a talk on Hubert de Cronin Hastings, editor of the Architectural Review from 1927 -1973.

I thought this was an interesting subject, particularly as much of what Hastings stood for is still as relevant today as it was when he was championing the subject of a more human approach to new buildings, imaginative planning and landscape in the immediate post-war years.

Hastings, although preferring to pull strings from the background, as well as being considered a maverick by many he employed, must have been influential, for he attracted a wide selection of talented people to the Review such as Osbert Lancaster, Evelyn Waugh, John Betjeman, Morton Shand, Nicholas Pevsner and Sacheverell Sitwell, to name just a few. After 1947 Hastings attracted Ian Nairn, Gordon Cullen, Hugh Casson and Kenneth Brown. Ian Nairn and Gordon Cullen were encouraged by Hastings to highlight the indifferent quality of the country's built environment planning, with articles headed 'outrage' and which are as pertinent today as they were in the 50s and 60s. I am looking forward to hearing Judith Martin's take on this rather maverick and controversial, secret but very interesting character.

Chairmanship

This is my last 'Jottings' as Chairman of The City of Winchester Trust and I wish to thank all those who have put up with me, in particular Tessa Robertson who has been a tower of strength, John Beveridge for his wise council, Richard Baker and John Hearn for their planning advice and the Trust Council for all their support.

As many of you know, Bob Wallbridge will shortly be taking over the chairmanship. Bob has recently retired from the Hampshire County Council County Architect position so the Trust is in good hands.

Keith Leaman

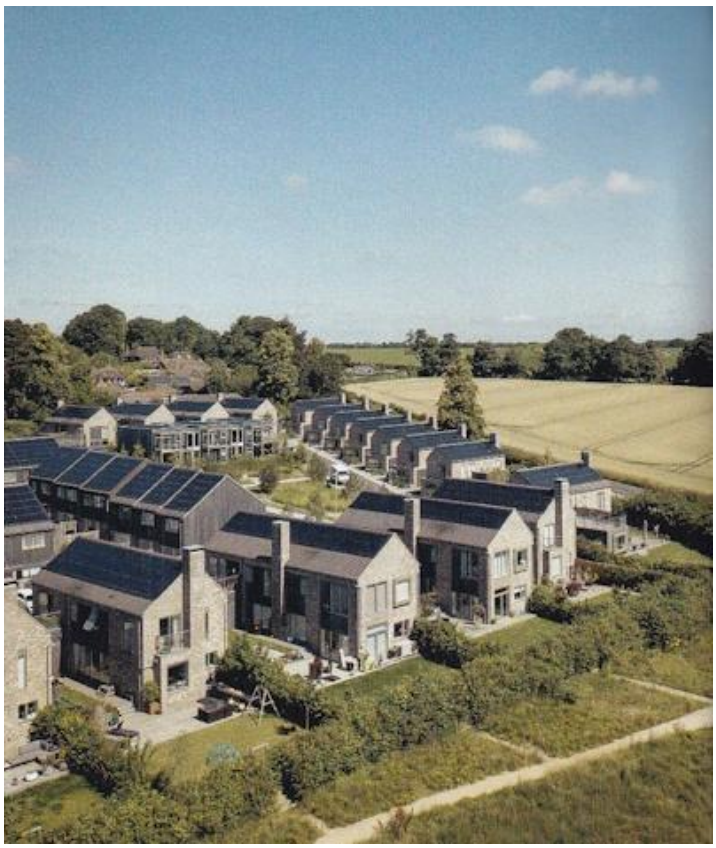
Design Awards 2024 - TrustNews Mar 25



The Handlebar Café

The City of Winchester Trust was delighted to welcome members and guests to its 2024 Design Awards ceremony, held on 25th February at Winchester University's West Downs Centre.

The Trust holds its Design Awards every few years. Awards are made for schemes which display a high standard of design, make a lasting contribution to the City of Winchester and demonstrate a positive understanding of the character of the surroundings. Awards are only given to schemes that fulfil these criteria - if none of the entries in a given year achieve them, no awards are granted. In 2015, for example, only one entry was given an award.


Lovedon Fields

This time four awards and one commendation were made from a shortlist of nine.*



The Valley, Stanmore

The award winners were the Handlebar Café, designed by Architecture PLB for SPUD (Space, Place and Urban Design); Lovedon Fields, designed by John Pardey Architects for HAB Housing; The Valley, Stanmore, designed by Snug Architects for Winchester City Council; and the West Downs Centre, designed by Design Engine for the University of Winchester. The commendation went to 108 Colebrook Street, designed by Rockcliffe Williams Architects for St John's Winchester.



West Downs Centre, University of Winchester

The awards were presented by Winchester's Mayor, Cllr Russell Gordon-Smith, and the chair of the judging panel, Sasha Bhavan, of London-based KnoxBhavan Architects. Winners received a certificate and a mosaic plaque, specially commissioned for the Awards from Carolin Esser-Miles.



108 Colebrook Street

"Our brief was to look for and reward excellence in design, delivery and construction, and to seek real benefit to the community and the wider built environment debates of sustainability, housing and community," said Sasha. "The projects needed to be more than just good. They needed to offer answers or be examples of what excellence in design and delivery looks like. They needed to be aspirational examples of what can be achieved."

The Trust would like to congratulate the winners, and also to thank all those who submitted entries.

**Photos of the nine shortlisted entries can be seen on the back cover.*

Design Awards Ceremony, West Downs Centre, University of Winchester - TrustNews Mar 25













The winning teams with their certificates



Keith Leaman Chairman of the Trust, with the specially commissioned mosaic plaque awarded to the winners



The Mayor, Cllr Russell Gordon-Smith, and the Majoress, Mrs Dinah Ashcroft



The judging panel
L to R Rupert Cook, Dr Paul Spencer, Sasha Bhavan(Chair), Cllr Jane Rutter, David Gleave, Lorna Hutchings

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Summer Walks programme 2025 - TrustNews Mar 25

We have seven summer walks in the programme this year, with one walk still to be confirmed for 5th June. We are also hoping to schedule another walk for 26th June. We will let you know full details of these walks as soon as we have them.

A walk through the private part of Winnall Moors

Thursday, 2nd May at 5pm

Duration: An hour and a half

Numbers: Maximum 15 people

Meeting place: Along Nun's Walk past the old Leisure Centre. Exact location to be confirmed to participants.

Sam Martin, of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, will lead a walk through this wildlife haven in the middle of Winchester. Good shoes / boots recommended.

An additional contribution of £6 to the HIWWT is required for this walk.

Winchester in Stone

Thursday, 12th June at 6pm

Duration: An hour plus time for questions

Numbers: Up to 20

Meeting point: Outside the west end of the Cathedral

John Parker, retired geologist and Cathedral guide, will take us on a fascinating tour of the different stone used to build Winchester through its history. See also John's article.

St Giles Hill - past, present and future

Thursday, 19th June at 6pm

Duration: An hour plus time for questions

Numbers: Up to 20

Meeting place: Entrance to Abbey Gardens

Dr Harry Mycock, Chairman of Friends of St Giles Hill, will tell us about St Giles Hill as we wend our way slowly uphill, stopping on the way for short talks.

The Archives of Winchester College

Thursday, 3rd July at 6pm

Duration: An hour and a half

Numbers: Up to 18 people. Not suitable for those with mobility problems

Meeting Place: The Porter's Lodge, College Street

Suzanne Foster, Archivist at Winchester College for 25 years, will take us on a guided tour of the Archives.

Georgian style and society in St Thomas's Street

Thursday 10th July at 6pm

Duration: 45 minutes to one hour

Numbers: Up to 20 people

Meeting place: The Buttercross

A look at some of the buildings and who lived in them in the Georgian era in the company of Judith Hoskins, Green Badge Guide and genealogist.

The Black Death in Winchester

Thursday July 17th at 6pm

Duration: An hour and a quarter plus time for questions

Numbers: Up to 20

Meeting place: The Buttercross

Professor Emeritus Tom Beaumont James MBE PhD FSA will be our guide.

The Winchester Union Workhouse

Thursday, 24th July at 5pm

Duration: One hour

Numbers: Up to 20 people

Meeting place: By the apple tree at the entrance to Alison Way

Richard and Caroline York, who have lived in part of the former Workhouse for the past 19 years, are our guides.

A donation to the Trust of £5 per person is requested for each walk.

Please book places by emailing Tessa at secretary@cityofwinchestertrust.co.uk.

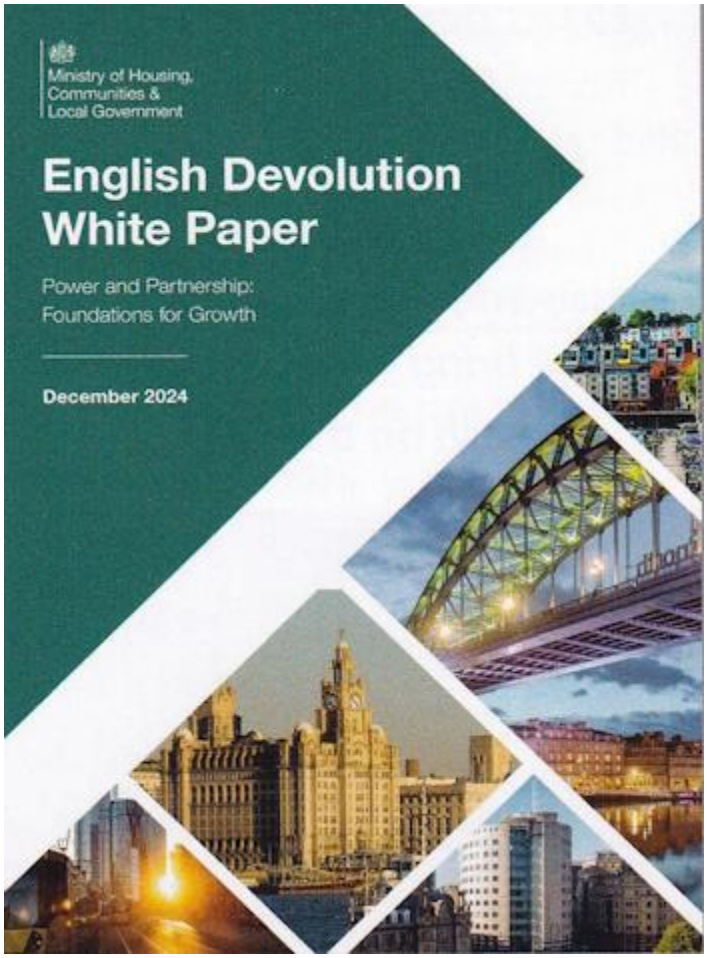
Please bring your payment in cash on the day.





A new Winchester City Council - TrustNews Mar 25

Patrick Davies on proposals for local government reorganisation.



With Hampshire chosen to be in the Government's Devolution Priority Programme, what could this mean for Winchester? First of all there will be a new "Hampshire and the Solent Strategic Authority" with a directly elected Mayoral election taking place in May 2026. It is intended that significant strategic powers and responsibilities could be transferred from Whitehall with funding and investment, comparable to other parts of the country where there are now directly elected mayors.

The Government has also invited the county council and all the district councils to agree proposals for new "unitary" councils which would eventually replace the present County and District Councils, including Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight. The final proposals must be submitted to the Government in September 2025, but they have to put forward their initial ideas as soon as 21 March 2025.

The guidance for this task says that the new unitaries should be the right size to achieve efficiencies. The suggested population figure given for each is 500,000, but it appears that a lower figure might be acceptable if good reasons are given in the submission. The basic building blocks for this are the present 14 district councils. The present population of the Winchester City Council area, stretching from Micheldever in the north to Wickham in the south is around 128,000. It might be possible for some parts of present districts to be transferred to a neighbouring area if it seems logical to do so. (In the last partly comparable exercise carried out in 1973, I took part as a new member of the "shadow" Winchester City Council, when the former Winchester Rural District Council was split, with part of it joining Winchester and part Eastleigh.)

Whatever the final arrangement for the new unitary into which the urban area of Winchester is slotted it will be a very small part of the whole new Council area. The City of Winchester Trust will obviously have to review how it responds to the new arrangements when they are settled.

The City Council is now considering the process to create a new "Town Council" for the present "unparished" area of the City. (The rest of the Council area has a complete set of parish councils). This process has to follow a fairly complicated series of steps and consultations. It is also likely that some of the existing parishes adjoining the built up area of Winchester might wish to review their boundaries to accommodate the new Town Council. The timing of this exercise is yet to be agreed. The powers and responsibilities of a new Town or City Council could be significantly affected by the new unitary authority and any agreed arrangements to delegate functions.

There will be many public consultations in the coming weeks.

Appeal for information - Diocesan Maternity Home - TrustNews Mar 25



Old map showing Home for Girls

The Diocese of Winchester is appealing for information about a Maternity Home that was run by the diocese between 1913 and 1966 at 1 North Walls (shown as "Home for Girls" on this old map). The current diocesan team has only recently become aware of this part of Winchester's history and the existence of the home.

Following some recent media coverage, the diocese is carrying out its own research but also wants to hear from anyone in the community who feels able to share their

knowledge or experiences. If you have any information about the Winchester Diocesan Maternity Home and feel comfortable to share it, the diocese would welcome hearing from you. Please email communications@winchester.anglican.org to arrange a phone call or meeting.

More information is at www.winchester.anglican.org/appeal-for-information-winchester-diocesan-maternity-home

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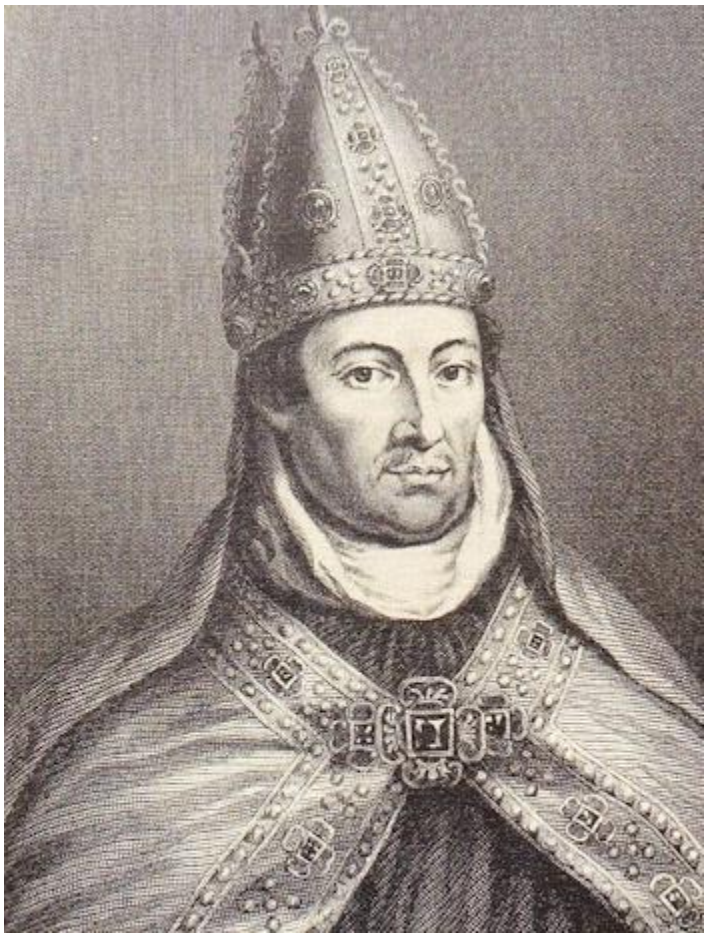
William Wykeham 1324 – 1404 - TrustNews Mar 25

Richard Baker writes the first of an occasional series on the people that have shaped Winchester



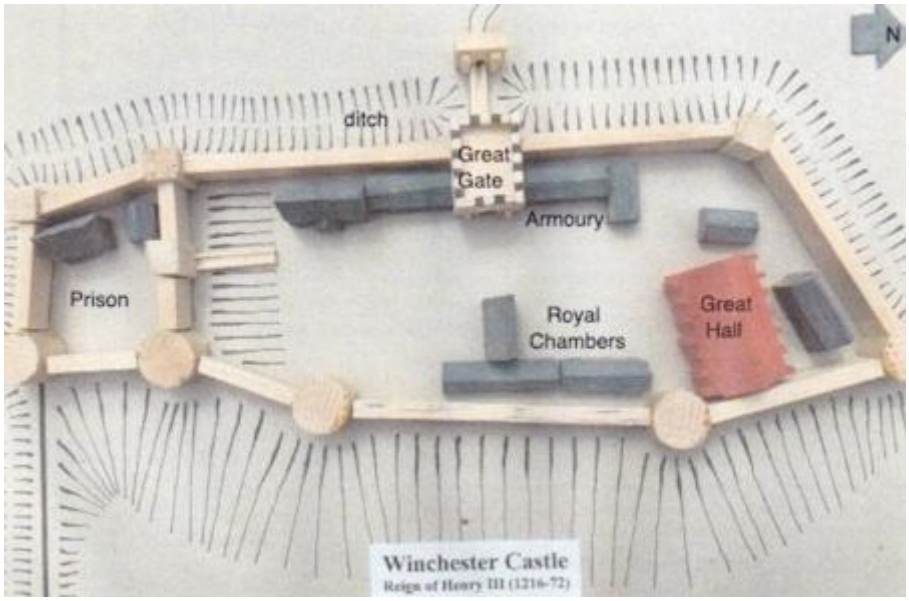
William Wykeham

William Wykeham was born in the Hampshire village of Wickham. His benefactor was Sir John Scures, lord of the manor of Wickham and sheriff of Hampshire. Sir John thought him to be a sharp lad, and put him, at his own cost, to school at the High School or Great Grammar School in Symonds Street outside the Cathedral Close wall. Bishop Henry de Blois, founder of the Hospital of St Cross, directed that a daily allowance of food be given to 13 poor scholars at the school. Wykeham received a secular education, with studies of grammar, French, arithmetic and geometry, the science of which was called masonry.

After his schooldays, his patron Sir John Scures, governor of Winchester Castle, and responsible for the repair of castles in the County, made Wykeham his secretary. This position would have introduced Wykeham to military architecture. He would have been involved in repairs to the eastern towers of Winchester Castle and works at Porchester, Southampton, Odiham and Basing castles. Wykeham worked in the Castle until 1347, a time when the Black Death was spreading through Hampshire and reached its height in 1348-49.

In his early days in Winchester, Wykeham frequently attended mass in the Cathedral and developed a devotion to the Blessed Virgin, whose image stood against a column half way down the nave on its south side. The same spot today is his chantry chapel, where he is buried. A sculpture of the Virgin Mary stands over the entrance to Winchester College.

In 1346, the King's Treasurer and great builder William Edington became Bishop of Winchester. Wykeham had developed a keen interest in architecture, and Edington employed and took him to Windsor, where Wykeham stayed for 20 years. He became a clerk of works in 1356 and was employed in the building of Queensborough Castle on the Isle of Sheppey in 1361, and many other projects. It was while he was at Windsor that Wykeham became ordained as a priest at the age of 37, five years before he was elected Bishop.



Winchester Castle, where Wykeham worked c1340 - 1347

Henry III had built a luxurious royal palace within Windsor Castle in the middle of the 13th century. Edward III went further, rebuilding the palace to make an even grander set of buildings, in what would become the most expensive secular building project in the Middle Ages. King Edward placed Wykeham in charge of the rebuilding and he became his Chancellor, principal advisor to the monarch, in 1346 and again to Richard II.

The two main building materials of the time were stone and timber. At Windsor, Wykeham worked with William Wynford (1360 - 1405), a Master mason and architect, and Master Hugh Herland (c1330-c1411), the King's chief Carpenter, who was responsible for constructing the hammer beam roof in Westminster Hall in 1394 - 1401. (nb the hammer beam roof in Pilgrims Hall has been dated at c 1310). This trio worked together on Wykeham's three great projects, New College Oxford, Winchester College and Winchester Cathedral.

Part 2 of Richard's article will appear in the June issue of TrustNews

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Winchester City Guides programme 2025 - TrustNews Mar 25

Winchester City Guides are offering a full programme of tours in 2025 including tours to tie in with the Jane Austen 250 and Railway 200 anniversaries.

Chesil Railway & Tunnel

Saturdays at 10.30am & 1.30pm: 29th March, 26th April, 17th May, 30th August & 27th September
Also 6.30pm: Wednesday 11th June & Thursday 10th July

Explore Winchester's lost railway, the old Didcot, Newbury & Southampton line, including a visit inside the disused Chesil Railway tunnel.



Jane Austen's Winchester

Saturdays: 12th April at 11.30am & 19th July at 2.30pm

Discover Jane Austen's Winchester and get to know the "real" Jane in her 250th anniversary year.

In flagrante delicto: Regency Scandals

Saturdays: 3rd May at 10.30am, 28th June at 2.30pm & 23rd August at 2.30pm

Have your smelling salts ready as we explore some of Regency Winchester's biggest scandals.

George Shepherd's Regency Winchester

Wednesday 23rd July at 6.30pm

A summer evening walk with the beautiful watercolours of 19th century artist George Shepherd.

Georgian Style & Society

Saturdays at 2.30pm: 26th July & 6th September

Consider the styles and materials used in Winchester's Georgian buildings and stories from behind the front doors.

Jane Austen's Birthday Tea

Tuesday 16th December at 2.30pm

A brief tour of Abbey House followed by tea, cake and readings to celebrate Jane Austen's life on the 250th anniversary of her birth - 16th December 1775.

"My Dear Cassandra"

Five dates from 31st May - 6th June at 3pm.

A walk through Regency Winchester to mark the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth, with quotes from her books, poems and letters read by 'Georgian' players along the way. Enjoy her wit and wisdom on a guided tour of a city that she knew and loved.

More details, including tickets, on our website.

Privies, Pots and Pits: not a bog standard tour

Saturday 22nd March at 10.30am & 2.30pm (UN World Water Day)

Wednesday 19th November at 10.30am (UN World Toilet Day)

A walk exploring the history of Winchester toilets - how did Winchester deal with its waste over the centuries? A donation from the ticket price will be made to WaterHarvest charity.

Winchester for Locals

Saturday 5th April at 2.30pm

A walk covering things you probably don't know about your own city even if you've lived here for years!

Hidden Waterways of Winchester 1

Saturdays at 2.30pm: 10th May & 16th August

Discover some of the hidden brooks and streams which run through Winchester.

Children's Winchester History

Wednesday 28th May at 2.30pm & Monday 27th October at 2.30pm (lasts 60 minutes)

A short, light-hearted walking tour of the sights of Winchester's funny, horrid and sometimes bizarre history, from the Romans to the present day.

Medieval Jewish Winchester

Sundays at 1.30pm: 8th June - 3rd August

Discover the fascinating story of Medieval Jewish Winchester, a vibrant community later expelled from England.

Hidden Waterways of Winchester 2

Saturday 21th June at 2.30pm (lasts 2 hours)

A chance to follow the Lockburn stream on its joumey from the city centre to St Cross.

Crime and Punishment

Saturdays at 2.30pm: 9th August & 4th October

A walk considering misdeeds, misdemeanours, police and prisons in Winchester's past.

Tours start at the Winchester Visitor Information Centre, The Guildhall, Broadway, Winchester and last approximately 90 minutes unless otherwise stated.

Tickets £12 adult, £5 child, except for **Children's Winchester History** and **Halloween for Families** which are £8 adult, £3 child; **Privies, Pots & Pits** which are £15 including donation; **Christmas at Abbey House** and **Jane Austen's Birthday Tea** are £17 including donation.

Phone 01962 840500 or email tourism@winchester.gov.uk for more information, including accessibility. Book in advance online at:-

www.winchestertouristquides.com

If still available tickets may be bought from the VIC on the day.

Private tours are available for groups at times and dates to suit - please contact the Winchester Visitor Information Centre for more details.

Keith Leaman wins Mayor's Community Award - TrustNews Mar 25

The Trust is proud to announce that the Trust's Chairman, Keith Leaman, has won a Mayor's Community Award. The Awards recognise and celebrate those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help others.

The Mayor of Winchester Cllr Russell Gordon-Smith said: "Every day across our District, people work tirelessly for the good of others and for their local communities. As Mayor, I have witnessed the huge impact of this service, including the district's many volunteers, and those who help our multitude of charities".

"My Community Awards are an opportunity to publicly recognise those who have made a difference to other people."

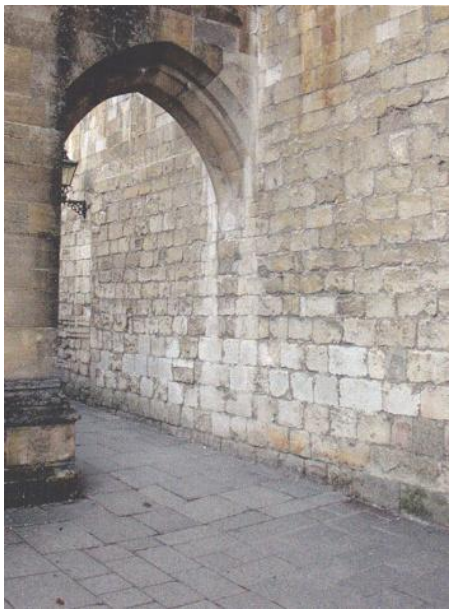
The Award citation says: "During his long tenure first as a trustee and then as Chair, Keith has initiated many activities to increase awareness of Winchester and its environment, from working with schools, to guided summer walks, lectures and

publications. He has played an important role in the Trust's work on development in the city and in promoting the need for a comprehensive citywide plan."

Congratulations to Keith on this thoroughly deserved award.

Winchester Stone - TrustNews Mar 25

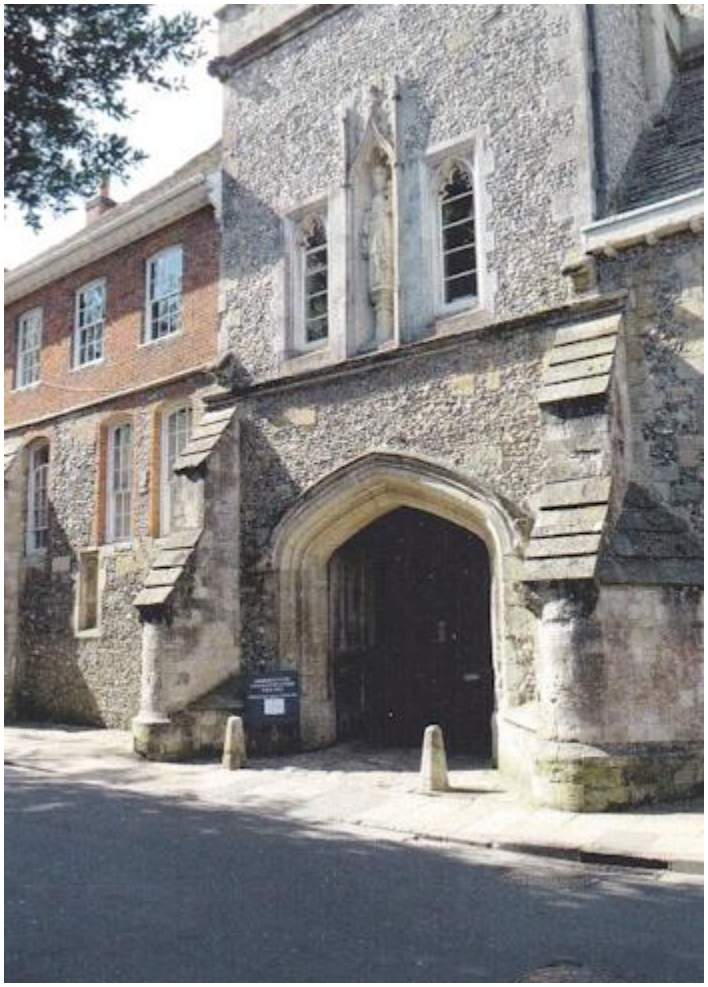
John Parker on the building stone of Winchester



Norman masonry of south Nave external wall

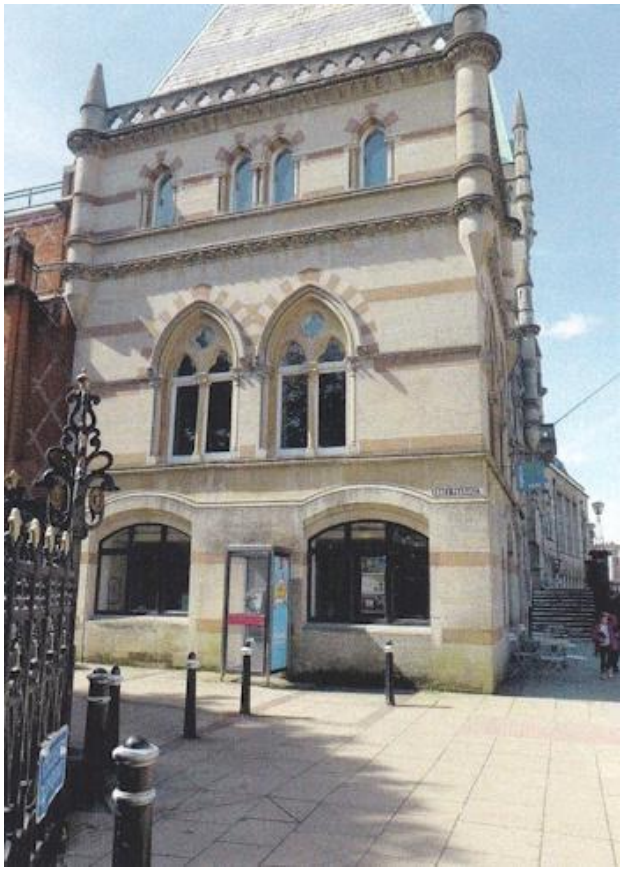
Winchester lies in an area virtually devoid of building stone. The city is on the southern edge of the South Downs, a pronounced upland area extending from Salisbury Plain in the west to Beachy Head in the east; the bedrock of the Downs is the Upper Cretaceous Chalk, a soft friable limestone unsuited for major building work, despite forming impressive cliffs along the Sussex coast to the east of Brighton. On the Chalk outcrop, the principal building material is flint, irregular lumps of silica, very hard, which have weathered out from the Chalk; the vernacular buildings reflect this.

However, for the construction of the immense new Norman cathedral, begun in 1079, such building materials would not be acceptable for such a prestigious project. A new and accessible source of stone had to be found and this was achieved by a considerable expansion of the quarries on the Isle of Wight in the area around Binstead where limestones of Palaeogene age (35 million years ago - mya) were quarried.



Winchester College gateway

The building of Winchester College commenced around 1387 and the gateway is built of flint together with another local stone, again from the Isle of Wight. It is a particularly distinctive lithological variety of the Upper Greensand (Lower Cretaceous age, 105 mya) and was quarried between Bonchurch and Ventnor; it is known as Green Ventnor Stone because of the higher concentration of green glauconite grains present in the sandstones at this particular location. The principal quarries were developed along the area known as the Undercliff and the coastal location of the quarries again readily facilitated export of stone to the mainland.



Winchester Guildhall - Bath limestone (Upper Rags and Box Ground Oolite) and Red Mansfield sandstone

In 1871 a new Guildhall was built on the Broadway. By this time, with the development of the railways, transport costs had plummeted and stone could be supplied from almost any part of the country at reasonable cost; hence local unavailability was not a constraint.

The Broadway frontage is constructed in Bath limestone (165 mya) from Box Ground quarry in Wiltshire. The pink stripes are of Permo-Triassic Red Mansfield sandstone from the Midlands (250 mya). The two white entrance plinths are Portland "Whitbed" stone (145 mya), and they are surmounted by pink granite columns, probably from Scotland. There are a few external shafts in polished grey marble. On the roof, two contrasting slates were used to make distinctive stripes: the grey/green slates came from Cornwall or Wales; the purple slates from Penrhyn, North Wales.

More information about the building stones used in Winchester can be found in a recent online publication by the Friends of Winchester Cathedral: wwvv.wincathrecord.org/browse/publications

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Spring Talks programme - TrustNews Mar 25

After the success of last year's talks, we are pleased to announce a new programme of talks for the spring. The talks are open to all, members and non-members, and

there will be a small charge to cover admin, venue and refreshment costs. **Places are limited so you must book in advance in order to attend**.

All talks will start at 5.45pm. Further information on venues and how to book will be announced shortly.

Tuesday, 22nd April

St Giles Hill Park: past present and future

Speaker: Dr Harry Mycock, local historian, noted horticulturalist and Chairman of the Friends of St Giles Hill Park.

Established in 1878 the Park extends to just under II acres or just over six full size football pitches. Today, the Park provides a recreational area of valuable green space with terrific views of Winchester.

Tuesday, 29th April

Sex, Politics and Architecture

Speaker: Judith Martin

Judith Martin has been researching the owner and editor of the Architectural Review, Hubert de Cronin Hastings, 1902 - 1986. His obituary in his own magazine by one of his own staff said of him that he 'could be a most charming, kindly man...But he was brutally tyrannical. Why was this tolerated? Partly of course because there was no other architectural magazine worth joining, and partly, perhaps, from affection, admiration for a tough, sometimes brilliant mind, and from the realisation that there was a flaw in his genes and in his upbringing that made him the man he was.'

Judith has set out to try to discover and understand that flaw. This will be the first public airing of her findings.

Tuesday, 6th May

Speaker: Tony Sexton

The Minster Streets of Winchester: a journey through time

This talk takes the form of a perambulation of Great and Little Minster Streets (including Symonds Street and the western side of The Square) describing the buildings encountered along the way and recalling aspects of the city story associated with them.

Tuesday, 13th May

Unblocking Winchester

Speaker: Richard Lewis

Richard Lewis is a strategic transport and town planner. He is passionate about transport choices which improve people's physical and mental health, and which reduce reliance on private motor vehicles. His talk will describe a movement strategy which prioritises walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport as a means of protecting the city's heritage from the corrosive effects of air pollution and enabling the restoration of its Saxon streets.

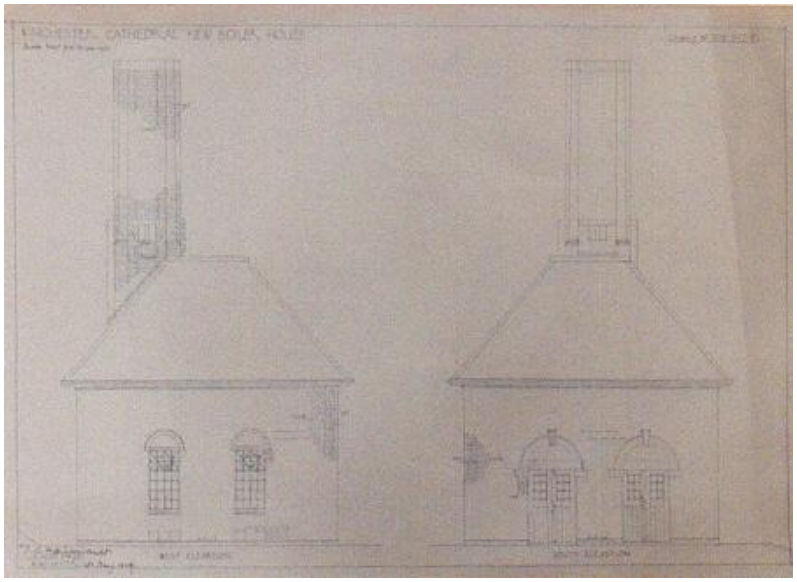
Remember the mystery photo from our archives? - TrustNews Mar 25



Mystery Photo

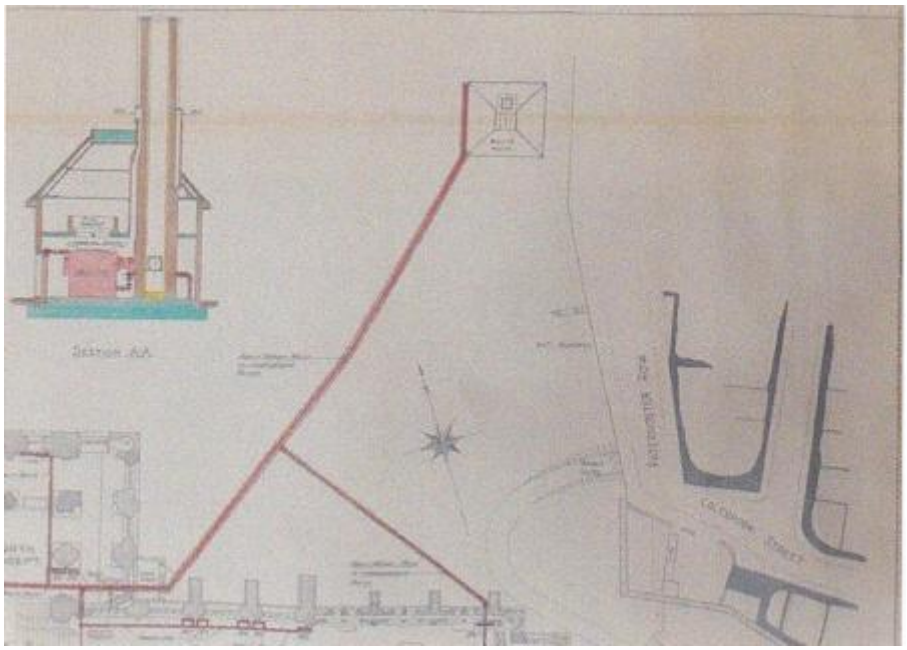
Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for help to identify this photo. We are grateful to David Rymill, who solved the mystery in a letter to Keith Leaman.

I was interested to see, in this month's edition of TrustNews, the mystery photograph of a square building in the Outer Close.



Drawing of Boiler House

It can be identified from the attached elevations in the Cathedral Archive (ref DC/E8/5/20) as having been, indeed, a boiler house built for the Cathedral, designed in August 1934 by the local architect T D Atkinson who (among other roles) was the Architectural Surveyor to the Dean and Chapter; the attached plan (DC/E8/5/26) shows it in its relationship to the Cathedral; this plan is by E Wingfield Bowles and Partners of Westminster, consulting engineers, and dated July 1935, and shows the heating system as completed.



Drawing of Boiler House relationship to Cathedral

It was described in the annual report to the end of March 1935 in the Winchester Cathedral Record as having been completed early in March (1935), and this records that T D Atkinson was advised by Sir Charles Peers on this occasion.

It appears that the boiler house remained in use until the site was redeveloped for the construction of the Wessex Hotel.

I hope that this is of some interest.

With kind regards,

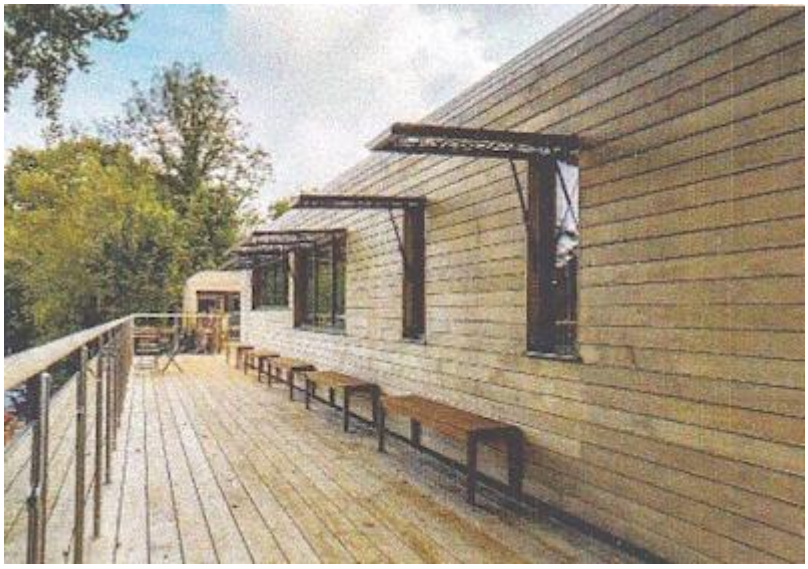
David Rymill (archivist, Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, and Winchester Cathedral archivist)

Shortlisted Entries for the Trust's 2024 Design Awards - TrustNews Mar 25

These are the nine shortlisted entries for the Trust's 2024 Design Awards.



The Artist's House



The Handlebar Café



Lovedon Fields



Shoal Restaurant



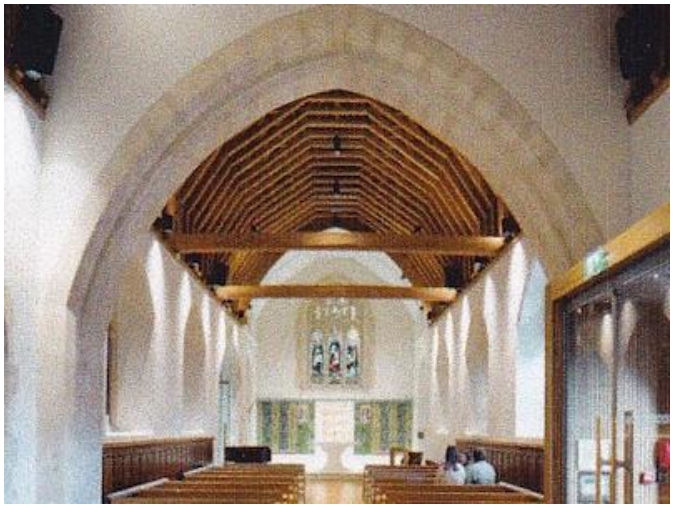
St Paul's Steps



The Valley, Stanmore



West Downs Centre



The Winton Chapel



108 Colebrook Street

Footer - TrustNews Mar 25

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