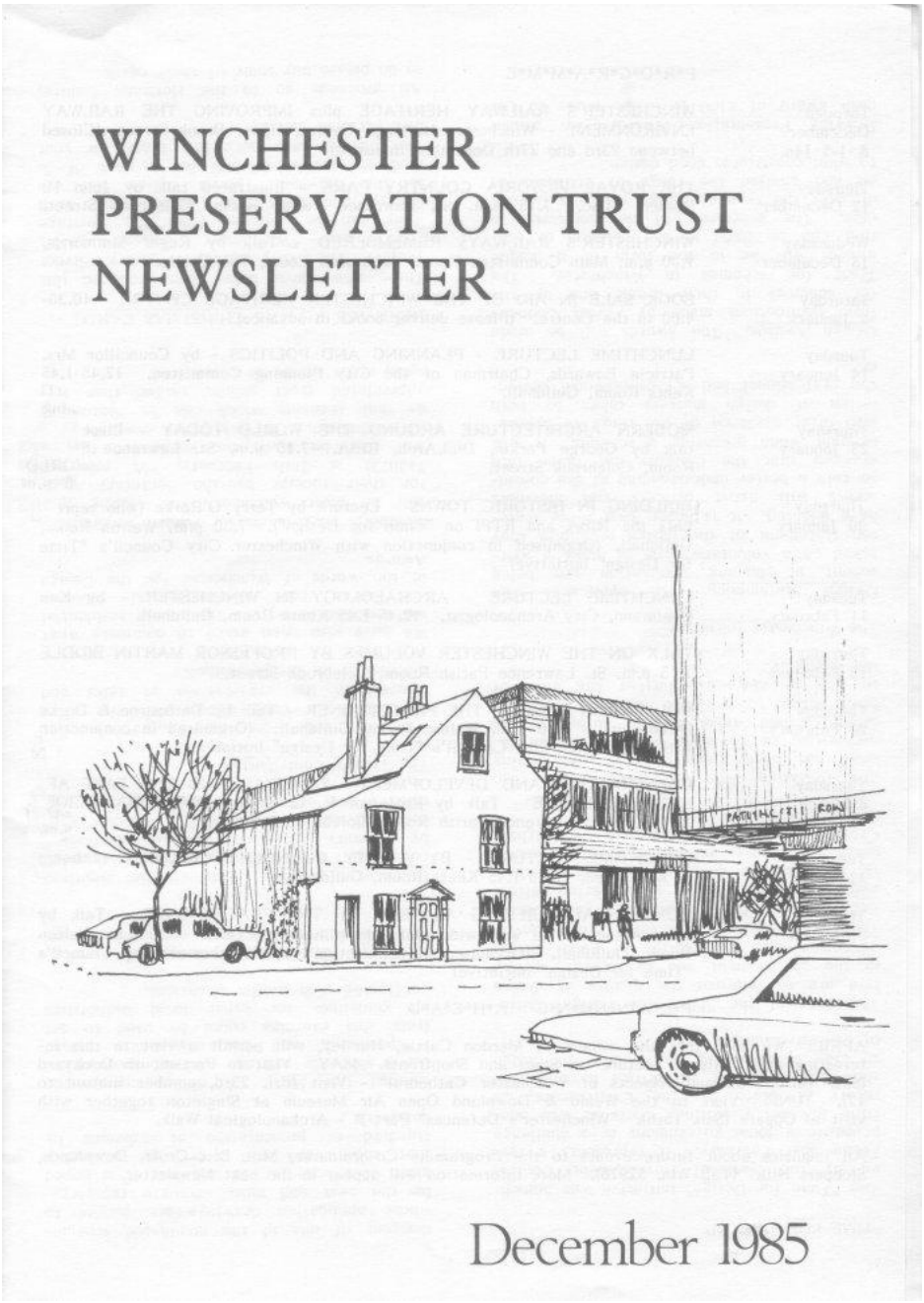
Title Picture - TrustNews December 1985



Drawing of 60/61 Colebrook Street by Michael Carden

60/61 Colebrook Street - TrustNews December 1985

The little house between the Wessex and the Council Offices is a good example of how a humble building may have an importance far greater than its value judged by official standards. If it were to be demolished the scene would lose all its character.

Perhaps it would actually be replaced by another building now that "opening up" and "temporary" car parks are less in vogue. But what would we get, an extension of the

architectural tour-de-force next door? With any luck we have at least grown out, of that sort of thing; nevertheless, what chance would there be of a building with half so much sculptural quality as `his little house, and would it be allowed to nudge the street in such a friendly fashion?

Modern architecture (if not every modern architect) is capable of meeting the challenge, but who would brief an architect to try? Until we see the right type of brief this building must be preserved, guarding our heritage until we come of age.

Michael Carden

The building is owned by the City Council, of whom we have made inquiries about its future. We understand that there is now no question of demolition and that the City hopes to use it for offices. The illustrations are by Michael Carden.

GBG



Drawing by Michael Carden of Colebrook Street with 60/61 removed

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Annual General Meeting - TrustNews December 1985

The AGM was held on 15th October, about 100 members being present. Our new Chairman is David Middleditch, and the other Officers are as before. The retiring Coun¬cil Members were re-elected and there are two new Members: John Thorn, who recently retired as Headmaster of Winchester College, and Mrs. Rosemary Smith, who has done sterling work as the prime mover behind most of the exhibitions in the Heritage Centre.

After the AGM, our MEP, Basil de Ferranti, who is a Life Member of the Trust, talked about Winchester.

GBG

Heritage Centre News - TrustNews December 1985

The past few months have seen a wide variety of exhibitions at the Centre. With¬out doubt the most successful of these was that which featured the magnificent collection - of aerial photographs of the City. This was well-attended and provoked much favourable comment.

The current and last exhibitions of the year, 'Winchester's Railway Heritage' and 'Improving the Railway Environment', should have great appeal - not only to railway enthusiasts. A feature is a very large working model of the old Chesil Station.

Two talks have been arranged in conjunction with the exhibitions, which deal with the railways and their association with Winches¬ter over the years. In addition, and perhaps more importantly, British Rail are to use the exhibitions as a basis for discussions with the County and City aimed at working jointly to improve the environment of Winchester Station and its surround¬ings. B.R. also plans to do the same with industrial and commercial interests.

This is a prime example where the Heritage Centre not only provides an interesting diversion but uses the opportunity to provoke interest in beneficial changes for the future.

The Centre will be closed for public exhibition purposes during the months of January, February and March. This is because the space will be needed for the planning and installation of the permanent displays made possible by the Carnegie Grant. However, the Centre will not be closed in other respects. There will be much activity continuing, but of a different sort.

The Carnegie Working Group

As required under the terms of the grant, the services of a firm of professional Interpreters have been retained. The Group has had discussions with them on the general form of the display, the subject matter has been agreed, and work is proceeding to design, etc. There is much to be done, but barring any unforeseen problems, the display should be completed in time for an Easter opening.

Urban Studies Group

Thanks to the work of Frank Chippindale, Chairman of the Group, activities at the Centre are very much on the increase. Generally these are developing in three main directions. Firstly, talks, discussions, walk-abouts, etc. aimed at increasing architectural awareness. Secondly, projects, workshops, etc. involving schools. Thirdly, activities of wide general interest.

A project in the third category is now under development. It includes an exhibition of the Victorian era using the wonderful collection of all things Victorian which Mrs. Eileen Berry of The Old Mill Restaurant has kindly offered for this purpose. There will also- be specialist talks, Victorian evenings for members of the Trust (and especially for the volunteers who man the Heritage Centre), school projects, projects mounted by the Mid Hampshire Teachers' Centre and, hopefully, other activities organised in conjunction with the Hampshire Branch of The Victorian Society.

This project will run during the months that the Centre is closed for public exhibitions. All members of the Trust ma bring parties by arrangement.

Fund-Raising

Although the fund-raising activities of the past year will ensure that the Heritage Centre is self-sufficient during the current financial year, continuing efforts are needed. A volunteer to take over the Fund¬raising for the Centre is urgently required.

Ken Johns

Running the Centre

The success of our exhibitions has only been possible because of help from volunteers to open the Centre, receive visitors and sell goods in our shop/reception area. Because the Heritage Centre will be closed for the first three months of 1986 while the long-term exhibition is mounted, it might be thought that our volunteers will go into hibernation. This is not so, for our policy is to increase the number of open lectures and discussion groups and this will need volunteers to prepare rooms, receive visitors, make coffee and perform other tasks.

Books - We have made considerable profits for the funding of the Heritage Centre from the sale of secondhand books. At present our stock is low, and without more books we shall obviously not be able to maintain this source of income. If you are throwing out books or know of anyone else who is (perhaps on moving to a smaller house), please think of the Heritage Centre.

Most of our book stock is in cardboard boxes on the floor of a storeroom in the Centre. We very much need simple bookshelves on which sorted stocks can be stored.

If anyone is interested in helping with the Heritage Centre or donating books or shelves, please get in touch with George Swift (53481) or Alan Cooke (64292).

Books can be left at any time when the Centre is open, and we may be able to help in moving books or shelves.

George Swift

WPT Outing to Odiham - TrustNews December 1985

On Saturday October 5th members of the Trust went on a coach outing to North Warnborough and Odiham. The visit was hosted by the Odiham Society.

On arrival at North Warnborough the party was met by Mrs. Barbara Wentworth, the Chairman of the Odiham Society, who welcomed them and outlined the plan for the day. The party then walked about half a mile by the side of the Basingstoke Canal until they reached King John's Castle, where they were met by John Dyer, Vice Chairman of the Odiham Society, Dr. Ray Millard, and the historian, Derek Spruce.

Mr. Spruce gave a short and most interesting talk about the castle. He said that recent excavations by a team led by Ken Barton had led to the idea that the so-called 'keep', which is visible today, was not the original one built by King John in 1207, but is one built about 1230 after fire had destroyed the first one. In all probability, the 'castle' was really a hunting lodge, and was a resting place between Winchester and Windsor. Certainly King John was at the original keep in 1215, and set out from there for Runnymede and the signing of Magna Carta.

In 1216 the castle was besieged by Louis, the French Dauphin, and held out for about two weeks. Later, it belonged to Eleanor, wife of Simon de Montfort, and later still, in 1275, it was given as part of her wedd¬ing portion to Eleanor, wife of Edward 1. David Bruce, King of Scotland, was a prisoner here in the next century. He was freed upon payment of a large ransom. After the fifteenth century, it belonged to various people, although apparently it was not lived in after 1500, and is now in the hands of Hampshire County Council, which has done a great deal of work to preserve it.

Only the keep of 1230 or so remains, and it is the only octagonal one extant in Eng¬land. It was faced with malm stone, but through the years, this has been stolen and only the flint and chalk core remains. The building was of three floors with a central pillar from which the floor joists radiated. After the talk, the guides took small groups around the ruins.

After lunch in Odiham, the party was met again at the church door by Mrs. Barbara Wentworth and other guides, including Stephen Thomas and Bill Ashley. A very good tape-recording has been made, and members sat in the church and listened to the history and details of the architectural features, which pose many interesting problems including the dating of the nave arcades.

After looking round the church, the party split into groups, and each of the guides took one group to look at the town. They saw a great many well-preserved Queen Anne and Georgian houses, the stocks and whipping-post, a pest house or infirmary belonging to the 17th century which has been beautifully restored by the Odiham

Society and which is now a small museum, an environmental studies centre which was once a school lavatory, and other interesting features.

At the end of the tour the Winchester party was treated to a splendid tea, prepared by other members of the Odiham Society.

Elizabeth Ashlin Wood

"Time for Design" - TrustNews December 1985

The "Time for Design" initiative was launched by the National Development Control Forum last February. It represents a response from local government to a challenge from Michael Heseltine, when he was Secretary of State for the Environment, to show that planning authorities have a role to play in improving the quality of design of our surroundings.

The aims of the "Time for Design" initiative are to improve the quality of design in the environment and to increase public awareness and appreciation of good design. The Forum decided to develop this by inviting six authorities to become "good design authorities" and make a concerted effort to improve the quality of design in their areas. The six authorities are Coventry, Croydon, Knowsley, Lancaster, Nottingham and Winchester.

The initiative runs for three years. No brief has been given to the participating authorities as to what form their contributions should take: each authority has been asked to set out its own ideas as to how it can best further the aims of the initiative.

The Winchester Initiative

Design Statements

All applicants who submit a planning application are being asked on a voluntary basis to make a written statement of the design principles they have adopted. It is hoped that these statements will assist officers and members to gain a better understanding of the considerations that the designer has taken into account when preparing a scheme. It will also offer evidence of the range of appreciation of design matters taken by both the professional and non-professional designer.

Design Awards

The awards will be made from nominations made by Parish Councils for schemes in their areas, and by the Trust for schemes in Winchester. The awards will be in the form of a plaque that can be fixed to the building or scheme. The exercise will be monitored to discover the type of design which is favoured and analyse the range of attitudes as to what constitutes good design.

Drawing Presentation Award

An annual cash award of £100 is to be made to the designer of one of the nominated schemes whose application drawings are judged to be the best and most accurate representation of a scheme. In this way it is hoped that the award will encourage a higher standard of presentation of schemes by designers.

Central Car Park

A design competition for a shopping and car parking development is proposed, and the experience gained from this exercise could be used to set up guidelines for other local authorities confronted with similar situations.

Whiteley

Standards of design of development in this growth area are to be monitored.

Calendar of Events

This will list meeting-concerned with design matters organise by amenity societies, professional bodies, etc. and open to the public, together with other events organised specially.

The Trust's Contribution

You will see from the Programme that the Trust is cooperating with the City Council in the organisation of talks and discussions on design themes.

We have also been asked to nominate what we consider to be the three best residential and three best non-residential schemes in the wards of Winchester for the Design Awards.

Members' suggestions for Award nominator will be most welcome. The closing date for their receipt by the Secretary (Win. 713072) is 28th February. A selection will then be made for submission to the City Council. It has been suggested to us that schemes which can be reasonably appreciated from public, rather than private, areas should be considered.

Heritage Centre Christmas Cards - TrustNews December 1985

Three new cards have been produced this year: "The City Cross", "Jewry Street 1838" and "Winchester College 1816". They can be obtained from the Heritage Centre and from the Charity Card Stall in the Guildhall Tourist Office and are modestly priced at 60p for a pack of 5. The insides have been left blank for your own personal messages.

All proceeds go to the Heritage Centre, so do please buy some of these cards.

Car Parking Costs in Winchester - TrustNews December 1985

(A letter from the Chief Executive of Winchester City Council)

In the April 1985 edition of the Trust's Newsletter the column by Michael Carden and Chris Gillham on the Area Plan suggested that the "true cost of parking provision is not covered by revenue". This statement on its own gives a false impression of the economics of car parking in Winchester. The car parking budget (of which a copy is attached) has to meet the costs of providing sites, erecting and/or laying out car parks, maintenance of land and buildings and all the general management and collection costs, even including a proportion of elected member time and the cost of democracy. The charges are then fixed in a way which is intended:-

1. To encourage and discourage patterns of use from a traffic management point of view;
2. To break even or make a small surplus over the whole account.

In virtually every recent year the account has shown a profit which has been used to subsidise rate funded services and is now being used to build up a car parking reserve fund.

It has been suggested in some quarters that the land on which car parks are built could have a higher value if used for other purposes and that such higher value should be used when calculating the costs of the car parking service. Virtually any other use of such land would generate more traff¬ic and greater need for parking and would additionally be in breach of the restraint planning policies of the City and therefore, without the knowledge of specific examples which do not breach policy, such an argument is unreliable.

It is, however, fair to say that issues such as the provision of car parking and the economics of transport are never black and white but normally involve a fine and continuing balance of judgement. The regular monitoring and review of policies and strategies for this service will continue, but, while that goes on, the books of the City Council must still be balanced as they are being at present.

I hope that these comments will help to clarify the situation.

David Cowan

The figures given below have been taken from the car parking budget attached to Mr. Cowan's letter.

1984/85 (probable)
Expenditure
Employees and other running expenses £324,000
Debt charges £191,000

Income
£596,000

Chris Gillham comments as follows:

Any commercial concern is expected, when called upon to do so, to reveal its assets and justify the returns on the investments made by its shareholders. Mr. Cowan appears to suggest that local authorities (in which we are all shareholders) should not be under the same obligation.

At the Inquiry into the Area Plan recently, the Trust, using some data kindly supplied by Mr. Cowan, did some very rough cal¬culations (which were not in fact challenged) and concluded that the total capital investment in the City's car parking could be conservatively estimated at - around £16 million. The return on investment, given by income less running expenses, is about £270,000 or 1.7% p.a. at best. Since that is much lower than the current interest rates on the safest investments, it is impossible to conclude that car parking is not heavily subsidised.

Mr. Cowan repeats an argument used at the recent Inquiry, that any other use for the land but car parking would generate more traffic. I cannot understand this argument. The amount of car traffic will depend on the number of car destinations available - if you remove car parking you remove traffic. The City Council continues to fall into the error of supposing that increased activity can only be obtained by increasing private motorised access.

Regardless of what the effects would be of removing car parking spaces, it must be proper to calculate what the costs of parking policy are, especially since the City insists on measuring alternative access policies on strict economic criteria.

"Hampshire Trail" - TrustNews December 1985

Green yet Sterile Land? * Roads * Active Conservation * Acid Rain * Countryside Education * Rambling - all in Issue 2. Get your free copy from the Heritage Centre.

Winchester Area Local Plan Inquiry - TrustNews December 1985

The Trust was ably represented at the WALP Inquiry by Dr. Chris Gillham, who made three submissions. A report will appear in the next Newsletter.

Discussion Paper on Offices - TrustNews December 1985

Copies of this Paper, by the Trust's Town Planning Committee, are available in the Heritage Centre, priced at £1.

Are You Short of ideas for Christmas or New Year Presents? - TrustNews December 1985

Have you thought of giving a Winchester friend a year's subscription to the Trust?

New members who join between Christmas and the end of April are not asked to pay again on 1st May when the annual sub is due, and so obtain more than a year's value from their subscription.

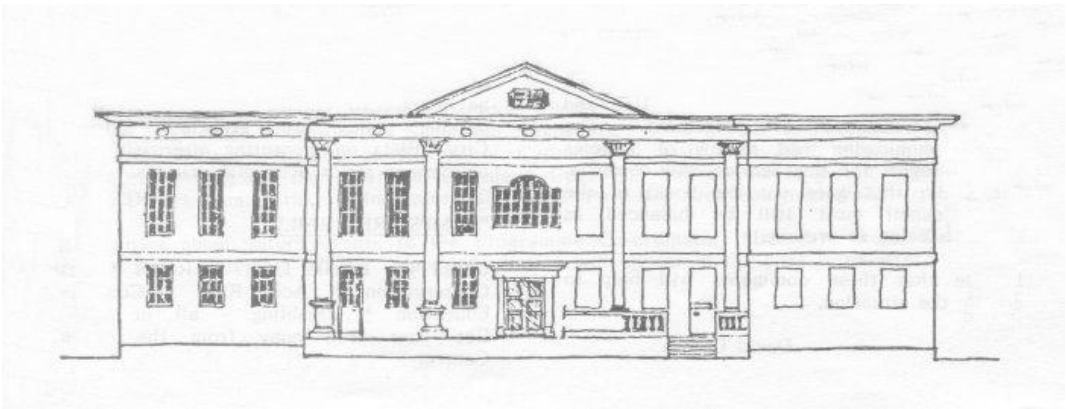
Membership forms can be picked up at the Heritage Centre or obtained from the Secretary (Win. 713072). The current membership rates are: single £3 p.a. and family/ household £4 p.a.

Development Control - TrustNews December 1985

The Trust's Development Control Panels are continuing to monitor planning applications and submit comments as necessary.

Schemes recently presented to the Trust by the Developers/Architects concerned include one for 80/81 High Street and another for the 126 High Street (formerly International Stores site).

A group has also inspected the Lido at the invitation of the Winchester Indoor Sports Association. (See illustration of the West Front below).



Drawing of Lido

Winchester Preservation Trust Awards 1985 - TrustNews December 1985

Sixteen entries were received this year, including seven from architectural practices outside Hampshire. Four Awards were made and one scheme was commended.

Awards (and Architects)

St.Mary Magdalen Almshouses, Colebrook Street.
Manning Clamp and Partners, Richmond, Surrey. (Project Architect Peter R. Bowyer)

Wessex Regional Health Authority, Headquarters Extension, Highcroft, Romsey Road.
Hutchison, Locke and Monk, Richmond, Surrey.

Wessex Regional Health Authority, New Committee Suite, Highcroft, Romsey Road.
Barry W. Payne, Wessex Design Practice, Winchester.

Little Minster Street Development (Housing) and King's Head Yard.
Plincke, Leaman and Browning, Winchester.

Commendation

4 St. Peter Street, Extension.
Amos Broome Associates, Twickenham, Middlesex.

Where shall we plant it? - TrustNews December 1985

Members of the Richmond Society visited Winchester in September and, as a mark of appreciation for help given by the Trust presented us with £20 to be spent on a "Richmond Society Tree".

One suggestion is that it should be planted in City Road. If you have another idea, please convey it to Penny Neyroud (Win. 712162) who chairs our Landscape Committee.

Programme - TrustNews December 1985

Through December & 1-5 January
Winchester’s Railway Heritage plus Improving the Railway Environment
Winchester Heritage Centre, Upper Brook Street. (Closed between 23rd and 27th December inclusive)

Thursday 12th December 7.15 p.m.
The Royal Victoria Country Park - Illustrated talk by John H. Holder, M.Sc.
St. Lawrence Parish Room, Colebrook Street.

Wednesday 18th December 7.30 p.m.
Winchester's Railways Remembered - Talk by Roger Simmonds.
Main Committee Room, Ashburton Court, The Castle.

Saturday 4th January 10.30a.m. - 4.00p.m.
Book Sale in aid of the Winchester Heritage Centre
in the Centre. (Please deliver books in advance).

Tuesday 14th January 12.45-1.45p.m.
Lunchtime Lecture - Planning and Politics - by Councillor Mrs. Patricia Edwards, Chairman of the City Planning Committee.
Keats Room, - Guildhall.

Thursday 23rd January 7.15 p.m.
Modern Architecture around the World Today - Illustrated talk by George Perkin, Dipl.Arch, RIBA.
St. Lawrence Parish Room, Colebrook Street.

Thursday 30th January 7.30 p.m.
Building in Historic Towns - Lecture by Terry O'Rorke (who represents the RIBA and RTPI on "Time for Design").
Walton Room, Guildhall. (Organised in conjunction with Winchester City Council's "Time for Design" Initiative).

Tuesday 11th February 12.45-1.45p.m.
Lunchtime Lecture - Archaeology in Winchester - by Ken Qualmann, City Archaeologist.
Keats Room, Guildhall.

Thursday 13th February 7.15 p.m.
Talk on the Winchester Volumes by Professor Martin Biddle
St. Lawrence Parish Room, Colebrook Street.

Thursday 20th February 7.30 p.m.
Housing as seen by the Practitioner - Talk by Darbourne & Darke (Architects).
Walton Room, Guildhall. (Organised in conjunction with Winchester City Council's "Time for Design" Initiative)

Thursday 6th March 7.15 p.m.
Conservation and Development: Zanzibar and the East African Heritage - Talk by Professor R. L. Barclay,OBE, RIBA, FCIOB
St. Lawrence Parish Room, Colebrook Street.

Tuesday 11 March 12.45-1.45p.m.
Lunchtime Lecture – by a City Council Spokesman – theme to be agreed.
Keats Room, Guildhall.

Thursday 20th March 7.30 p.m.
Commercial Building as seen by the Practioner - Talk by Arup Associates (a worldwide multi-disciplinary practice).
Walton Room, Guildhall. (Organised in conjunction with Winchester City Council's "Time for Design" Initiative).

Planning Ahead

April: We hope that the owners of Merdon Castle, Hursley, will permit a visit to this interesting site. Also a lecture on Signs and Shopfronts.

May: Visit to Portsmouth Dockyard (Sat. 10th). "Unusual Aspects of Winchester Cathedral" - Visit (Fri. 23rd, number limited to 12).

June: Visit to the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton together with visit to Uppark (Sun. 15th). "Winchester's Defences" Part II - Archaeological Walk.

All inquiries about future events to the Programme Co-ordinator, Mrs. Brit Croft, Downlands, Sleepers Hill. (Tel. Win. 52978). More information will appear in the next Newsletter.