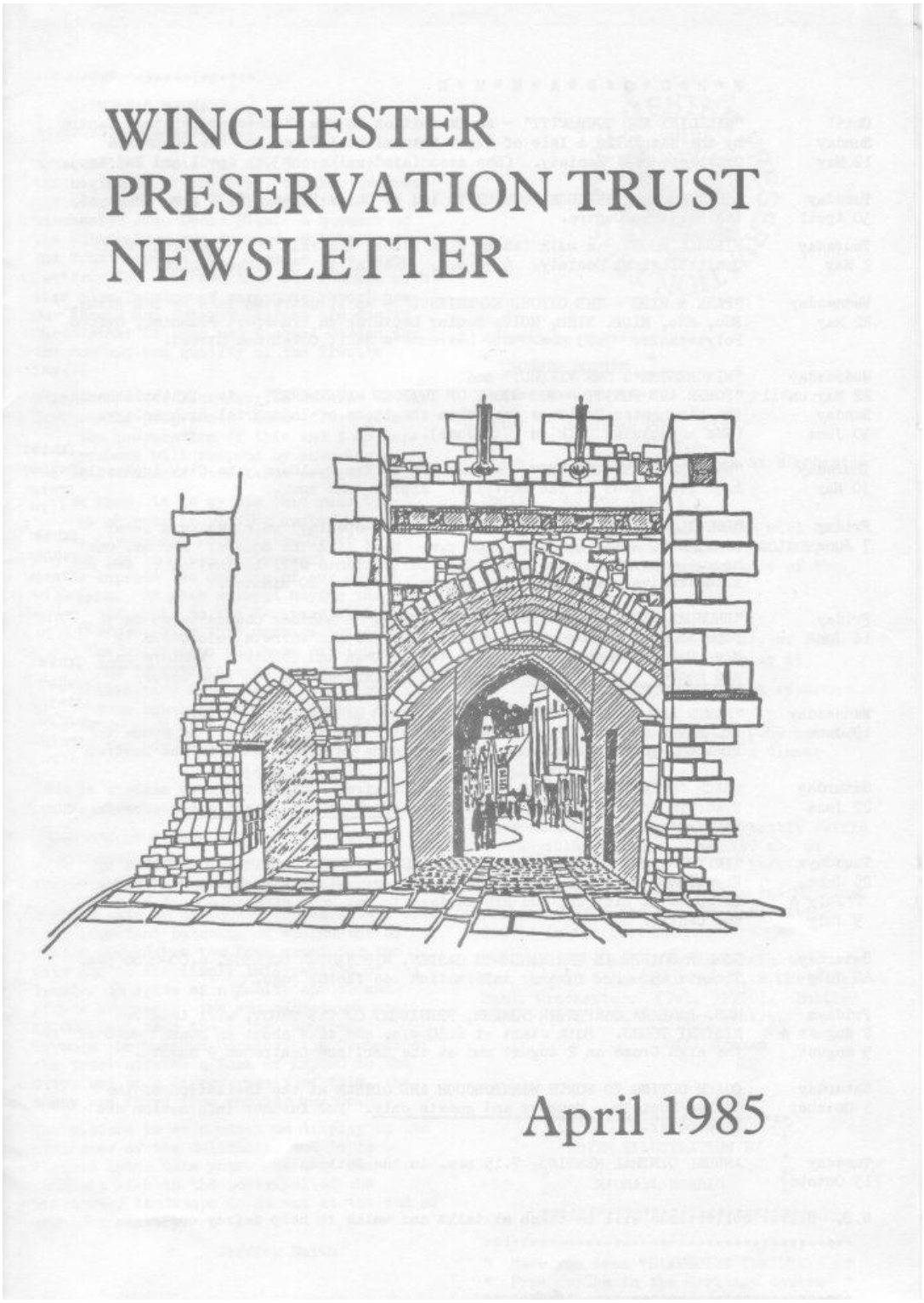
Title Picture - TrustNews April 1985



Drawing of Westgate by Michael Morris

Chairman’s Message - TrustNews April 1985

Since I last wrote for the Newsletter at the beginning of the year, further progress has been made with the long—awaited Winchester Area Local Plan. A summary of the submissions put forward on behalf of the Trust appears elsewhere in this News¬letter. You will see that our concern with this plan remains of paramount importance. Our thanks and congratulations are due to Christopher Gillham and Michael Carden for the content and quality of the Trust's input. This Newsletter also carries details of our forthcoming programme. Much effort goes into the preparation of this and I do hope that members, will_ respond by ensuring a record attendance at all our events.

As you know, it is my aim this year to involve an ever increasing number of people in the day—by—day work of the Trust to lighten the load for our present officers and to improve the quality of our admin¬istration. It goes without saying that the same needs apply to the Heritage Centre. I am therefore using this message to ask yet again for volunteers who have particular skills and talents to make themselves known to the Executive Committee so that they can become more involved with the Trust. A particular need at present is for additional members for our Landscape Committee.

David Weait

Troops of Oliver Cromwell Approaching Winchester - TrustNews April 1985

Members will be delighted to learn that this very important painting of Winchester by George Arnald has now been saved for the City due to the timely intervention of the Trust. In spite of a public appeal and offers of grants, the sum raised was still £2,000 less than the price required. Through the Museums Curator, the Council of the Trust offered a loan of £2,000 to the City, and as a direct result of this, the money was found from another source. The picture is at present on display on the staircase of the Guildhall, and is to be cleaned later this year. Much of its interest lies in the portrayal of the Winchester landscape as it was at the end of the 18th century.

Jeffrey Smith

Summer Soiree - TrustNews April 1985

Date: Saturday 20th July
Time: 6.00 — 8.00 p.m.
Place: the Warden's Garden at Winchester College
Cost: £5 per ticket

All the proceeds of this event will be going to the Heritage Centre Project, so please support it in one or more of the following ways:

- Tell your friends
- Display the enclosed poster, or pass it to someone who can display it
- Sell tickets for us (sale or return basis)
- Buy some tickets yourself (why not make this event the prelude to a dinner party?)
- Apply to be a Steward
- Give us something for the bottle raffle (anything welcome, from 150 ml. of HP Sauce to a case of Ch. Lafite '59)

Tickets may be purchased from the Heritage Centre or from the Tourist Information Centre in the Guildhall. All inquiries and offers of help to Mrs. Angela Stansfield Smith, 8 Christchurch Road, Winchester. (Tel. 51970). Bottles to her or to the Heritage Centre.

Gill Graham

The Winchester Area Local Plan - TrustNews April 1985

The Trust has submitted a closely argued and very detailed commentary on the recently published WALP. We cannot reprint it all in this Newsletter, but our response to the central issues is described in the following article. A copy of the full submission has been deposited in the Heritage Centre – ask for it at the reception desk.

The Planners and the Public

The Local Plan published in January is the fruit of over eight years of draft planning and public consultation. Those cynical of public participation exercises may be surprised to realise just how much notice has been taken of the opinions of the Trust and others who, without great expectation of being noticed, have doggedly made the effort to say what kind of Winchester we want. It should also be recognised that the changes in the Plan have required a good deal of responsiveness, integrity and courage on the part of the Planning Officers.

The Choices

The Trust, two years ago (but in effect since 1957) framed the planning choice for Winchester: "Either the City adjusts to the demands of the motor car or the motor car adjusts to the needs of Winchester." As long as it remained a planning goal to increase economic activity in the centre this policy dictated one of two strategies: either increase highway capacity and parking provision, or increase the accessibility of the centre for people (rather than cars) by providing an efficient public transport system. The conventional highway strategy would have simply deferred the problem until traffic reached capacity again, but at the price of severe damage to the fabric of the City. So it is an enormous relief that the Local Plan has at last abandoned this approach. The second, so–called "alternative" strategy was an unknown quantity

which has also been abandoned, after a superficial investigation rather than the serious study advocated by the Trust.

A third option was always possible – that of restraint – but only if it were first accepted that conservation was more important than further economic growth. This was the strategy described as "safe" by the Trust, and it is the choice which has now been made by the Plan. Winchester's physical size is to be restrained by development control and the traffic in the centre restrained by limiting car parking.

The Consequences

The restraint of traffic will carry the penalty of a limited economy, though we may hope that some economic growth will occur by evolution to a less car–dependent form of shopping. Also the traffic will increase somewhat because the Plan proposes to limit parking provision at a rather higher level than at present. We should not, therefore, expect that this Plan will improve Winchester very much – in fact conditions will probably become a little worse.

Nonetheless, we can welcome the Plan as progressive because it removes major threats, (hitherto draft Plans would have led to significant deterioration in the environmental quality of the City) and we are inclined to see it more positively, as a good basis for real progress.

The Myths

One of the supplementary reports of this Plan is a comparative study of other historic towns. It is an antidote to certain popular but dangerous myths: "Winchester is very badly off for central car parking; parking in Winchester is inordinately expensive; the economy of Winchester will die without cheaper, easier parking." Those of us charged with pondering major planning matters for the Trust have long maintained that these sentiments were misconceptions, but have felt out on a limb when faced with the strongly held views of the planners, sections of the public, and even some members of the Trust.

But the comparative study now settles the matter by showing Winchester to have more central parking (per head of population) than any other of the 26 towns mentioned. Furthermore, a town such as Hereford can be quite healthy economically with only a ninth of Winchester's parking provision!

The Costs

The Trust has always been concerned to analyse, where possible, the costs and benefits of policy and, in relation to car parking, we had concluded that economically and environmentally the costs of parking provision are not borne directly by those who reap the benefits. The true cost of parking provision is not covered by revenue (which barely covers the collection costs) and we keep asking why this should be so.

The question is particularly important where policy concerning related matters is subjected to cost analysis. Another supplementary document of the Plan attempts to evaluate financially a rudimentary Park and Ride scheme without reference to costs

of central car parking provision. This scheme is not, incidentally, anything like the "alternative strategy" which it purports to be and which the Trust wished to see investigated.

The Future

The Trust has expressed the hope that such matters will be taken more seriously and that a proper cost/benefit framework can be set up, within which certain experimental improvements in the City may be tested. Now that the major engineering solutions to the City's traffic problems are forsworn, the Trust need no longer espouse the radical alternative and can return to its often stated preference for the incremental approach to improvement. The aim of the radical alternative, however, with its promise of extending the environ¬mental and economic success of pedestrian¬isation without choking the streets with traffic, is one we would still wish to be pursued. Thus we hope to see a gradual experimentation with removing central car parking provision and increasing access by improved public transport.

Winchester could have been a pioneer in access planning, but a safer path has been chosen. The Plan may be over cautious to the extent that traffic problems in the center will make the City somewhat less attractive than it is at the moment, but with a commitment to try and tackle those problems at root, Winchester's life should be significantly (if gradually) improved. Such a commitment on the part of the Planners will need not only the persistent lobbying of the Trust, but the support of an informed public. We must all accept that cakes are not to be kept and eaten! If we are to have a worthwhile improvement in the environmental quality of Winchester we may have to accept a certain loss of individual convenience and freedom of action.

Michael Carden & Chris Gillham

Subscriptions & Membership - TrustNews April 1985

The annual subscription becomes due on 1st May. Our Membership Secretary has asked me to thank all those members who regularly send theirs without waiting for individual reminders. To save postage, they are not normally acknowledged.

The current rates are as follows:
Life Member Single £40
Double £55
Ordinary Member Single £3
Family or Household £4
(2 adults plus children under 21) Corporate Member £8

These are minimum rates, and anyone wishing to pay more may of course do so. Household Membership is a recent category Which treat(two sisters or two friends as favourably as married couples.

Your cheque should be made payable to Winchester Preservation Trust. It may be left at the Heritage Centre or sent to the Membership Secretary, MRS. Julie

MacPherson, The Old Rectory, Easton, Winchester. (Tel. 78-205). All queries should be addressed tc her. If you would like to change from cheque to banker's order, a form can be obtained from the Heritage Centre.

The amount of clout a local amenity society has is to a large degree dependent on the size of its membership. Ours is now well over 600, but it is not as large as it shou] be in a City of Winchester's historical im¬portance. The Fareham Society has about 52(members, the Petersfield Society has 400/50(the Romsey & District Society has about 670 and the Chichester Society has 1,800.

Have you a husband or wife, or a sister or friend living with you who is not already a member? If so, you can boost membership by enrolling them for an extra £1. (A list of members appears in the Annual Report).

Going a step further, can you think of any friends or neighbours who might be interest(in joining? Have they heard of the Trust? Despite all our efforts at publicity it is surprising how many people are unaware of our existence. A recommendation form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please return it with at least one name and address.

Gill Graham

Heritage Centre – Carnegie Grant - TrustNews April 1985

We have now engaged a firm of interpreters, Michael Quinion Associates, to prepare the material necessary to meet the Carnegie conditions and which we hope will allow them to confirm the release of the grant (up to £12,000) at their meeting in June.

Heritage Centre News - TrustNews April 1985

Exhibitions

During the past three months we have mounted three exhibitions all of which, in differing ways, illustrated how our heritage is continually changing.

The first was a presentation of the entries for the Preservation Trust's Architectural Awards competition. With this was associated a small exhibit by the Hants & Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust illustrating some of the threats to our landscape.

This was followed by the revised Winchester Area Local Plan (WALP) which was very well attended but largely by people interested in a personal problem rather than the overall concept of the plan. From our own personal view it seems that the present Heritage Centre is not threatened by the development of the City Centre. Perhaps because the WALP was shown for only two weeks, several people attended the third exhibition hoping to see WALP.

The third exhibition was of the English Tourist Board's report on Tourism in Winchester and the City Council's reaction to it. Though this did not attract a large number of visitors it is of importance to the Heritage Centre as our future success will depend to some extent on our ability to attract tourists.

Children and the Heritage Centre

At last we seem to be developing this side of our activities. Currently an interesting display by 10 - 11 year olds from King's Worthy School on their project on Jewry Street is in the upstairs room. King's Worthy School has booked this room in June for 3 days as their centre while they carry out a project on the High Street.

A Junior School from Croydon has booked the room as a foul weather escape in May, as has also a school from the Portsmouth area. In association with the "Wildlife and Your City" exhibition, children's holiday lectures have been arranged on 9th and 11th April.

The Itchen Valley Branch of NADFAS (a new corporate member of the Trust) has expressed interest in arranging projects for children in the Summer Holidays.

Books and other things

The Book Sale on 30th March produced a net profit of over £130 - a very satisfactory result.

Our book stock is now very low and needs to be rebuilt. Please think of the Heritage Centre when you are spring-cleaning your shelves, and ask others to do the same. Collection can be arranged if necessary.

We would also be glad to have gramophone records of all kinds, including the old 78s. (An old wind-up gramophone would be useful, too). Other saleable items are prints and pictures (framed or unframed), sheet music, runs of good quality magazines, postcards and photographs. (If you have something which could be of interest to the Trust's Archives Committee, please attach your name and telephone number or address).

We can't take bric-a-brac at the present time as our storage facilities are only suitable for items that can be stacked.

Donations and Gifts

Through the good offices of one of our members we have received £250 from Shell International towards the cost of buying furniture. Many of the present tables and chairs in the Centre presently are on loan, so we still welcome gifts of these items.

Volunteers

The Hon. Manager is always pleased to hear from people who would like to help man the Centre. Volunteers are not expected to be experts on the exhibition. Perhaps the main attribute is a liking for people, and one of the main tasks to recruit members to the Preservation Trust. For further information apply to Dr. George Swift, 12 Ashbarn Crescent, Badger's Farm, Winchester. (Tel. 53481).

George Swift

Development Control Committee - TrustNews April 1985

There have been several important developments in applications which were described in detail in the last Newsletter.

As many people will know, the construction of the enormous Chesil Street multi-storey car park is now under way. The Trust was concerned when in December a new application was received which proposed an additional 60 cars to the approved scheme. However, a meeting with the City Engineer revealed that no major changes to the bulk, height or appearance of the previous application were proposed. The Trust took the opportunity to reiterate its concern about the impact of this massive building in the surrounding towns cape and in particular on the views from the High Street, Broadway and City Bridge towards St. Giles Hill, and from the viewpoint on the hill over the City. We have asked the City to reconsider proposals to screen the upper parking floor from the viewpoint above and to undertake a proper landscaping scheme in front of the development at the corner of Bridge Street and Chesil Street.

Members of the Trust who attended the architect's presentation of the original car park scheme designs will remember that much was made of the formal relationship between the car park stairway and lift towers and the old Chesil Street Laundry building and warehouse. So much for that, for now it seems that the Laundry's features may only be remembered in the shoes of the new lift towers. An application is currently lodged to demolish all the buildings presently occupied by John Payne Engineering Ltd. In their place a comprehensive redevelopment of 70 dwellings and 6 office units over a car parking deck is proposed. This is a really important scheme which will have far-reaching effects on the character and appearance of the Soke, and members should make an effort to view these proposals and comment accordingly.

Revised proposals by Retirement Properties Ltd. for the old Henly's Garage site at the corner of St. Thomas and St. Swithun Streets have recently been submitted and the Trust has sent back detailed observations. The scheme, a high density flats

development around a central courtyard, is essentially unchanged except in its appearance. Unfortunately, we are still not convinced that the new proposals will result in a truly worthy detailed design for this important and sensitive site.

Similarly, revised proposals have been received for the equally important (and certainly more exposed) Crown Hotel site on the corner of Jewry Street and North Walls. Once again, the plans, size and type of accommodation (offices) has not changed - only the proposed building's appearance. The Trust is rather worried by the "look-alike" character of the proposed new building, which has the effect of a rather superficial costume design.

This does raise a familiar and recurring question. How can substantial new building be designed to "fit" into the established fabric of an old city? The Trust holds the view that this can be done without resorting to pastiche. In fact, pastiche is almost always bound to fail, because it is too easy and obvious a solution. The successful solution will usually be subtle and uncompromising, sensitive to existing buildings and spaces, yet bold in its own expression. Such buildings are few, and depend very much on the individuality and flair of the design: and a sympathetic client and Planning Authority - a rare and unlikely combination indeed.

Nick McPherson

The Hampshire Gardens Trust - TrustNews April 1985

The HGT's work for the conservation of the County's outstanding gardens is expanding rapidly and it urgently needs more members. Although WPT is a corporate member, some of you may wish to consider joining as individuals. The HGT's Spring Newsletter and information on the costs and benefits of membership are available in the Heritage Centre (ask at the desk).

An event which could be of particular interest is the "Winchester Walk" on Sunday 2nd June. This is a walk past City gardens to the site of the mediaeval gardens sponsored by the HGT. The tour will also include St. Catherine's Hill with its interesting flora, and the contrasting wetlands of Winnall Moors.

The tour starts at 10 a.m. and costs X1.50 Participants are advised to bring a picnic lunch and Wellingtons. For further information apply to Mrs. Lucille Ashdown, Events Secretary, HGT, Amberwood, Broad Street, Alresford, mentioning that you are a member of WPT.

Gill Graham

Programme - TrustNews April 1985

Until Sunday 12 May
"Wildlife and Your City" – an Exhibition in the Winchester Heritage Centre by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust and the Hampshire Ornithological Society. (See associated walks on 30th April and 2nd May).

Tuesday 30 April
A Nature Walk through Your City, led by Chris Pines. 6.30 p.m. Meet at the Heritage Centre.

Thursday 2 May
Winnall Moors – a walk led by Glyn Evans, Chairman of the Hampshire Ornithological Society. 6.30 p.m. Meet at the Heritage Centre.

Wednesday 22 May
"Park & Ride – The Oxford Experience" – an illustrated talk by Bob Bixby, BSc, MSc, MICE, MIHE, MCIT, Senior Lecturer in Transport Planning, Oxford Polytechnic. 7.15 p.m. St. Lawrence's Hall, Colebrook Street.

Wednesday 22 May until Sunday 30 June
"Winchester's Own Viaduct" and "Power and Purity – The Story of Twyford Waterworks" – two Exhibitions in the Winchester Heritage Centre on the theme of Industrial Archaeology. (See associated talk on 19th June).

Thursday 30 May
"Winchester's Defences" – a walk led by Ken Qualmann, the City Archaeologist 6.30 p.m. Meet at the Westgate. Approx. one hour.

Friday 7 June
"Detail, Spaces and Materials" – an "eye–opening" walk led by a local architect, Keith Leaman. 6.00 p.m. Meet at 4 The Square. Approx. one hour. Afterwards a maximum of 30 participants will be invited to see some illustrative slides at 4 The Square. Approx. 20 minutes.

Friday 14 June
"Unusual Aspects of Winchester Cathedral" – another chance to go on this popular guided tour of the roofs, tower, stair turrets, etc., led by Mrs. Corinne Bennett, Architect to the Dean and Chapter. Members only and number limited to 12. For further information see Additional Programme Information.

Wednesday 19 June
"Power and Purity – The Story of Twyford Waterworks" – a talk by Dr. Edwin Course. 7.30 p.m. Winchester Heritage Centre. As space is limited, you are advised to put your name on a list held in the Centre.

Saturday 22 June
Coach Outing to Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire. Guided tours by members of Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust. Members and guests only. For further information see Additional Programme Information.

Tuesdays 25 June, 2 July & 9 July
"Introduction to Heraldry" – A Series of Three Illustrated Lectures by Elyston G. Phillips, MA(Oxon). 3.00 p.m. Winchester Heritage Centre. As space is limited, you are advised to put your name on a list held in the Centre.

Saturday 20 July
Summer Soiree in the Warden's Garden, Winchester College, 6.00-8.00 p.m. Tickets £5. For further information see article.

Fridays 2 August & 9 August
Mrs. Barbara Carpenter Turner, President of the Trust, will lead two Mystery Tours. Both start at 6.30 p.m. and take about an hour. Meet at the High Cross on 2 August and at the Heritage Centre on 9 August.

Saturday 5 October
Coach Outing to North Warnborough and Odiham at the invitation of the Odiham Society. Members and guests only. For further information see Additional Programme Information.

Tuesday 15 October
Annual General Meeting, 7.15 p.m. in the Guildhall.

N.B. Silver collections will be taken at talks and walks to help defray costs.

Additional Programme Information - TrustNews April 1985

“Unusual Aspects of Winchester Cathedral" - Friday 14th June
Since the number of participants is limited to 12, advance application to the Secretary is essential. Corporate members may apply for up to 2 places. If necessary, a ballot for places will be held on 31st May, and the successful applicants will be notified shortly thereafter. Meet outside the South Transept at 6.15 p.m. Wear sensible shoes and bring a torch if you have one. If you have to drop out, please notify the Secretary (even at the eleventh hour) so that someone on the reserve list can take your place. A collection will be taken and donated to the Cathedral.

Coach Outing to Bradford on Avon - Saturday 22nd June
Depart Winchester Broadway north side at 10.15 a.m. Arrive Countryside Park at approx. 12 noon. Visit Barton Farm and Tithe Barn. Lunch - picnic in Countryside Park or go to pubs, restaurants, etc. according to choice. If raining, picnic in Priory Barn).

Afternoon	Alternative Tours
Strenuous (some hills)	Less Strenuous (level ground)
Saxon Church Holy Trinity	Saxon Church Holy Trinity
Terraces and Town View	
Bridge and Lock-up	Bridge and Lock-up
Almshouses	Almshouses
Chapels	
Town Walk	Town Walk

Tea - at Priory Barn (£1.00)
Depart Bradford at approx 4.45 p.m.
Arrive Winchester Broadway at approx. 6.30 p.m.
Cost of travel - £3.20/£4.50 per person depending on size of coach and number of seats filled) plus a tip for the driver.

Friends of members welcome. Please apply to the Secretary enclosing £3.20 per person. (Cheques should be made payable to Winchester Preservation Trust). Bradford is highly recommended by members who have been there.

Coach Outing to North Warnborough and Odiham - Saturday 5th October
Depart Winchester Broadway north side at 10.00 a.m.
Arrive Odiham at approx. 11.00 a.m. Collect guides and proceed to King John's Castle at North Warnborough (1 mile away).
There is a 10 minute walk from the coach to the castle, but a car, which can get nearer, can be provided if anyone needs it. Return to Odiham by 12.30 p.m. Look at the shops until they close at 1.00 p.m. or go to a pub.

Lunch - there are several pubs or you can bring a picnic (basic indoor facilities if raining).
Afternoon - Meet near the Church by 2.15 p.m. Visit the Church (and listen to recorded commentary on its history), see the Alms Houses of 1625, the Pest House of similar date, the Environmental Centre (winner of a Civic Trust 'Pride of Place' Award) and the outsides of the interesting houses in Odiham.

Tea - at the Church Centre as guests of the Odiham Society. (A donation to the Society's funds would be appropriate).
Depart Odiham at approx. 4.30 p.m.
Arrive Winchester Broadway at approx. 5.30 p.m.
Cost of travel - £3.00/£3.50 per person depending on number of seats filled) plus a tip for the driver.

Friends of members welcome. Number limited to 29. Please apply to the Secretary enclosing £3.00 per person. (Cheques should be made payable to Winchester Preservation Trust). There is quite a lot of walking involved, and a great deal to see, so it is really an outing for those keen on history and architecture and who are mobile.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Gillian Graham, Highways End, Highways Road, Compton, Winchester (Tel. Winchester 713072).