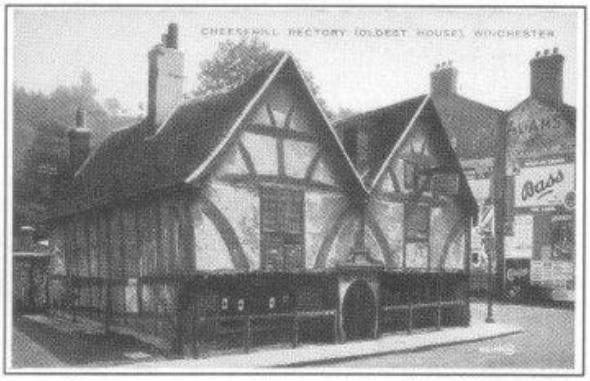
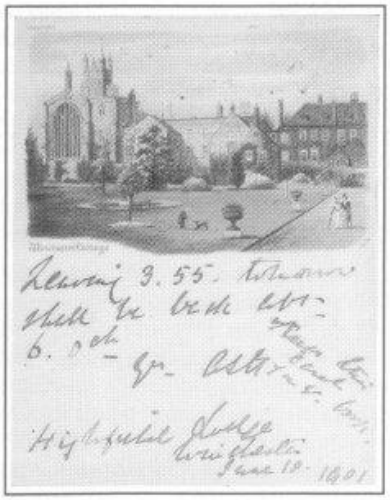
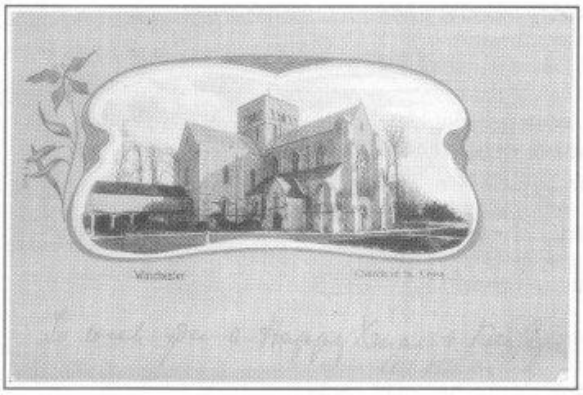
Title Picture - TrustNews Summer 1992

WINCHESTER PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER













SUMMER 1992

Postcards from 'Wish you were here' Exhibition at the Heritage Centre

Visions of Winchester - TrustNews Summer 1992

Report of the 1992 Lecture Series



People Matter; Little by Little; Links - Spaces; Subtle Shocks; Historical Context; City Grain; People Contact; Quality of Environment; People Enjoyment

These are some of the quotations taken from the various discourses and used in the 1992 urban planning lectures entitled 'Visions of Winchester' to emphasise underlying attitudes and planning philosophy.

The series was organised by the Urban Studies Committee as an attempt to indicate how an historical environment is evaluated by the experts as well as some idea of how visitors to Winchester view the city. The series was completed by Jack Thompson, until recently Director of Planning in Winchester, who summarised many of the ideas and thoughts emanating from the previous talks and relating them to Winchester.

Bob Cox, an American economist commenced the series as a first time visitor to Winchester and provided us with an encouraging note to the effect that from his viewpoint Winchester was alive, thriving, full of interest and as yet comparatively

unspoilt. He was optimistic about the future but felt that with the certain large increase in tourism Winchester was bound to attract, the city authorities ought now to start thinking how they were going to market themselves and decide what sort of tourist they wanted to encourage. Now was the time to consider these aspects not later when tourism would cause logistical problems.

Bob Cox considered the access routes into Winchester and what sort of visual impact they had on a visitor, his general feeling was that as an introduction to Winchester the centre still dominated so that the image of the outskirts tended to fade from the mind. However in his opinion Winchester was not so bad and nowhere near as bad as the average American city he was used to. Certainly he recognised that if he lived in Winchester then no doubt he could become conscious of this aspect, just as he was very aware of the shortcomings of his own home town.

Not only was Bob Cox intrigued by the ambience, the buildings and the beauty of some areas of Winchester, but was impressed and surprised at the wealth of talent that had resided in and around the city.

David Brock was our next lecturer and represented his viewpoint as an historian responsible for evaluating historical buildings and alterations to historical buildings throughout much of the south of England on behalf of English Heritage. There were many aspects of making judgements about buildings that he felt should be used when coming to a decision about how a structure should be restored, altered, saved or even pulled down. Some of the criteria he used were, the environmental quality that the building was situated in or was part of, the building's history, including notable characters that were associated with a building, its contribution as a building to the surroundings, the degree of restoration required to make the building sound, and so on.

The lecture was illustrated by some very interesting before and after photographs of buildings which had been both successful and unsuccessful after restoration and some which were perhaps philosophically questionable. Many people in the audience were surprised by the stance that David Brock took when evaluating buildings and found his attitude enlightened which in general they felt was contrary to the image that English Heritage projected. Unfortunately this lecture was marred by the projection equipment which was constantly breaking down so David Brock was naturally upset that his flow was frequently interrupted. However it would appear that everybody recognised that this was an in depth talk by an expert articulating his philosophy with a logical confidence.

Tony Scott tackled the problems of historical town centres from a town planners point of view. On the whole urban environments to him were spaces, delightful alleyways, linkages that lead the eye and the body from space to space. The buildings were a backdrop to the enjoyment of those spaces and should be considered as such. However one did from time to time require buildings to startle the senses or the whole urban mix could be bland. Tony Scott punctuated his lecture by using the phrase "Little by Little," in other words introduce new elements into the urban environment little by little, assimilate them and then move on. One of the strands of the lecture that came across strongly was the importance of people to the philosophy of his planning ideals, providing spaces for enjoyment and contact.

Providing the means of contact between people was in his opinion a most important element of town planning. Tony completed his lecture with the poignant image of an elderly lady reaching out to contact a child. It is interesting that some of the most sensitive town planners are often architects who are the unsung heroes of the development scene, urban planning is not an easy option to try and control or manipulate for the better. Unfortunately fewer and fewer architects bother to qualify as town planners to the detriment of town planning as a whole, therefore much of the visionary quality seems to be missing.

Our penultimate lecturer was **David Rock**, an architect who specialised in advising councils with historic centres to govern on how to plan and evolve their towns and cities. David Rock indicated ways in which one could manipulate developers against a background of a well understood and a well thought out strategic town plan which was critical to controlling the way forward for any historical centre.

The final lecture was by **Jack Thompson** who had the unenviable task of trying to summarise the lectures and relate them to Winchester. It is interesting that Jack is both an architect and a town planner and it was obvious that people, spaces, and the links were, as for Tony Scott, the most important elements of urban design. Jack was concerned that the pressures of governmental direction and the way in which developers have been forced to maximise their plots, were in danger of soaking up those all too precious spatial qualities. There were no longer benefactors able or wanting to provide that fundamental quality of space for people to enjoy.

The County too came in for some criticism for much in his opinion of what had been built and continues to be built within the city boundary was overbearing architecture which was destroying the city scale. The development was not integrated and failed to measure up to good urban planning. Jack also had a look at the gaps in the city setting indicating the importance of spaces, the links from tree lined slopes surrounding Winchester through to the inner city open areas.

A discussion followed the talk and it was interesting to note the degree of concern over vehicles and vehicle movement which in fact had not been touched on to any great degree by any of the lecturers perhaps because they all recognise that it is a highly emotive subject and very difficult to resolve. Much of the discussion that followed rather underlined the point!

The series bridged the gap that so often separates, planners, architects and citizens and a sense of common purpose and responsibility for the future of an urban environment was evident throughout.

The Urban Studies Committee would like to thank all the lecturers for the obvious hard work that they undertook to provide a series which was both interesting and thought provoking. In particular Jack Thompson who not only gave the final lecture but attended all the talks specifically to provide us with a comprehensive summary together with some of his own thoughts on Winchester.

We should also like to thank all those who attended, and we do hope that everybody managed to gain further knowledge about their urban environment, and to recognise

how difficult it is to steer such a complicated cellular structure and how important it is to have a clear positive view on how the city should evolve, for evolve it will.

Development Control - TrustNews Summer 1992



South Western Inn, Station Hill

The event that has probably caused the widest and deepest ripples in Winchester during the past six months occurred in January, when the Hampshire County Council acquired the **South Western Inn, Station Hill**. The emotions of local residents and commuters ran high and its loss as a public house was much bewailed. The Trust also regretted the social loss, but its main concern was whether the County Council was considering its demolition in connection with the construction of the Record Office on the adjoining site. If this were the case, there would be no way of stopping its destruction, for planning regulations allow the County to grant itself permission to do virtually anything it wants (as had happened with the placing of the new Record Office on the Carfax site) and nothing the City Council could do would be able to prevent it. The Trust therefore attempted to get the building listed because, being the only other period building remaining on Station Hill, it is of considerable visual and historical importance to the station. However, the Department of the Environment decided, on the advice of English Heritage, that the building did not fulfil their listing criteria and would not therefore be added to the statutory list. The County Council has stated that there is no intention of demolishing the South Western Inn, and has subsequently applied to change it into offices. The Trust has objected to this change of use on the grounds that there is more need for a pub here than for yet more offices. Another cause of excitement is the YMCA's current outlinew application to demolish its present building at Weeke and to build a **Youth and Community Centre at 10 Dean Lane**, with ancillary accommodation and thirty bed-sits and warden's flat, together with fourteen two-bedroom houses in three blocks and twenty one-bedroom flats in two blocks. The County Council standard of two car-parking spaces per dwelling means that the high density of this scheme requires so much land for parking that there would be insufficient space left on the site for most of the field games that take place here at present. This loss and the extra traffic that would be generated in the already busy Dean Lane have resulted in a storm of objections (including those of the Trust), and the scheme has been deferred so that investigations and consultations can take place. The YMCA's experience shows that the provision of 0.5 car space per bed-sitter is adequate; the Trust agrees with this view and would also argue against the County Council requirement that two spaces

are necessary for a one-bedroom flat. With the changing attitudes on using cars with more restraint in cities, surely the time has now come to allow an easing of the two-car per dwelling parking low requirement?

A development in St Swithun Street is another scheme that has given rise to public comment. The proposal is that **No 3 St Swithun Street**, the house next to Kingsgate Church, should be refurbished and taken back into residential use, while the adjoining workshops should be demolished to make way for a new house. It is also proposed that the Taplins premises should be demolished and a terrace of three new houses built in its place, at **Nos 4a, 4b and 4c St Swithun Street**. The outcry arose when it was discovered that the roof of the terrace replacing Taplins was going to be higher than the existing roof, with the result that residents in Canon Street would lose their view of the Cathedral. The proposed new buildings are thoughtfully designed to respect their more ancient neighbours, and the architect concerned has been very responsive to comments made by the City Council officers, the Trust and the local residents. This has led to a series of alterations to the original scheme, and the Trust is grateful to have been supplied with drawings of the amendments, since this has allowed us to update our comments on the planning appli¬cation; the third version is now under consideration.

The effect of the car continues to make its mark on Winchester, both in queues of tailed-back traffic and in desolate areas dedicated to parking. The latter is all too obvious in the latest scheme for **75-79 Eastgate Street**, which has recently got planning permission. The design of the present scheme is more acceptable than previously, with fewer flats in the new residential building which has also been moved away from the river bank to the Eastgate Street boundary of the site. It is intended that the veterinary surgery should extend from the Mildmay building into the adjoining house, where the plan is to take away the old Fads shop window and to reinstate the building's original facade (a very welcome step). The previous application had included underground parking but the reduced density of the new scheme means that this is no longer necessary and conse¬quently all parking will now be located in the area between the buildings and the river bank, where a wall will be built to screen them from the view of those on the opposite bank. A lost opportunity for this part of the river bank, situated as it is opposite the much visited island garden of the National Trust's City Bridge.



The garden behind No.9 The Close.
An application for car parking here has been made

Coping with the car is also causing problems in the Cathedral Close, as anyone walking there will be aware. An application was made in the middle of last year to turn the garden of **9 The Close** into a car parking area. The Trust objected to this proposed transformation of a green garden into a barren parking area and the application was refused by the City; the matter subsequently went to appeal. The Trust's Development Control and Landscape Committees wrote a joint letter to the Depart¬ment of the Environment, supporting the City's reasons for refusal, since we feel strongly that the aim should be not to provide additional parking but to institute a more rigorous control of the cars already parking there - in places that used to be forbidden in former years. A second similar application has recently been made. The Trust has again objected, and the City has again refused permission. We wait to see whether there will be a second appeal.

It is very much to be regretted that another garden, that of **5 Newburgh Street** on the corner of Upper High Street, has been lost to car parking. It had been a welcome green oasis, with a hedge, trees, shrubs and rambling wisteria that drew the eye away from the nearby unlovely drill hall; it also had what appeared to be the original railings, gate and brick wall and piers. All are now gone, and although the low wall and railings have been replaced, their colouring and design leave much to be desired. Some new trees and roses have also been planted, but are an inadequate replacement for what was there before, and worst of all, the area available for planting has been considerably reduced to provide parking space for up to four cars. The fact that the only remaining proper front garden in the street has vanished overnight is upsetting; that the removal of trees was done without permission in a Conservation Area is very disturbing, for an undesirable precedent has been set for the future that bodes ill for successful planning controls in other sensitive parts of the City.

A similar disregard for planning control was shown by the Citroen garage in Bar End Road, now known as **Wyatts of Winchester**. In March last year permission was sought for a new fascia and a large free-standing sign in the form of a totem pole sited on the pavement boundary of the forecourt, both of which had already been installed. The Trust objected to the intrusive totem pole, which was very uncharacteristic of this largely residential part of the road and stuck out like a sore thumb because of its position near the brow of the hill. The application was refused, and in August a similar one was made. This was also refused by the City, and the matter went to appeal in October, with the Trust writing in support of the City's refusal. The appeal was subsequently dismissed, but it was not until legal action was threatened that the offending totem pole was eventually taken away. Another application, for a differently shaped, but just as intrusive sign (because of its size, colour, illumination and proposed position on the pavement boundary) is now going through the system. One again the Trust has objected, the City has refused permission and an appeal has been lodged; the Trust has again written supporting the City's refusal and a decision is now being made by the Department of the Environment. For the sake of this important route into Winchester, let us hope that this second appeal is also dismissed.

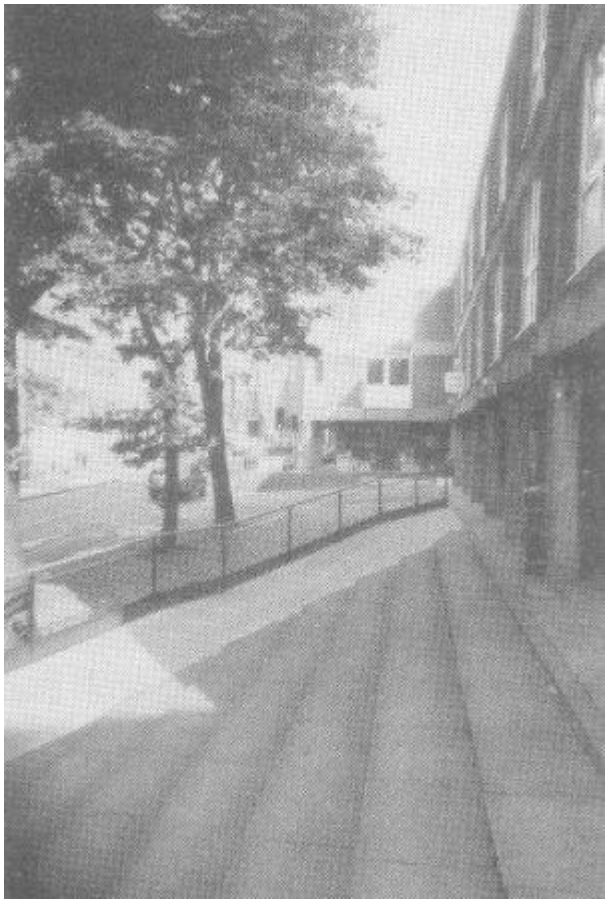
The Landscape Committee has commented on several schemes submitted for planning approval in the past few months including the **YMCA** sports field where we felt the concentration of buildings at opposite ends of the site leaves only a small wedge of open space in the middle. We would prefer to see the buildings at the western end, leaving an open area with frontages onto Dean Lane and Stockbridge Road with much greater potential landscape value to the public. The dominance of car parking spaces has concerned us in several schemes, and is mentioned under Development Control, above; another is 75-79 Eastgate Street where the very pleasant river frontage has been ignored and car parking using the available space. We asked that trees be included to 'soften' this area.

The Community Support Centre in Upper Brook Street is another scheme where much of the space on the western side has been given over to vehicle movements and parking. We felt this could be an attractive paved and planted forecourt and cars use the adjacent car park. Again the opportunity to plant trees does not appear to have been taken.

We welcome the revised scheme for offices at the **Pickfords Depository** where more planting between the car parking spaces on St Paul's Hill frontage has been included this time and arrangements agreed for combined use of car parking with the adjacent St Paul's Church. We hope that arrangements such as this will happen more often and so reduce open spaces given over to cars.

We looked at the car parks for the pilot scheme for **Park and Ride**. One site at St Catherine's View and the other at Barfield Close. At the former we are concerned that 2 Dawyck Beech and 1 Copper Beech on the Bar End Road entrance were not indicated on the plans and have asked that these prominent, good trees be safeguarded. Both sites are already level, fenced areas and new planting is proposed within the sites but we suggested that ivy, old-man's-beard, Russian vine and similar creepers be planted on the high perimeter fences to screen the cars as you approach Winchester from the east.

We were invited to comment on the **Cathedral Tree Programme** which is a five year phased programme of tree care and new planting in the Close. A detailed tree survey has been carried out to assess the need for tree felling and surgery and a replanting schedule. We had a meeting with the Receiver General, Keith Bamber and Leslie Lipscombe of R.P.S.Watson, the landscape architect in charge, and mentioned our preference for trees of stature and presence to reflect the quality of the Cathedral building. We feel that small flowering trees are better kept to the private gardens within the Close and that there should not necessarily be a collection of too many species. The Close should primarily be for peaceful enjoyment of the surrounds to the Cathedral and the trees complement this grand building.


The Ramp in St Georges Street

Two members of the Landscape Committee went to a very well attended Guildhall seminar on **Paving Design in Sensitive Areas** arranged by the City Planning Department and the subjects covered were: History and development of pavements, Appropriate materials in sensitive locations, English Heritage's subject was Philosophy and use of materials. Their contribution in fact made many of the points which the Trust had made when commenting on proposals for Upper Brook Street and the Square, particularly the need for a thorough survey and appraisal to be carried out. The City Chief Engineer covered The Winchester Approach, and Hampshire County Council's Ap¬proach was also included. The discussion which followed brought up several differing views and we felt it was a useful meeting. We will continue to press for best quality materials to be used, and good features retained, where streets and pavements are being paved in the City.

We were horrified to see the ramp in **St George's Street** cutting through the well designed granite sett paving between the street and the building designed by Sir Hugh Casson. The work was undertaken without prior notice and although we acknowledge the need to have easy access for the disabled, the ramp could have been far more sensitively incorporated. Perhaps by altering the shallow steps and disgracefully neglected pool at the east end and so linking the ramp to the pedestrian crossing to the Brooks.

We continue to look at the weekly applications for tree work. We objected to the removal of a yew and holly in the rear garden of **5 Newburgh Street** (the front garden to this house is mentioned under Development Control) as these trees are

the only green in this street. The silver maple had to be removed from the front garden at Carlisle House, St Thomas' Street and we asked that a suitable replacement be planted as the tree was an asset to this street.

Many people are unaware of the advantages of **tree surgery** and the accompanying photographs of trees, both within a few 100 yards of each other indicate a good and unfortunately a bad case. The chestnut tree had dead and broken branches and an overcrowded crown. It can depend on the specie and condition of individual trees as to how much thinning is required but removing a proportion of branches and creating a well balanced crown not only enhances the visual appearance but allows wind to be filtered through and so greatly reduces damage to branches or, as in the recent hurricanes, the risk of trees being blown down. Ivy growing on trees can be extremely heavy and causes extra strain on the tree especially in winds and there is the increased chance of the tree blowing down. With good tree surgery a tangled headed tree can often be made into a well balanced tree and prolong it's life. The photograph of the stump (below) is all that remains of an excellent sycamore tree which could have been a similar shape to the chestnut. We reported the contractor to the City Arboriculturist.



This Chestnut Tree is the result of good tree surgery


Bad tree surgery: all that remains of an excellent Sycamore

We are also taking up the matter of the plethora of signs which have appeared in recent months. Cycle signs have been duplicated (some now removed) as well as cycles painted on the road. Some streets have a sign on every lamp post. We consider all street furniture should be considered as a whole and if possible at the design stage, eg The Square, to avoid this ad hoc superfluity of notices.

Heritage Centre - TrustNews Summer 1992

The Heritage Centre, home of the Preservation Trust, has had an industrious spring with, first, the Trust's Design Award Exhibition followed by the Eurotunnel exhibition kindly loaned by the creators of the Channel Tunnel. This exhibition was opened by Councillor Pamela Peskett, Chairman of the Twinning Committee, and Edward Kellett-Bowman MEP, and coincided with Winchester's Open Weekend. To promote W.O.W. Radio Solent's Nick Girdler used the Centre the next day as the base for his live Saturday morning programme, which subsequently brought us visitors from a wide area to make one of the most successful exhibitions in the Centre in recent times.

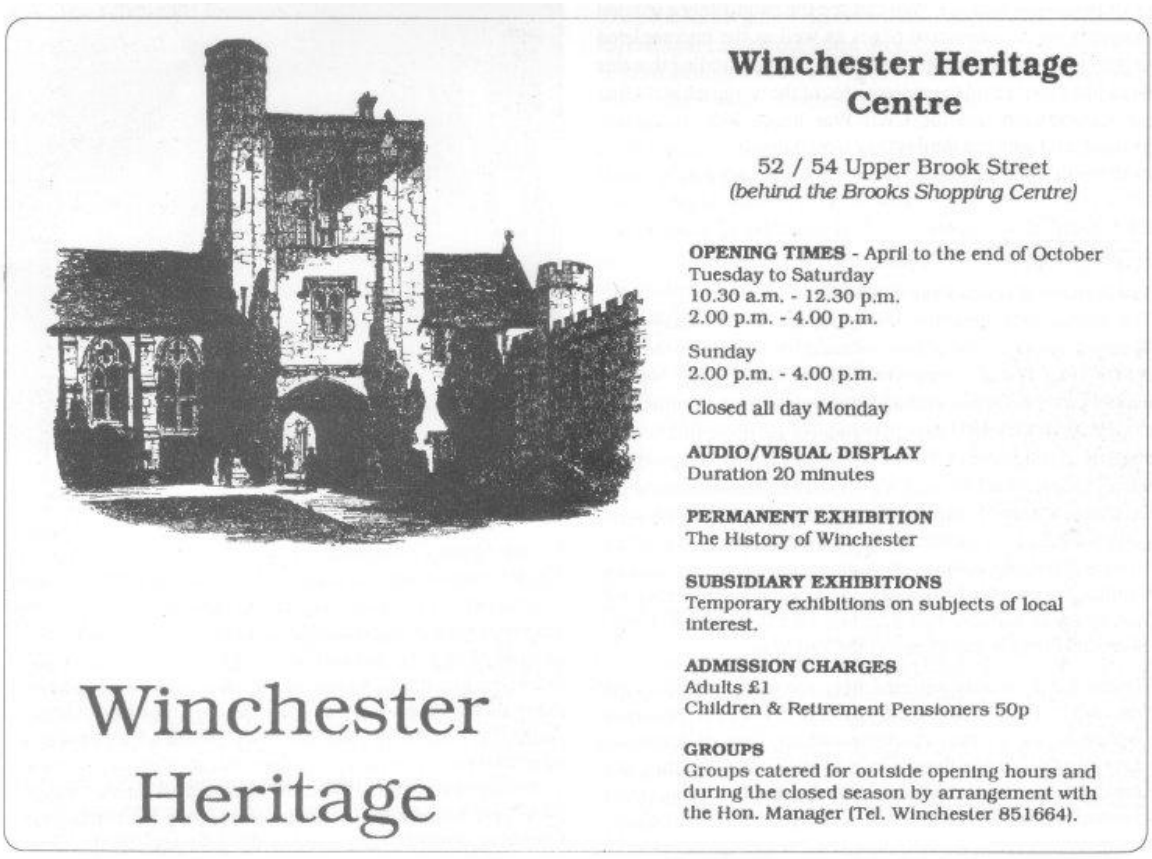
The revolving displays (currently William Walker, Magdalen Hill Butterfly Reserve and Roger Brown's part model of Winchester in 1871 (soon to be changed again) and the Trust's Current Activities Panel depicting the work of the various subcommittees (Development Control, Landscape, Urban Studies including Chippindale Ventures etc) call for hard work and ingenuity in keeping the Trust's ideals to the forefront of Wintonians and visitors alike.

Many useful contacts have been made and maintained. One important occasion was the use of the Centre by the Chamber of Commerce. The Twinning Committee and other local committees intend to meet regularly at the Centre, as well as other community groups. It is still surprising after a decade, to meet people who have never heard of the Centre - one Chamber of Commerce member thought he was going to a village hall, and one eminent cleric from Winchster Close had never head of it!

Despite yet more building work (street repairing to be followed by the building of the new Community Support Centre) future plans include a display of Edwardian postcards entitled 'Wish you were here'; public houses, to be followed by The Fine Arts Auction Sale, postponed from March, to be held on Saturday October 3rd. This will give more time to collect enough items to make it a success - so please look through your attics and cellars! (see programme and form enclosed with this Newsletter).

Splendid work is being undertaken to enhance the whole ambience of the Centre, ranging from the shop, videos and displays. The new model of the Brooks Shopping Centre (kindly loaned by Ladbrokes) and another exciting "promise" will bring the story of Winchester up to the 1990s. Much credit for the enhancements must go to our new manager, Tony Hunter and the sub-committee headed by Rosemary Kinnaird Smith and Alan Cooke. The Centre is making every effort to promote the Trust and to get members more involved by exploring the possibilities of having winter Saturday openings (with coffee) and revising opening hours. Incidentally, the Manager is looking for people to join the team of stewards to look after the Centre during opening hours, so if anyone has an occasional two hours to spare please let him know. Watch this space for future developments, or better still, come and visit the Centre!

Now on view at the Centre is a fascinating large scale aerial view of Winchester presented by Aerofilms Limited. This was taken from an Islander aircraft flying at 5000 feet using a 200 foot long film. It is well worth a look.



Part of a recent leaflet about the Heritage Centre

Winchester Historic Libraries - TrustNews Summer 1992

*by **Sara Dick-Read**: a journalist living in Winchester - with an abiding interest in history*

Winchester is fortunate to have not one but two ancient libraries of great interest, not only for their content but also for their historic settings. These are the Winchester Cathedral Library and the Fellows' Library of Winchester College. Both date back to mediaeval times and yet are still very much in use today.

THE EARLY CATHEDRAL LIBRARY

The Cathedral Library is the older of the two, having presumably originated in the time of the Benedictine Priory - the late 11th century. The actual location of the first library is uncertain. Although the present Morley Room (at the end of the South Transept) dates back to the 12th century, and there are niches behind the 17th century shelving which could have been used for storage, as well as an important 13th century wall painting, there is nothing to indicate for sure that this room was used as a library before 1684.

Having no mediaeval catalogue, it is not known what books and manuscripts were in the library, but presumably they were mostly of a theological nature and used for preparation of sermons and for scholarly research and study. Some of the books may have been produced in the scriptorium of the Priory, and this is certainly true of what is generally considered to be the Cathedral's greatest treasure, the Winchester Bible. This beautiful work started in about 1155 in the time of Bishop Henry of Blois, was never finished, we know not why, but this makes it of even greater interest today in that it shows us how the work of illustration was done. We can see the exquisitely executed drawings on the unpainted pages as well as the uncompleted paintings on some of the initials. It is quite astounding that this work has survived all the vicissitudes of the centuries including the Reformation and the Civil War intact with its colours glowing as brightly as the day they were painted. There are other mediaeval treasures in the Library archives - an Anglo-Saxon charter dating back to 957, a work by Bede and a despatch from the battlefield of Poitiers as well as a number of manuscripts, accounts and obedientiary rolls.

The Reformation and the Civil War


The Morley Room, Winchester Cathedral

The Reformation led to the destruction and loss of many of the library's contents, and it was not until the middle of the 16th century that Bishop Home decreed that the Chapter were to make a Library within a year and "to furnish the same with books towards which should be spent the sum of £20 to be followed by a yearly expenditure of 5 marks". On his death, Bishop Home left all his historical books to the Library and it was around this time that Dr Ralph Hulton bequeathed Leonhart Fuch's Herbal with its meticulous woodcuts, all hand-coloured. (A researcher was studying this book in the Library only last year seeking information on cures for asthma). So gradually the Library was built up again, but less than a century later disaster struck once more - this time in the form of the Civil War.

Winchester inevitably suffered from the ravages of the Civil War and the Cathedral was the victim of at least two attacks by disgruntled, unpaid Parliamentary soldiers. Besides destroying many of the splendid furnishings of the Cathedral, they also ransacked the Library and Muniment Room, destroying countless ancient charters, manuscripts and records. John Chase, Chapter Clerk of the Cathedral in 1642 made valiant efforts to save what he could, and he left behind a horrendous account of manuscripts being burned or discovered floating down the river. He made a list of anything that was left or rescued, and these (about 200 books and 15 manuscripts) were removed to London, and later, sent for safe-keeping to the Winchester College Library. From here they were eventually returned to the Cathedral at the Restoration.

Bishop Morley's Bequest

The Restoration was the time of the Cathedral Library's great benefaction - the Morley bequest. Bishop George Morley was a man of wide learning and erudition and a confirmed bibliophile. In exile during the years of the Commonwealth, he travelled extensively on the Continent and it is assumed that he amassed many of his books then, as there are volumes from Utrecht, Breda, Paris and Brussels among other cities which he visited. After two years as Bishop of Worcester, Morley was translated to Winchester in 1662. When in 1667 he first intimated to the Dean and Chapter that he intended to leave his books to the Cathedral, Morley, concerned at the poor state of the library requested that it should now be restored. The shelves at present in use were installed, clearly cut down to fit the dimensions of the 12th century room, indicating that they must have come from elsewhere, possibly from Farnham Castle where Morley lived. Morley died in 1684 and in June 1685 his gift of 2000 volumes was moved to the Cathedral Library. He also left instructions for the purchase of two globes (an essential part of any library at this period), so the Blaeu globes on show today were duly bought for £23.11s plus £8 for 'porterage'. Finally Morley left provision for a Librarian to be paid the princely sum of £5 per annum.

The Library was to be a "public Library" but not in the sense that we know it today. It was specifically for the use, not only of the Dean and Chapter, but also of the clergy from the diocese who had little access to books. The collection bears witness to Morley's varied interests, for though it contains many sermons and works by Calvin, Luther and other noted theologians, there are also works of great classical philosophers, of Chaucer, King Charles I and an early (1669) edition of Milton's Paradise Lost. Shakespeare does not feature, his work being considered rather dubious in Morley's time, but there is a first edition of the collected works of John Donne. A huge, four-volume atlas, wonderfully illustrated with maps and engravings, is the work of Ogilby who, rather intriguingly, combined the occupations of 'Cosmographer, Geographick Printer and Master of the Revels in the Kingdom of Ireland'.



The draughtsmen employed by Leonard Fuchs, author of Herbal De historia stirpium 1542

18th and 19th Century Additions

After Morley's death, the Library gradually gained more benefactions, and it has also been enlarged over the years by the purchase of books by the Dean and Chapter, including among others, a first edition of Gilbert White's Natural History of Selborne. From early times the Library was used, as it is today for research by scholars, and the Borrower's Book started in 1728 is still in existence if not now in daily use. A new catalogue was produced in the mid-18th century, and the 19th century saw a further increase in the numbers of books and activity in the Library.

Canon Madge and Canon Goodman were two notable Librarians in the early part of the present century. In Canon Madge's time the exciting discovery of the 13th century wall painting was made during repairs: and Canon Goodman an eminent scholar, did much work on the cataloguing of the ancient manorial rolls of the Priory.

Recent Developments

After the second world war, Dr Walter Oakeshott, Headmaster of Winchester College was appointed Librarian to the Cathedral, the first layman ever to hold the post. During his tenure he did an immense amount of research and subsequently published several books on the subject of the Winchester Bible. Dr Oakeshott was also instrumental in the opening up of the Exhibition Room, opposite the Morley Library. Having been used for many different purposes over the years, this room now houses the Bible, all four volumes displayed under glass, with pages turned every few weeks. Further display cases are used for temporary exhibitions connected with the Library - for example last year Letters Patent of Henry VIII establishing the Dean and Chapter, and granting them land were on show here.

Other notable workers in recent years have been Canon Fred Bussby who served either as Canon Archivist or as Librarian from the early 1970's until his death in 1981, and who produced several learned works about the Cathedral, and the Library in particular: and Mrs Barbara Carpenter Turner, Deputy Librarian until 1989, who knows more about the history of Winchester in all its aspects than almost anyone alive today.

The Morley Library now contains about 3000 volumes of which 2000 are from Bishop Morley's collection. These are dated up to 1750. Upstairs in the Triforium there are shelves of books from 1750 to the present day. These are available for purposes of research with permission from the Cathedral Librarian. A long-term project currently under way in the Library is the cataloguing of the Archive - a meticulous and time-consuming job of inestimable value for future researchers and historians.

Maintenance and conservation are an ongoing consideration. The books are regularly inspected for signs of deterioration and rebinding is carried out when necessary. Every Monday, time is spent dusting shelves and books in the Library - an operation which takes about 18 months to complete!

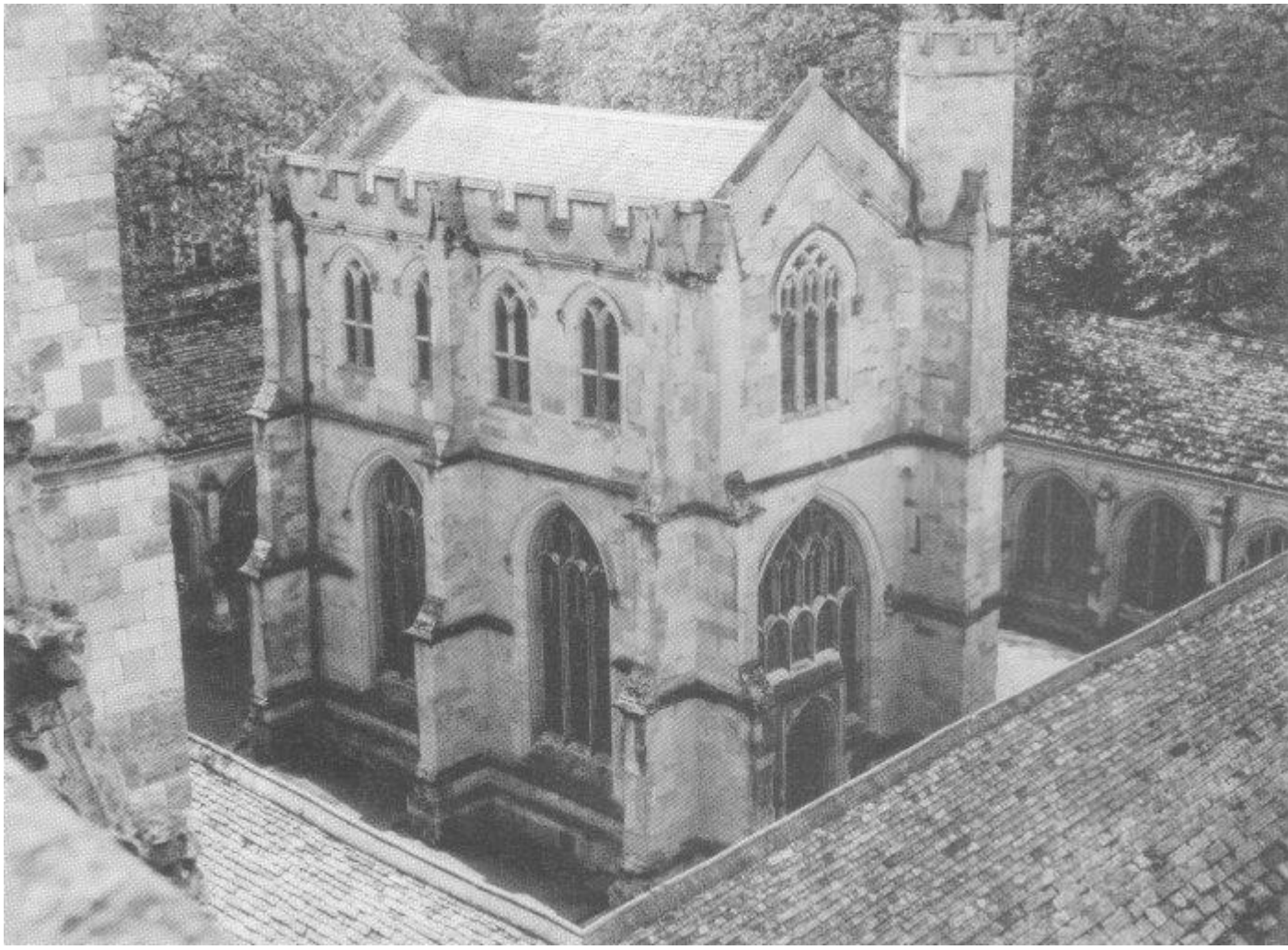
WINCHESTER COLLEGE FELLOWS' LIBRARY

The Fellows' Library of Winchester College has perhaps had a less turbulent history than that of the Cathedral Library, but it is nonetheless of great significance for the vast number of books it has acquired over the centuries starting with three presented

by the Founder in the late 14th century. One of these, perhaps intentionally starting the collection off on a grand scale is Ranulph Higden's Polychronicon, a history of the world illustrated with a map of the known world with Jerusalem at its centre.

In the early days of the College, the use of the Library was restricted to the Warden and Fellows and books were definitely not for the use of pupils, a situation reversed today, when boys are taken on visits to the Library as often as possible.

Changing Locations



Fromond's Chancery and Cloisters.
For many years the Library was situated on the upper floor

For many years the Library was situated on the upper floor of Fromond's Chantry built inside the cloister in the 15th century to commemorate John Fromond, steward of the College Manors. This upper room with windows on all four sides, appears to be the perfect place for quiet study, and indeed it was in use as a library until the end of the 19th century. Nowadays, however, the expansion of the Library has led to its being housed in several different locations throughout the College, ranging from the 19th century austerity of the Warden's Lodgings, down through ancient passages

and courts to the vast mediaeval building which was once the College Brewery. There are books of science and mathematics, other sections devoted to travel and history, and some early books with metal plates and chains still in place indicating that, as in many early libraries (including the Cathedral) the books were chained.

Hidden away in the Strong Room are the College's most precious literary treasures. Here are stored the Founder's books - the Polychronicon mentioned above, and an early 13th century manuscript of the passion and miracles of St Thomas a Becket. Even earlier than this, but acquired in the 15th century, is a late 12th century Medical Commentary from Salerno, and there are a dozen incunables - books printed before 1500. There is a mystery surrounding four madrigal part-books dating from the second half of the 16th century. Richly bound in scarlet leather which indicates that they may have come from Queen Elizabeth's library, nothing is known of their provenance today.

Many Donors, many Subjects

Benefactions came, and hopefully continue to come, from many sources - from Wardens and Fellows, Headmasters and dons, from Old Wykehamists and sometimes from people with little or no connection with the College. Alexander Thistlethwayte, not himself a Wykehamist, bequeathed his collection to the Library; and Nathaniel Atcheson was another 19th century benefactor with no known connection with the College. Among his donations is a copy of the works of Juvenal published in Venice in 1494, illustrating the fact that though the Library contains many ancient books, these were not all acquired at the time of publication.

The College has produced a number of famous literary figures and their works are, of course represented in the Library. The Reverend Peter Hall who died in 1849 left a collection of works by Old Wykehamists including a 1797 edition of Edward Young's Night Thoughts, a best-selling poem of the mid-18th century, with engravings by Blake.

Joseph Warton, Headmaster from 1766 - 93 was an eminent man of letters, friend of Dr Johnson and other notable literary figures of his day. Warton contributed much to the College Library and there is also a copy of his Essay on Pope published in 1772 with marginal notes by Mrs Piozzi, another friend of Dr Johnson.

Bishop Turner left an interesting collection of bibles, and elsewhere in the Library there is a 15th century Lollard bible acquired in the early 17th century, but perhaps the most unusual bible is that presented by an early American visitor, Samuel Sewall. This is John Eliot's Translation of the Bible into the Indian Tongue published in Cambridge, Massachussetts in 1685.

Not all donations come from large or famous collections and some have a very personal aspect - a prize book won in 1795 contains a rather touching letter from the winner of the prize, William Pile Taunton to his father mostly about his journey home which was quite an undertaking in those days. No doubt he would have appreciated a more recent bequest which came from Edward Gaspar Box who died in 1942, having accumulated a fascinating collection of road maps and topography. The Peter

Van der Keere Atlas in this collection however, is anything but recent having been published in 1599.

Though the first books in the Library were mainly theological, over the centuries works on a vastly varied range of subjects have been added, from Jonathan Swift's copy of Herodotus, to Halduyt's Voyages of 1598, Thomas Gray's Ode of the Death of a Favourite Cat, and the original manuscript of Ann Latham's enchantingly illustrated Rare Butterflies published here in Winchester in 1792. So all tastes are catered for, all interests covered.

The Warden and Fellows take an active interest in their Library, and as in the Cathedral Library, maintenance and conservation are of prime importance. A yearly rebinding programme is carried out by Mr T. Wiltshire in the bindery behind Wells' Bookshop.*

There are often requests from outside researchers for permission to study some of the books in the Library but the books are used mostly by the College.

So these two great collections, the Cathedral Library and the Fellows' Library of the College have survived in Winchester since the Middle Ages not untouched by the ravages of historical events, but still more or less intact. Their histories are separate yet parallel, and from time to time they have overlapped - after all, William of Wykeham, Founder of the College was Bishop of Winchester, and in a later century the College housed and protected the Cathedral's books during the Commonwealth Years. Finally, in the present century Winchester College provided a Librarian for the Cathedral in Dr Walter Oakeshott.

The Morley Library is open to the public from Monday to Saturday from April to the end of September, and on one or two days a week during the rest of the year.

From time to time there are exhibitions of books from Winchester College Fellows' Library on display in the College Treasury, a 14th century vaulted room, once the college beer cellar.

**see Newsletter July 1991 for an article on the Winchester Bookshop and Bindery*

Townscape in Trouble - TrustNews Summer 1992

The English Historic Towns Forum was created in 1987, after a conference in Bath, to promote and reconcile prosperity and conservation in historic towns. Nigel Green, Head of Conservation and Design, Winchester City Council, comments on a recent report.

The English Historic Towns Forum, of whom Winchester Preservation Trust are active members, has recently brought out a publication called "Townscape in Trouble" making the case for changes in legislation as if affects conservation areas. This is in response to the fact that despite increase in public concern and awareness on conservation issues, planning regulations are often so ineffective that they allow

the special character of historic towns, villages and streets to be eroded through permitted development rights, which cannot stop the removal of traditional features including doors, windows, alterations to roofing materials, taking out front gardens, and many other examples, which together have a deleterious effect on an area.

The publication makes its case graphically and gives many examples of the consequences of current weak and often ambiguous legislation. The problems identified in the report equally apply to Winchester's conservation areas.

The EHTF are currently lobbying for changes reducing the scope of permitted development rights in conservation areas and have had a number of receptive meetings with Government departments. The Forum are asking for Winchester Preservation Trust's support in this campaign.

Winchester City Council has recently considered this report and has unanimously agreed to write to the Department of the Environment urging changes in legislation. It will also ensure that this topic is given the widest possible debate.

Townscape in Trouble is available from The Huntingdon Centre, The Paragon, Bath BA1 5NA. Price £5.



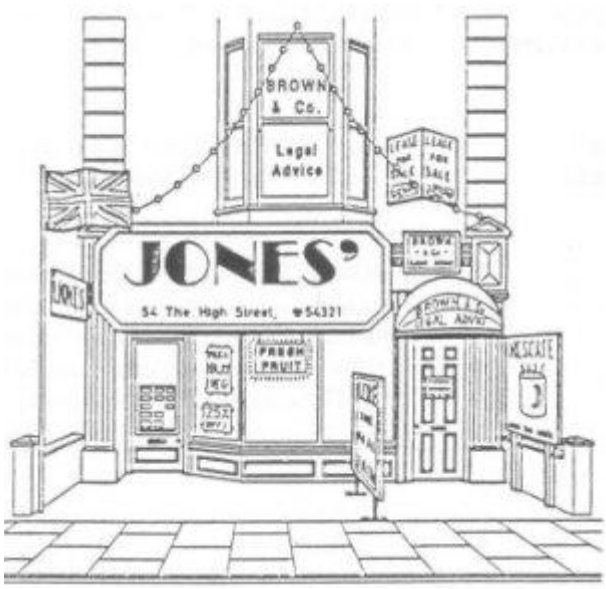


Illustration by Steve Collins from Townscape in Trouble. A typical unlisted shopfront in a conservation area (left), and (right) badly affected by a collection of signs and advertisements which can be installed with the benefit of 'Deemed Consent, ie, without permission.

New Publications by Trust Members - TrustNews Summer 1992

Two publications by Barbara Carpenter Turner. Her famous *History of Winchester* has been updated and republished with improved illustrations and is available at the Heritage Centre, price £13.95, and her new history of *St. John's. Winchester Charity* price £9.95.

Both books are published in July by Phillimore and Co.

The Art and Architecture of Freemasonry and *Classical Architecture - An introduction to its vocabulary and essentials, with a select glossary of terms* are two recently published and well received books by James Stevens Curl, Professor of Architectural History at Leicester Polytechnic and Visiting professor at Peterhouse Cambridge, and a life member of the Trust.

Both books are published by Batsford - price £45 and £35 respectively.

Programme - TrustNews Summer 1992

Saturday 4 July (for about two months)
'Wish you were here'. Exhibition of Edwardian postcards from John Brimfield's

superb collection.
The Heritage Centre

Friday 7 August 6.00 pm.
The President of the Trust, Sir Peter Ramsbotham and Lady Ramsbotham again generously invite members to visit their garden at East Lane, Ovington, and take a glass of wine.
(Directions: take A31 towards Alresford. Leave roundabout at the end of the dual carriageway as though going to Alresford, but turn left almost immediately towards Ovington. East Lane is the first house on the left after about 300 yards).

Summer Walks: (One to one and a half hours)

Tuesday 18th August 6.30 pm.
'Evening Perambulation' with Andrew Rutter
Meet at the Heritage Centre

Tuesday 8th September 6.30 pm.
Transatlantic Winchester' with Chris Webb
Meet at the Heritage Centre

Tuesday 22nd September 6.30 pm.
'St Cross' with Michael Carden
Meet in outer courtyard, St Cross

Saturday 3rd October 2.30 pm.
Fine Arts Auction Sale at the Heritage Centre.
Viewing from 10.30 am on morning of sale.

Monday 26th October 7.30pm.
AGM at The Guildhall, King Charles Suite
The guest speaker will be will be Mr Edmund Booth BA, Dip UD, MRTPI of English Heritage, who is responsible for Historic Areas in the South West of England. The talk will be on "The Role of English Heritage in Conservation Areas" and will be illustrated by slides.
Wine will be available after the meeting.