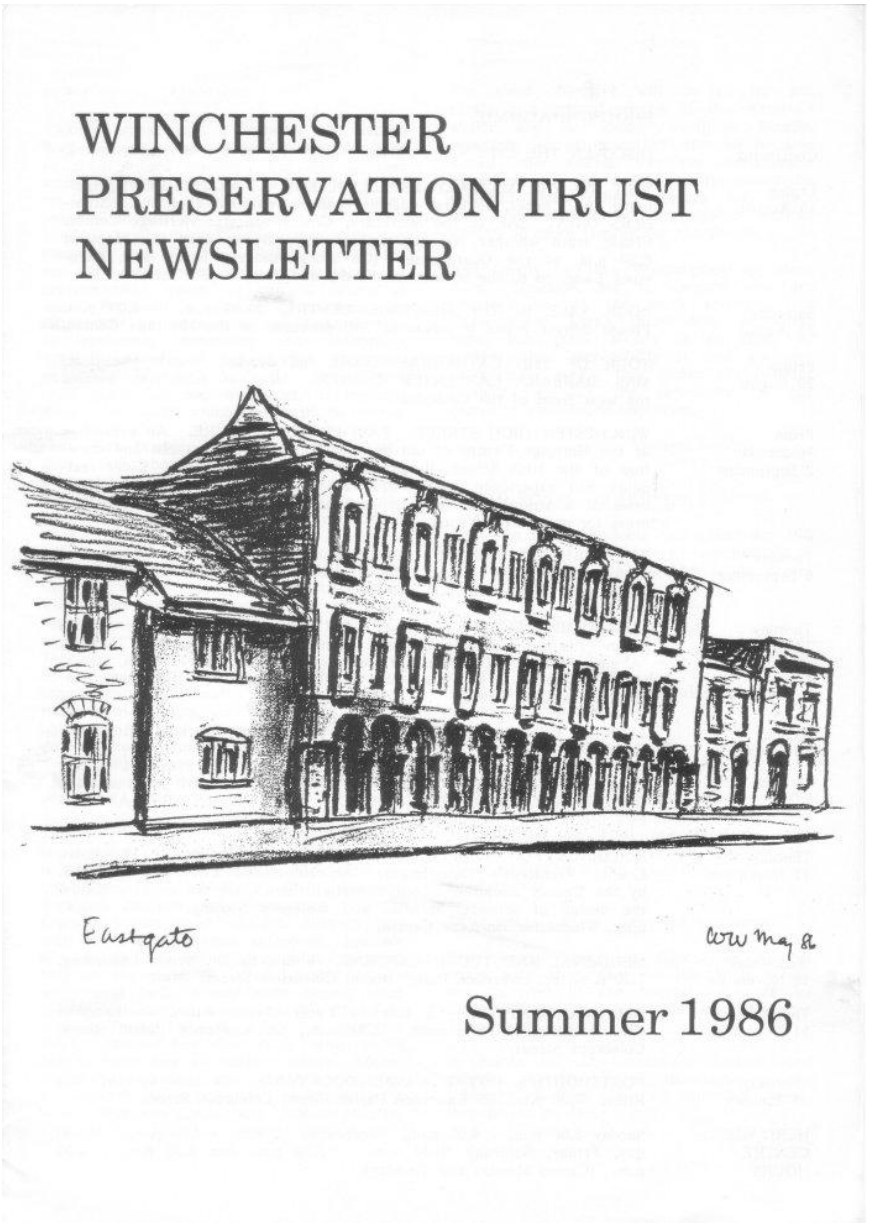
Title Picture - TrustNews Summer 1986



Drawing of new building in Eastgate Street by Trust Member, Walter Weyndling, a Marine Surveyor by profession. He says:
"I like this new building in Eastgate Street because its projecting windows and their shadows create surface interest and produce a sense of rhythm. Also because the arched doorways on the ground floor relate to the two little neighbouring houses

---

Flint Wall Campaign - TrustNews Summer 1986

This has grown into a Boundary and Garden Wall affair because brick and flint are so often mixed together, but also because what we risk losing is nothing less than one of the most familiar but least acknowledged elements of our heritage. These humble walls, like hedgerows, are an essential part of the English scene and are in their own way masterpieces of craftsmanship which we can ill afford to lose. But half

a century of neglect, the rising cost of labour and the disappearance of traditional techniques leads inexorably towards an age of barbed-wire, chain-link and close-boarded fencing. They have their place but not, we insist, as replacements for walls which can still be saved.

Walls, like hedges, need repair and mainten¬ance, and when they have been built in a special and very clever way, they cannot be mended with "chewing gum", as one eminent member of a very responsible body recently suggested, in a facetious and misguided attempt to save money. Mind you, chewing gum might be better than the clumsy use of cement rich mortar, which does almost as much harm as simple neglect.

The first object of our campaign, therefore, is to dispel this ignorance which sees no importance in old walls, and would replace them with fencing, or bodge them up in ignorance of how these things should be done. Trust members can help with this by spreading the word that walls are important and that repairs should be done properly.

The second objective of the campaign is to make sure that the proper knowledge is available to all, whether owner-repairer, odd-jobber or builder. The Historic Buildings Bureau of Hampshire County Council knows most of the answers and will be helpful on the telephone, but we hope to see this extended to more practical help in the form of official wall advisers who could look in and show people what to do and, maybe, hold owners' wall repair courses from time to time, not only for D.I.Y. owners but for those who would like to know how to instruct others. Mean¬while the author of this article has written an owners' guide to wall repair which it hoped that the Trust will publish shortly.

The third objective will be to try and establish a central source of the materials which are no longer available locally, especially an all-important lime pit because slaked lime mortar was the fundamental ingredient of old walls and it cannot be replaced with other mortars for repair work (as opposed to new walls) without storing up more trouble for the future.

And finally, we are campaigning for more direct financial aid to owners who are prepared to do the work properly. In Conservation Areas there may be some hope, but grant money is so short at present that increasingly it can go only to special cases. This makes the indirect financial aid of the remainder of our campaign even more important.

Michael Carden

Urban Studies Committee - TrustNews Summer 1986

The two main projects instigated by this Committee for 1986 were launched at a reception on 8th May in the Jewry Street Library.

"The Brooks Pursuit"

Last year The Brooks area was exhibited at the Library from the Trust's archive material and this formed the basis of a children's town trail.

Mrs. Betty Ray, an ex head teacher, incorporated an imaginative Monopoly-type game for children, and also for parents to participate, in a detailed study of the area around the Heritage Centre. Two versions of the Trail are available from the Heritage Centre, and will also be used by teachers from the Elm Road Mid-Hants. headquarters.

"Winchester - From Cathedral to Castle"

This fourth study of Winchester Streets deals with that part of the High Street not included in the booklet of 1976 by Keith Walker and Mrs. Barbara Carpenter Turner.

It starts at St. Maurice's Covert and contains up-dated line drawings of the buildings on both sides of the High Sreet. It is priced at 75p.

It is hoped to produce other trails for children, and further studies of the historic streets of the City. Suggestions and offers of help from members will be most welcome. The Trust considers these publications a valuable form of publicity. They will be available from all bookshops, the Tourist Office, Cathedral bookstall and, of course, the Heritage Centre.

Frank Chippindale

Who are they? - TrustNews Summer 1986

Two more members of the Council of the Trust are featured below.

Jeffrey Smith

A Founder Member of the Trust, Jeffrey can remember the first meeting in 1957 when the Trust was faced with a so-called slum clearance programme of over 500 old houses in the centre of Winchester, including listed buildings. In those days the feeling was one of despair and frustration, but now in a changed climate it one of achievement and optimism.

Jeffrey served during the War in the Far East, and helped to construct an air strip on an island occupied mainly by land crabs. A Chartered Surveyor by profession, one time Mayor of Winchester, and currently Vice-Chairman of the Trust. His hobbies are conservation, fine art and gardening.

George Swift

George qualified in Medicine in 1940 after studying at Magdalen College, Oxford and the Middlesex Hospital. In 1941 he joined the R.A.M.C. and in 1945 was surprised to find himself in temporary command of the British Military Hospital, Lahore, at the

princely salary of 52/6d. a day (£2.62 in new currency). Here he discovered he liked administration and getting people to do things his way without being too offensive.

In 1946 he started 30 years as a partner in a Winchester Practice. He was on the Foundation Council of the College of General Practitioners and subsequently was for three years Chairman of Council of what was by then a Royal College. For 12 years he was part time Regional Adviser in Postgraduate Education for General Practice for Southampton University and the Wessex Regional Hospital Board.

In 1983 he was coerced by Gill Graham to become Hon. Manager of the Heritage Centre. Here he would have achieved nothing without the help of an all too small group of volunteer stewards. Currently engaged in looking for more stewards and a successor to himself.

Hampshire Archives Trust - TrustNews Summer 1986

An audience of about 85 people attended the launch of the Hampshire Archives Trust at Rhinefield House Hotel on 16th April. The meeting heard talks from Dr. Geoffrey Marten (Keeper of Public Records) on the importance of access to archives; Mr. Philip Lloyd (Littleton History Society) on his Society's Doomsday Project; and Mr. David Lee (Librarian at BBC TV South) on the need to preserve film and tape archives.

Lord Denning, who expressed great pride that his County should take the lead in this way, was elected Patron of the new Trust, and Councillor F. A. J. Emery-Wallis its first Chairman. Individuals and societies interested in Archives were invited to become members of the Trust, and for a modest membership fee of £5.00 (families £7.50) a newsletter will be received twice a year, containing news of Trust projects, a calendar of events, etc. Further information can be obtained from the Archivist to the Trust (Mrs. Jennifer Thorp), C/o. Hampshire Record Office, 20 Southgate Street, Winchester, S023 9EF.

After the meeting, there was an exhibition of documents and photographs entitled The Appearance of Archives, and the the History of the New Forest from the 13th century onwards.

WPT has joined the Hampshire Archives Trust as a corporate member. Forthcoming events include a conference/open meeting at Ashburton Court on Saturday 18th October.

Jeffrey Smith

Floral Winchester Group - TrustNews Summer 1986

The Trust is represented in this Group, which is sponsored by the City Council's Amenities Committee.

The face-lift at the Railway Station includes planting areas, and there are to be containers on the islands on the Stockbridge Road, planted and maintained by Lewtas Motors. Unfortunately, the police moved on the gypsy flower sellers who have for years brightened up the lower end of the Precinct. The City is seeking to "liven up" this area with a tall metal display stand like those in use at Exeter. If the police give permission, it will be installed for a trial period of four weeks to test public response. The writer is not keen on it, nor is the City's Landscape Architect. Trust members should convey any views to the Director of Amenity Services, Mr. Simon Cook.

The City has had a poor response to a letter suggesting that firms not ready to put up their own displays should pay "all in" maintenance charges of £40 per window box and £25 per basket for the first year, reducing in future years as the containers are paid for.

Vandalism of plants is a big problem. Many new roses have been stolen from Abbey Gardens, and some shrubs have been removed from the octagonal planters on the Guildhall site, just as the combination of Euonymus fortunei and Rosemary was coming on well. People knock down barriers and drive over the new shrubberies behind the Tourist Office.

The Parks Department puts a great deal of time and thought into its work, above what is strictly required. It would be nice if Trust members could show their appreciation in the form of individual letters. How many members have been to North Walls Park to see what is being done there? Gifts of bulbs for naturalising in the autumn would be most welcome. The few gardeners work hard and to good effect. They need support in kind and in writing.

Mary Dauncey

Development Control Committee - TrustNews Summer 1986

We asked in the Trust's last Newsletter in April for members (or members of the public) to let us know their views, suggestions or misgivings about planning applications in the City. There has been a considerable response already to this request and I am happy to report that we are being approached frequently and increasingly with individual views and comments. This makes our task of commenting to the City Council all the more rewarding; we feel less that we are responding from a vacuum. Please go on contacting our Committee members whenever you have a problem or views connected with the development of our City.

Since our April report, we have nothing dramatic to tell you. We continue to comment, favourably or in a critical tone, to the City Council on each weekly list of planning applications. We try on the whole to avoid interference with the individual's right to deal with his own property, building a garage or an innocuous extension to his home. On the other hand, we try to select those major cases of proposed development which arouse the interest - and perhaps the opposition of large numbers of our members; and to throw weight into the argument before the City

Planning Committee. Our increasing rapport with both Officers and Planning Committee Members is, of course, important to this line of approach.

In a number of cases recently, applications to fill in spaces between existing buildings in the remaining residential areas within the Central Conservation Area, or perhaps to replace gardens with concrete car parks, have caused us to consider seriously the impact of such developments upon our life-style. Generally, we feel that an exceptionally strong reason should be needed to take away any more of the green or light from around the City Centre. Should any of you "know different" about an individual case, again please let us know!

George Burnett

Heritage Centre News - TrustNews Summer 1986

After years of planning, tremendous efforts on the part of a small group of volunteers and the usual last minute panics, the main exhibition, "**Discover the City**", was opened by Lord Briggs of Lewes on Saturday 3rd May. Guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester, the Director of the Civic Trust, one of the Trustees of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust and representatives of the County and City Councils. We were particularly delighted to see Lady Charlotte Bonham Carter.

The exhibition has been well received. Obviously, there have been differences of opinion over emphasis; however, it will be readily appreciated that with limited space and funds and the richness of the historical material, there had to be rigorous selection. Opinions will always differ as to the relative importance of one subject as opposed to another, but most visitors have supported the view that the balance is about right. The exhibition is not immutable, and some further development will be undertaken as resources become available.

Attendances since the opening have been rather disappointing. We are seeking ways of improviing our publicity and looking for more help on this front from members. Spread the word, take your friends, obtain some handbills from the Centre to pass around and display yourself. Please do everything you can think of that will make people aware that there is something worth seeing at the Heritage Centre.

Upstairs

In future, the committee room and kitchen will be used for temporary displays, such as those which were previously housed downstairs. They will be chosen as far as possible for their local or topical interest. Suggestions and offers will be gratefully received and carefully considered.

The room above the shop has been reserved for the use of Trust Members and Committees. It will house City Council Reports and Minutes, Planning Briefs, Inquiry Inspectors' Reports, Trust Discussion Papers and Comments on Planning Applications, as well as books, magazines and newspaper items. The key to the Members' Room may be obtained from the Duty Officer.

Manning the Centre

The Heritage Centre is manned entirely by volunteers, and as it is open for nine 2-hour sessions each week, a lot of volunteers are needed! Would you like to become one, on a regular or occasional basis? No special skills are required - merely commonsense. Further information may be obtained from Alan Cooke (Tel. Win. 64292).

Books and Records

A special effort is needed for the Book Sale on 23rd August. Please give us any unwanted books or records. We will collect if required.

Heritage Centre Christmas Cards

This year the Centre will be offering a delightful range of cards featuring engravings of Winchester scenes.

Ken Johns

Discussion Paper Topics - TrustNews Summer 1986

The following topics are currently under consideration by the Trust's Town Planning Committee: Lorries in Winchester; Signs, Shopfronts and Window Stickers; Facilities for Pedestrians; Gaps and Gardens in the Central Conservation Area.

The Secretary would be glad to have your views on any of the foregoing (in writing please).

A City for People - TrustNews Summer 1986

In March, Police Chief Inspector Michael Finch and City Council Chief Engineer, David Marklew, met a small group of Trust members to discuss a number of traffic-related matters. The Trust requested the meeting, partly to seek remedies for

particular problems such as lorry damage and pavement parking, but mainly to explore attitudes and perceptions in regard to the role of cars in an historic city.

Following nearly a decade of debate the Winchester Area Local Plan has finally put paid to the last elements of the destructive road building schemes of the 1960s. The Trust, in generally welcoming the Plan, observed that it was a good parting point and that now was the time to look for ways in which the living, working and shopping environment in the City could be improved. This may appear to be a strange statement, for one might have imagined that the Plan would be a lot more than just a basis for investigation. Yet it is a curious fact that the Plan does not begin with objectives, but with a strategy. The strategy, moreover, is entirely reactive - in other words, where Planners perceive threats or demands upon the City, they propose varying degrees of compromise. This is understandable because, hitherto, the threats to Winchester were pre-eminent and it was essential to secure Conservation as a primary aim. There is, however, nothing beyond this in the new Plan; the Planners say nothing what they would like Winchester to become.

The Trust's Vision

The Trust, in its submission to the Plan Inquiry, attempted to define a long-term objective for the City Centre, by envisaging a milieu in which people dominated the streets, in the way in which old photographs show us they used to do. While the Planners and the Inquiry Inspector were clearly attracted to the idea and believed that in the long term steps could be taken towards it, they could not comprehend that it could have any relevance to planning today.

The tragedy of this for Winchester is that the Planners are currently taking steps, for reasons which have more to do with planning orthodoxy than common sense, which will ensure that the objective of a people-dominated centre will not be attained in our lifetime, if ever. The brief for the Central Car Park development positively seeks to ensure that the motor traffic domination of the central area will be perpetuated indefinitely by constructing a multi-storey car park at its centre. This in spite of a stated objective at the Inquiry "to reduce traffic".

The Trust will try to bring some common sense to the Central Car Park debate in the coming months. There are, however, smaller steps that can be taken towards the objective, aimed more at altering perceptions than at securing significant practical gains. In this we echo the current campaign, "Cities for People" of Friends of the Earth, and take comfort from Mr. Peter Bottomley, Roads and Traffic Minister, who says that "pedestrians have become the Cinderellas of road users" and that "Planners seem to forget that...pedestrians are the most important class of road user."

Attitudes

At its meeting with the Police and the City Engineer, the Trust argued that there was a behavioural deterioration amongst motorists in Winchester (as elsewhere), as manifested for example in the rapidly growing habit of driving and parking on pavements. The Trust also argued that local authorities were prepared to spend large sums of money on road schemes, car parks and research into car trip patterns,

but next-to-nothing on street crossings, public transport or research into pedestrian movements.

Yet this bias is widely accepted. We suspect that what happens is that a generally liberal tendency prevails (the motorist should be as free as possibe) without any clear perception of the costs of that liberality. The imbalance of perception seems quite general (in fact we see it in ourselves - perceptions change accordingly as we are driving, cycling or walking) and is merely reflected in the attitudes of local authorities and police. Do the police presently feel that enforcing legislation on motorists will be seen as over officious? Do local councils feel that restrictions on motorists will be electorally unacceptable?

And yet it may be that once this imbalance of perception is seriously challenged, the perceptions will begin to change. There was quite a lot of opposition to the High Street pedestrianisation, but if the Precinct were now threatened there would probably be strong objection from the same quarters. And following pedestrianisation of one piece of road, the general acceptance of pedestrian priority on adjoining sections has quietly established itself, reversing the usual roles of cars and people. The Trust suggested at its meeting that all that may be necessary for change, apart from actually asking the questions, is a small commitment of effort on the part of local authorities (to provide, say, more pedestrian crossings) and the police (to clamp down on, for example, pavement parking).

Enforcement

Chief Inspector Finch, while very sympathetic to what the Trust was saying, pointed out that all policing was a question of allocation of resources, and indicated that such matters as pavement parking were very time-consuming and not the highest priority. While the Trust understood this, it made the point that, if there was official resistance to enforcement, the abuse would grow and could have serious consequences for pedestrian safety, and might eventually lead to pedestrians taking their own actions. Chief Inspector Finch said he understood the dangers and would be reporting back on our concerns. We have not yet discerned any improvement in the situation and indeed we have been told that throughout the demolition of the Crown Hotel a car was allowed to occupy sufficient pavement in North Walls to prevent the passage of pram, pushchair or wheelchair - just two hundred yards from the City's Police Station.

Improvements



courtesy Yorkshire Post

"Smash the next lamp on the left, flatten the pavement by the pub, nudge the sweet shop, scrape the Market Cross, and then just follow the skid marks to London."

(From the 'Yorkshire Post', as reprinted in the Civic Trust's 'Heritage Outlook').

The City Engineer was clearly very much in favour of the provision of more pedestrian crossings and had specifically sought a pedestrian phase in the lights at the High Street - Jewry Street - Southgate Street junction. Here, as at the Library in Jewry Street, the case for a pedestrian crossing is undeniable, and yet the County Surveyor whose responsibility it is, continues to deny it. It seems that crossings have to be justified by how many people have been killed trying to cross the road without them. With the new guidelines from the Roads and Traffic Minister, the County no longer has this excuse for inaction.

The Pedestrian Precinct has led to a de facto pedestrian domination of some adjoining streets, particularly the eastward extension of the High Street to Middle Brook Street. The Trust and the City Engineer had independently concluded that this pedestrian-dominated street sharing could be formally declared and asserted by subtle alteration of the street scene, particularly in paving details. It was agreed that the integrity of the street, as a street, should be retained, and the City Engineer indicated that at the appropriate point in the normal timetable of road surface and pavement renewal, we can expect to see some welcome changes in these areas.

If the City Engineer's efforts can establish the principle of street-sharing, there might well be pressure to extend it to other central streets. It is all the more a pity that a myopic Planning Department is currently seeking to limit the possibilities by sinking substantial capital investment into the permanent retention of City Centre car parking.

Chris Gillham

Continuing
Discover The City - a permanent exhibition at the Heritage Centre.

Friday 15th August 6.30 p.m.
Visit to the Military Establishment at Flowerdown, including the Chapel, soldiers' quarters and recreational facilities. Members only.
SAE to the Secretary, C/o. Winchester Heritage Centre. Please state whether you can provide transport or need it. Meet at the Guardhouse. (Go along Andover Road, past Hare-stock Lane, on to the bottom of the dip and it is on your left).

Saturday 23rd August 10.00 am-4.00 pm
Book Sale in the Heritage Centre, Please deliver books in advance. All proceeds to the Heritage Centre.

Friday 29th August 6.30p.m.
Tour of the Cathedral Close led by the Trust's President, Mrs. Barbara Carpenter Turner.
Meet outside the west front of the Cathedral.

From Wednesday 3rd September
Winchester High Street: Past-Present-Future. An exhibition at the Heritage Centre of old and contemporary photographs and drawings of the High Street, illustrating the speed of change. Older residents will experience some nostalgia and inevitably recall their memories of a street lined with shops bearing family names. (Watch the press for associated events).

Tuesday 9th September 12.45 - 1.45 p.m.
Are you "Off White"? - Colour in nature and building. A personal answer by Andrew Rutter, City Conservation Officer.
Lunchtime Lecture, Winchester Heritage Centre.

Tuesday 14th October 12.45 - 1.45 p.m.
Lunchtime Lecture – Wayfarer's Winchester: Seven walks around England's ancient capital. A new booklet by Rodney Hubbuck "A guide with a difference, for locals and visitors, in a concise, direct, if old fashioned style by a young Old Fogey". Winchester Heritage Centre.

Monday 20th October 7.30 p.m.
Annual General Meeting, King Charles Suite, Winchester Guildhall.
After the business meeting, at about 8 o'clock, the President of the Trust, Mrs. Barbara Carpenter Turner, will give an illustrated talk on Medecine's Contribution to Winchester's Architecture.

Tuesday 11th November 12.45 - 1.45 p.m.
Buildings For People - An approach to design by Hampshire County Architect's Department.
An illustrated Lunchtime Talk by the County Architect, Colin Stansfield Smith, on the thinking behind the design of schools, libraries and sheltered housing.
Winchester Heritage Centre.

Wednesday 19th November 7.30 p.m.
Mediaeval and Tudor Gardens - a talk by Dr. Sylvia Landsberg, St. Lawrence Parish Room, Colebrook Street.

Thursday 11th December 7.30 p.m.
Old Southampton - a talk by Peter Davies RIBA, Southampton City Architect's Department.
St. Lawrence Parish Room, Colebrook Street.

Thursday 15 January 7.30 p.m.
Portsmouth's Royal Naval Dockyard - a talk by Dr. Ray Riley.
St. Lawrence Parish Room, Colebrook Street.

Heritage Centre Hours
Sunday 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.;
Wednesday 12 noon - 4.00 p.m.;
Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. - 4.00p.m.
(Closed Monday and Tuesday).