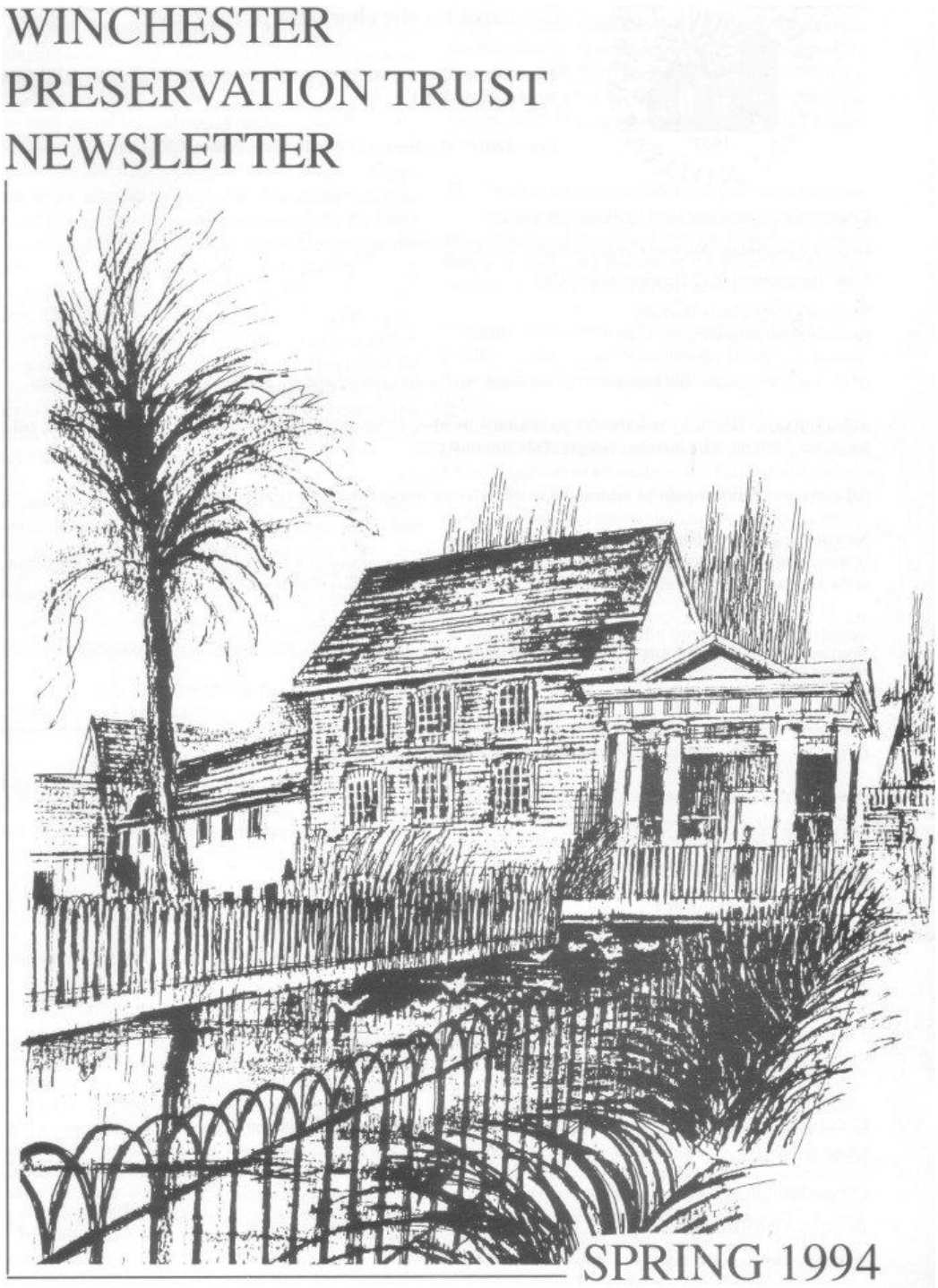
Title Picture - TrustNews Spring 1994



Drawing of Abbey Mill by Nick McPherson

Message from the Chairman - TrustNews Spring 1994

As we look forward to Winchester in 1994, the scene is inevitably set by what happened in the closing stages of last year.

The well-supported 36th AGM of the Trust was held in the Guildhall in early November during which I gave a brief review of what we had achieved during the past year, and our hopes for this year. The AGM was concluded by an interesting and instructive talk by the Chief Executive of the City Council, David Cowan, on the latest state of play on a pitch with ever-changing goalposts concerned with the Local Government Review. David Cowan also gave the City Council's preferred solution which involved the dissolution of the Hampshire County Council, and the transfer of its Winchester tasks to a unitary authority area responsible direct to the Government, stretching East-West along the centre of downland Hampshire, with its seat of Local Government in Winchester.

Drafting the Trust's submission to the Local Government Commission has not been easy, but its scope has been limited to safeguarding those services which directly concern the Trust. These are the welfare and prosperity of our City, development control, roads, street design including signing and lighting, traffic management and the environment of the City and its approaches.

The Commission has been told to have its recommendations submitted to the Government by the end of August 1994, but your guess is as good as anybody's as to when the Government will make its own decision. There are distinct signs that the whole exercise may have been a waste of time and money, as the Government seems to be moving towards the precept of "don't bore me with the facts - my mind is made up!"

The issue of the future of Peninsula Barracks moves slowly forward. Following the giving of planning permission in September 1993 to the scheme for the Lower Barracks that has been under the microscope of the City Council and the Trust for five years, the competition for alternative schemes is now open. Bids have to be with the MOD (the site owners) by the end of March 1994.

The Trust has contributed financially towards the work to prove the feasibility of the low-density "Conservation Scheme". This covers both the Upper and Lower Barracks, including the use of the listed buildings in the Upper Barracks for student accommodation.

The Trust remains strongly opposed to non-residential public car parking anywhere on the Barracks site, ex¬cept that directly concerned with the museums.

The Trust was represented at the Public Inquiry in September and December opposing the granting of planning permission to Tesco for a supermarket at Bar End. This long-running saga has been further delayed by the adjournment of the Public Inquiry until May 1994, in spite of the granting of planning permission by the City Council to the development of an un-named supermarket at Winnall.

Although the Trust does not oppose a supermarket at Winnall, it still considers that the needs of the greatest number of Winchester residents will be best served by a Waitrose supermarket in the Andover Road cattle market site, provided that acceptable solutions can be found to the traffic and carparking issues.

Finally, we welcome to the Council of the Trust, Antony Feltham-King, an architect working for the Cathedral architect in Salisbury and living in Winchester.

Antony Skinner

Development Control - TrustNews Spring 1994



The Woolwich has a restrained shop front that respects the character of the street

It is a sad fact that changes in planning legislation over the past decade or so have reduced the control a local authority has over activities in the Conservation Areas in its district. For instance, how many members are aware that the planners have no control of the lettering and colouring of a fascia above a shop in the centre of Winchester unless it is part of a Listed Building, although they still have a say if the actual shopfront is altered? The commercial organisations are well aware of this lack of legal control, as is clear from the arrogant tone of some of the letters accompanying the planning applications.

This lack of control is especially apparent in the High Street, at present under siege from an onslaught of building society logos, many of which are not really appropriate for an historic town. That most of the societies can use sensitively designed fascias and signs when their establishment is in a Listed Building is beyond doubt; sadly it is

also beyond doubt that most of them are not prepared to forego their corporate image (usually rather obtrusive in both design and colour) to preserve the character of a Conservation Area. A welcome exception to this generalisation is the **Woolwich** at **132 High Street**, which has a simple and restrained shopfront and fascia that respect the character of the street. The same cannot be said of the **Abbey National** at **118-121 High Street**, although this shopfront is less obtrusive than the one proposed in the original application. We are still waiting with trepidation to see what the **Nationwide** at **127 High Street** will look like: the application indicated that there would be vast areas of their standard colour, which is a rather vivid blue, and their letter virtually said that there was nothing the planners could do to make them change this. The **Halifax** is moving into **129 High Street** and the proposed sign and fascia shown in their application also leaves much to be desired.



The Abbey National - with its obtrusive logo

Permission has recently been given for a number of housing schemes, the largest being those at the lower **Peninsula Barracks** and **West Downs School**. Other developments either under construction or given the go-ahead are in **Upper Brook Street, Airlie Road** and adjoining **King's School, Romsey Road**. In the pipeline is the third phase of the development in **Staple Gardens, at nos 30-32**. This scheme involves the refurbishment of nos 30 and 32, and the demolition and replacement of no 31, with a new block being built between the warehouse at the rear of Habels and no 30 Staple Gardens. The Trust found the infill building proposed for no 31 very unsatisfactory, for not only did the Staple Gardens elevation have little relationship with the buildings that adjoined it, but the scheme also involved extending the roof of no 30 over no 31, much to the detriment of the former's appearance.

Changes are also afoot at the **Royal Hampshire County Hospital**. The proposed multi-storey car park on the main parking area to the east of the hospital had clearly been designed to minimise the impact a structure of this size would have and, with the caveat of a few design details, the Trust welcomed the care and thought that was evident in this application.

Sadly, the same could not be said of a later application relating to the **Butterfield Block** of the hospital, perhaps due to the insane type of budgeting imposed by fund providers, that works must be completed within the current financial year. This application listed the long overdue repairs to be carried out on the building, which were welcomed by the Trust. However, included in the same application were alterations that could be seriously detrimental to the integrity of a Grade II Listed

Building: to replace the existing windows with UPVC supposedly look-alike windows, and to put a floor into the Chapel to provide office space. This block was designed by William Butterfield, an architect of international importance; it is his only design for a public hospital and was built in contrast to the pavilion plan that was prevalent in the 1860s. His pioneering plan won the special praise of Florence Nightingale and had an influence on the design of subsequent hospitals, and the building is therefore of architectural interest and importance as well as being an integral part of the Winchester skyline, especially when seen from St Catherine's Hill. The Trust considered that the proposal to replace the original windows (which have been in situ for the past 130 years) with plastic windows with a lifespan of only 25 years would be both visually and economically undesirable, and objected strongly to this proposal. We understand that the interest and concern expressed by us and the other statutory bodies that were consulted, the Victorian Society and the Ancient Monuments Society, has resulted in a suggested compromise treatment of the windows. This would retain the frames while the sash windows would be remade in timber, incorporating double glass and draught-exclusion stripping, to match the existing glazing design. They would however function differently, with one sash being fixed and the other pivoting inward with a winding gear for ease of operation. The Trust was also very concerned that the girders supporting the inserted floor in the Chapel would irreparably damage the fabric of the Listed Building.



The Barter Memorial Chapel in the Butterfield Block of the County Hospital, built in 1868 and closed down in 1968 because of its close proximity to the then main operating theatre and the need to restrict access. Having been used for storage, there are now plans for its refurbishment - for secular purposes.

(photograph by courtesy of The Royal Hampshire County Archives)

These proposals show all the signs of a rushed job, and the Trust deplores both the inclusion of major and far-reaching alterations in a scheme dependent upon funds that must be used within such a limited period and the consequent rushed decision this condition brings. This is one of Winchester's landmarks and a building of historic importance, and the Trust considers that it deserves a more considered approach and a long-term policy of incremental restoration, rather than the further ad hoc degradation of an already much-abused building that could be the result of hastily-made decisions.

Shione Carden

Landscape - TrustNews Spring 1994

The second half of the year began as it was to end with the first hint of the likely loss of a tree which had formed a landmark in Winchester for longer than anyone can remember. At the end of June the magnificent **Copper Beech in Eastgate Street** opposite Friarsgate was reported as diseased and an application made to fell it. The City Council called in experts from Alice Holt Forestry Laboratory to examine and report on the tree hoping that execution might be stayed, but to no avail: the tree was felled at the end of September.



The Chestnut tree in Tower Street - subjected to drastic surgery - its survival is in doubt

At the end of November an application was made to fell the very large **Chestnut tree** in the corner of the car park of the flats built a few years ago at the north end of **Tower Street**. The top of this tree was subjected to rather drastic surgery two years ago which spoilt its appearance to some extent but it retained a commanding presence on an elevated site which gave it added prominence. As this is being written the advice of experts is being considered, but the tree's survival is in extreme doubt.

In the autumn concern also began to be expressed about the great **Plane** trees in the garden of the Warden's Lodging at **Winchester College**. The loss of historic trees which add so much to the beauty of the city is almost too painful to

contemplate but the fact has to be faced that the majority of the city's stock of fine trees are much advanced in years and face a limited future.

During the last six months, the committee has regularly objected to the felling or excessive pruning of a number of trees, among them the very large **Pine** in front of **Cornerways** in Abbey Hill Road, and very recently the **Laurel** at the foot of **Castle Hill** beside the Westgate, which, since it was planted in 1976 has grown with commendable vigour. Quite a few of these objections have led to permission being refused, the most significant case being the abandonment by the City of its own proposal, to cut down all the Sycamores on the south bank of the **Itchen Navigation** between Gamier Road and Hockley.



Trees planted where these cars are parked could help fill a gap left by the Copper Beech tree felled opposite in Eastgate Street

August saw the headlines captured by the publication of Huw Thomas's and SAVE'S proposals for an alternative redevelopment scheme for both the Upper and Lower Peninsula Barrack sites. In as much as this retained and enhanced all the existing landscape features of the site as well as all the present buildings, it was welcomed by the Committee, but shortly afterwards the City Council found itself obliged to give planning permission to a modification of the earlier proposals already commented on.

The Committee, while understanding growing anxieties about security and privacy, (the two are often linked) was particularly dismayed at the way in which first a thoroughly unsightly chain-link fence on concrete posts capped with barbed wire running for more than a hundred yards, was put up on the corner of **Romsey Road** and **Chilbolton Avenue**, and then a close boarded fence was erected on the boundary at **Weeke Cottage** in the Stockbridge Road creating a completely sterile back drop to **Weeke Pond**. No notification of the fence was published although the City was consulted and agreed to it, and although the planning application for the second was objected to, the work was eventually allowed after negotiation. In the Committee's opinion, at Weeke a brick or flint wall or combination of fence and hedge would have been altogether more appropriate.

Objections were made to a scheme of extreme crudity to provide more car parking at the hospital in front of the **Butterfield Block** by demolishing the old X-ray

Departments on the Romsey Road frontage, and tarmacing the whole area, with one or two shrubs to provide token relief. The scheme was withdrawn: now that the hospital's car parking problems are being solved elsewhere, the Committee hopes that some attempt will be made in the near future to properly landscape the approach to the hospital, perhaps along the line of Butterfield's original scheme of which good photographs exist.

In August English Heritage published a leaflet entitled "*Street Improvement in Historic Areas*". The Committee commends it to the Trust. In paragraph after paragraph it echoes the concern the Trust has been expressing for the last three years about the recent treatment of Winchester's floorscape of roads and pavements.

The Committee was much more favourably disposed towards the application in November for a supermarket at Winnall than it had been towards the Tesco application at Bar End. It still hopes that the suggestions it put forward for alternative Park and Ride arrangements at Bar End will be adopted and the opportunity will be grasped to develop a major tract of new landscape between the completed M3 and the City, embracing the playing field and water meadow areas, the Itchen Navigation, St Catherine's Hill and the site of the former by-pass to create a wonderful new public amenity. The outcome of the Tesco Public Inquiry will determine the fate of this exciting possibility.

M M

The Chippindale Venture and Chippindale Workshop - TrustNews Spring 1994

In many ways the Chippindale Venture has been very successful over the last five years. The Venture has been praised by many people in the education world as a vehicle that is not only providing students with an insight into how our urban environment evolves but also by developing their confidence together with an ability to communicate ideas to a wide variety of people that they would never normally come into contact with.

The Venture has in some cases produced startling and imaginative ideas, surprising even the teachers. The projects have been made even more rewarding for the professional team leaders, by their being involved with children who become totally motivated by the projects, sometimes developing abilities that were dormant and of which the teachers were unaware.

The main problem with the Chippindale Venture is the small number of children that we are able to cater for - over the last five years only 200 children, drawn from primary, junior and senior schools as well as a preparatory school in the private sector, have been involved with the Chippindale Ventures.

To overcome this the Urban Studies Committee has evolved the Chippindale Workshop which takes place within one concentrated day but follows the same format as the Ventures.

On November 9th 1993, a whole year group of 190 children, aged 14-15, from Westgate School in Winchester took part in the first Workshop. Working in groups of 5 with 20 architects and landscape architects, the children produced a range of alternative uses for their 'redundant' school buildings and grounds. During the day, planners were available for consultations and the schemes were presented to a panel which included Pat Edwards (WCC Planning Committee Chairman) and Bill Lucas (Director of Learning Through Landscapes). Journalists from The Times Education Supplement and guests from education and industry were able to observe the day's work and note that the overwhelming majority of schemes called for more leisure facilities for Winchester.

The Urban Studies Committee recognise the merits of both Chippindale Venture and Workshop and will continue to run the two projects. However to succeed we do need support for this rewarding work, so if anybody feels able to contribute we would welcome their help. (Contact The Chairman at the Heritage Centre or Dot Browning/Keith Leaman on 0962 842200).

Apart from the Workshop, we have also been attempting to evaluate the five years of the Chippindale Venture. We are compiling the experience gained on the five projects undertaken so far and the draft document is now in the editing process. The intention is to provide for teachers a package of schemes, indicating the benefit and rewards of running such projects and to interest other organisations in evolving their own schemes.

Keith Leaman

Heritage Centre - TrustNews Spring 1994

The "Cathedral Characters" exhibition, which was the Heritage Centre's principal and popular contribution to the "Winchester 900" celebrations, closed at the end of September 1993. The exhibition photographs have been donated by the Heritage Centre to the cathedral records. We were delighted to be approached by the Winchester branch of the Royal Air Force Association who wished to commemorate not only 75 years of the RAF, but also the Association's 50th anniversary of helping retired airmen and women.

The exhibition was opened by the Mayor in October, and distinguished visitors included Donald Heald, who took part in the famous Dambusters raid, and Air Marshal Sir John Whitley. Sir John was involved in a fatal crash at Worthy Down before the war which was illustrated in the display. It is sobering to think that in pre-war days there were over 1400 personnel at Worthy Down, which was a major bomber station.

Hopefully, we can persuade Gordon Goodier, who masterminded the exhibition, to re-run a version of "Winchester Wings" during two weekends in Spring 1994. This whole project was an excellent example of a local organisation making use of the Heritage Centre to show its contribution to the life of Winchester.

In November and December 1993. a series of fund-raising events was held. This included a successful sale of books organised by John and Eunice Balchin. an exhibition of 19th century lace organised by Rosemary Kinnaird-Smith using her skills derived from her professional capacity as Textile Conservator to the County Museum Service, and a plant sale organised by Joy Williams.

The usual half-term quiz for students, to test their knowledge of the City and to make them aware of the Trust and the Heritage Centre, was organised by Tony Hunter and sponsored by McDonalds. This proved to be more popular than ever.

The sale of Trust Christmas cards went well, and we are grateful to Jeffrey Smith for selecting the Trust's card and to Colin West-Watson for organising the sale of the cards in the Guildhall.

Tasks in 1994 for the Heritage Centre Management Committee include the completion of the "Winchester Today" room of the permanent exhibition, and setting up a resources area for publications to support the Trust leaflet"Keep your house in good order...."

On 1st April 1994 the 50th anniversary of D-Day will be marked in the Heritage Centre by the opening of an exhibition on "Winchester at War - The Home Front". Publicity for this event, mounted by Geraldine Buchanan, has already elicited enquiries from the United States!

Negotiations are in progress to put on a transport exhibition in Autumn 1994 to celebrate the ships, locomotives and aircraft that carry the name "Winchester".

Sadly, Jeffrey Smith, one of the small group who, with the late Frank Chippindale, originally conceived the idea of a Preservation Trust-sponsored urban studies or heritage centre, and was responsible for the listing of the building and subsequent negotiations with the City Council, has decided to step down from the Heritage Centre Management Committee. We are most grateful to him for his work, and delighted that he has accepted Honorary Membership of the Committee.

Chris Webb

Projects Group - TrustNews Spring 1994

The Old Testament prophet Zechariah said, 'Do not despise the day of small things ' The Twentieth Century architect, Mies van der Rohe affirmed that 'God is in the details.....' It is the small details of buildings, walls, boundaries and streetscape that build up together to give Winchester its unique character. The Trust is keen to help preserve interesting existing details, such as railways, porches, and walls, but also looks for new ways to brighten up an uncared for corner with a suitable piece of sculpture, or the planting of a tree. The Projects Group exists to identify areas that need attention. We can then offer help to building owners and users, by putting them in contact with the appropriate craftsman or tradesman. We can also offer limited financial assistance where this is considered appropriate. The group welcomes any

ideas for projects, from whatever source. Suggestions can be dropped in at the Heritage Centre, or alter¬natively, given by telephone to Antony Feltham-King on Winchester 852444.

Antony Feltham-King

The Waterways of Winchester - TrustNews Spring 1994

By **Elizabeth Proudman** who is a Winchester City Guide, a local historian and longstanding member of the Trust.
Map and drawings by Kate Proudman.

Hampshire has some of the loveliest countryside in England. The downs are called 'open spaces' for recreation in the 1990s, and the rivers 'high quality amenities', and their natural beauty delights us in our leisure activities. We walk or fish for trout, watch birds or canoe, and admire the scenery under the ever-changing sky. It is easy to understand how Keats was inspired to write poetry here as he walked from Winchester to St Cross. "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" he wrote in Winchester in 1819, and he said that the good air was worth 6d a pint.

The clear, fast-flowing streams of the chalk have shaped our landscape. As times have changed, so has our use of the rivers. Three thousand years ago people may have watched amazed from Hengistbury Head as the stones for Stonehenge were floated up the Avon. The Earl of Southampton who once entertained Shakespeare at Titchfield on the Meon, would be surprised to see the Sunday evening traffic jams on the River Hamble in the late twentieth century as the weekend sailors come home. The Saxon nuns might not recognise their Broad Lands on the Test either. But whether it is the great families who built houses for pleasure like the Brydges at Avington on the Itchen, the Cistercian monks who sought tranquility on the Beaulieu river, the Portals making paper at Laverstoke on the Test, or the Saxon Kings with their palace in Winchester, they all settled where they did because of the water.

Winchester sits in a valley, to the west of the River Itchen. When the Isle of Wight was still part of the mainland, the Itchen was merely a tributary of the larger River Test, which flowed into the River Solent. But for thousands of years now the Itchen has been a river in its own right. It is tidal up to Woodmill, and the National Rivers Authority is "guardian of the water environment" and responsible for all its aspects. Southern Water abstracts 10 million gallons a day from the river at Otterbourne, and the same again at Gaters Mill, near the M27 crossing, as drinking water for the 250,000 people who live in its catchment area. The water quality for the whole length of the river is described as 'good', Class 1A above Eastleigh, and Class 1B below, even though Eastleigh Sewage works pumps out 6.6 million gallons a day into the river!

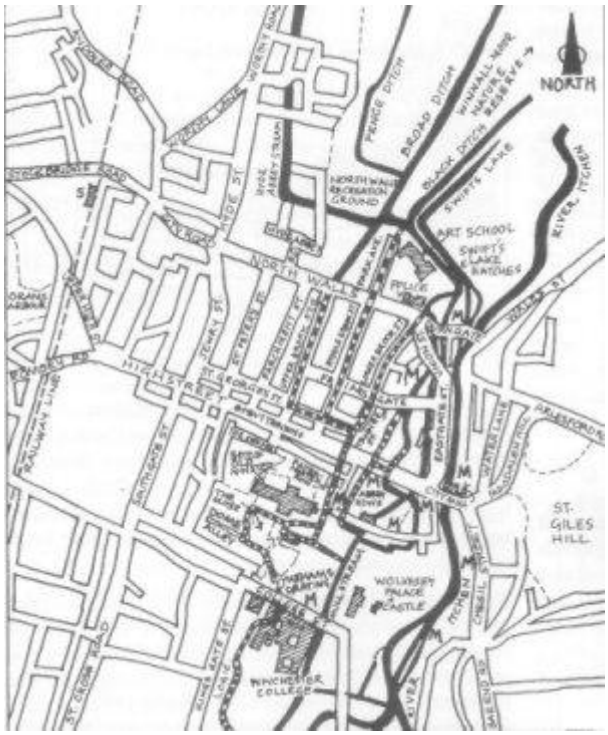
The River Itchen

The Itchen has three main tributaries: the Arle, the Cheriton Stream and the Candover Stream which join west of Alresford and flow on through Winchester and

down to Woolston. The springs come from the chalk aquifer and the water is always clear and clean, always fast flowing, and the temperature is constant - about 50 F - excellent for trout and watercress, but too cold for modern-day swimmers. For most of its length the river consists of several different streams meandering through the valley, a result of man's use of the water through the ages. Drinking water and drainage were important, of course, but the water also was used as a power supply for local industry, for mills, for transport, and later for water meadows. A fourth small stream joins the Itchen near Headbourne Worthy Church, and was the water supply for Hyde Abbey and for Hyde Mill.

Just west of St Giles' Hill there is a gravel spur across the marsh of the valley, and here a prehistoric trackway forded the river. There are remains of iron age enclosure north of the High Street from Orams Arbour down as far as St Peter Street, but it seems likely that the area of the present city of Winchester from Parchment Street down to the river was an uninhabitable marsh in prehistoric times. When the Romans came in 43 AD they used the same ford, fortified it and founded Venta Belgarum. Little detail is known of how they drained the valley, although wooden Roman land drains were found in the Brooks excavation in the summer of 1988, and then a Roman watergate was discovered near Durngate in the winter of 1988-89. Venta Belgarum was the fifth city in Roman Britannia, and must have had a bath complex somewhere. It would be good to think that the archaeologists might discover it one day, but perhaps it is under the Cathedral! Traces do remain of what could be a gravity-fed aqueduct bringing drinking water from Easton Down.

King Alfred



Map showing Winchester's Waterways

It is with the Anglo-Saxon kings of Wessex that we know anything for certain. Alfred became king in 871. Winchester was the largest of his fortified towns, the burghs,

listed in the Burghal Hidage. He reconstructed the Roman town wall which by then was in a ruined state. The 1988 excavations at Durngate showed the Anglo-Saxon masonry built on top of the remains of the Roman wall. It enclosed a town of 143.8 acres, and Alfred made Winchester his capital. The High Street is today slightly (16m) to the north of the Roman line, and maybe this is because the Roman Bridge fell and the river crossing was moved slightly upstream to avoid the turbulence caused. The new site of the City Bridge is credited to St Swithun (in the year 859). By Alfred's time the street plan of the city was much as we know it today. The Anglo-Saxons were not people who lived by choice in towns, but militiamen were needed to defend the town walls. It is said that it was to encourage the people to live in the city that Alfred had streams brought inside the city walls, to improve the amenities for the inhabitants. The story of these water courses is the story of Winchester. They still run - usually underground today - as they have for over 1,000 years. They have given their name, the Brooks, to the new shopping centre.

From time immemorial the river has been divided into two streams under Easton Down, near Easton church, almost certainly by the hand of man. The river itself runs to the east of the Winnall Moors nature reserve, and then close under St Giles' Hill. To the west, in the North Walls' recreation ground, is the diversion tradition attributes to King Alfred, flowing in several strands. Beside the bowling green is the Black Ditch, and parallel to it is Swift's Lake. These two flow together behind the Art School to a sluice called Swift's Lake Hatches. It was from this point that Alfred's stream was controlled and one branch flowed into the walled city across the modern street called North Walls between Durngate car park and the police station and continued along Lower Brook Street and Tanner Street. The other branch provides the moat to the Art School library today and then flows under Middle Brook Street. It was necessary to have a stream of water on slightly higher ground for water to run along Upper Brook Street, and the two drainage ditches across the middle of the recreation ground, Broad Ditch and Fence Ditch, provided a sufficient head of water for that.

There is considerable evidence that these streams date back to the ninth century. Documents survive describing the property of Alfred's widow, Ealhswith, and early in the tenth century charters show that mill feats were important assets of the New Minster and the Nunnaminster. The Black Ditch is mentioned as a boundary on an estate map of 961. These brooks, built at the time of Alfred at the end of the 9th century were still open streams at the middle of the 19th. A painting of Middle Brook Street in 1813 by Samuel Prout shows a somewhat idealised view of the "Joyous Streams" as they were called in earlier days. These streams - the Brooks - joined in St George's Street and flowed together across the High Street beside Cross Keys Passage. Until recently you could look down gratings on either side of the street and see Alfred's Brooks still running. Sadly. with the paving of the lower part of the High Street. these gratings have been covered over. But the stream is still there. One thing that has gone, I am glad to say, is the large public lavatory called the Maiden Chamber which stood on St George's Street near the present Marks & Spencers in the period from 1362-1600. In 1362 a man called John of Byketoun removed two apertures to enlarge his garden, and a few years later a monk was charged at the City Court for having taken away a seat 'to the damage of those living near'!

Upper Brook Street in medieval times was known as Sildwortenestret which meant Shieldmakers Street. (Perhaps the Heritage Centre should change its address!) By

the fourteenth century the stream which ran along it was called Kingesbroke. This name probably means that it provided water to the Norman royal palace which stood near the Buttercross, and its Anglo-Saxon predecessor to the south.

Alfred's Brook runs under the High Street to the Forte Crest Hotel car park. This was the monastery area. Soon after Alfred's reign there were three minsters in Winchester: the Nunnaminster, the Old Minster (the Cathedral Priory of St Swithun) and the New Minster. Alfred's Brook was used by the Cathedral priory and the New Minster. You can clearly hear it flowing if you stand on the manhole cover outside the hotel. Here was a junction and the water was taken into the grounds of the New Minster to the west and the Cathedral priory to the south. The New Minster branch was blocked when the abbey moved to Hyde in 1110, but Aethelwold's Conduit, or the Lockburn as it is sometimes called, still runs.

Aethelwold's Conduits

St Aethelwold was bishop of Winchester from 962-984 in the reign of King Edgar, (and the man responsible for moving St Swithun's remains and causing the forty days of rain). He introduced the Benedictines to Winchester, monks who followed the Roman example of cleanliness and order. He rebuilt the cathedral, and the monastic buildings. On the anniversary of his death (1st August) prayers are said for St Aethelwold in the Cathedral. He is described as:

> "Rebuilder of the second minster, maker of conduits, lover of music"

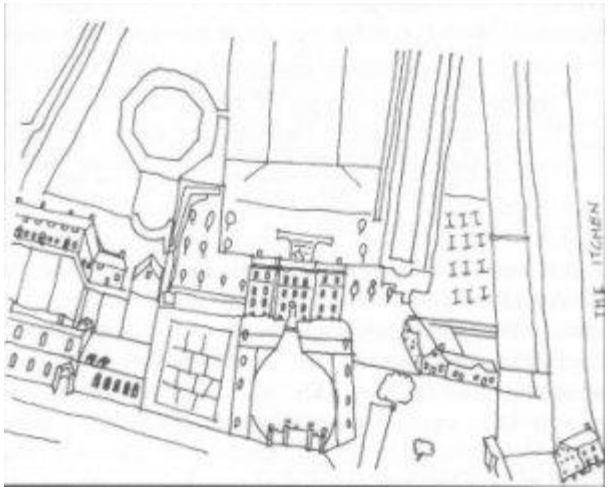
It is important to have good drains before you can appreciate the music! Wolfstan the Cantor, a monk who knew him wrote:

> "He brought here sweet streams of fishful water, and an overflow of the stream passed through the inner part of the monastic buildings, cleansing the whole monastery with its murmur" and "He built all these dwelling places with strong walls. He covered them with roofs and clothed them with beauty"

Aethelwold's conduit still exists. The water flows under Paternoster Row, past the east end of the Cathedral to the sluice in the path beside Paradise, and the site of the Chapter House. There it divides, and one branch goes off across the Close where the cloisters were. The other went through what is now the Dean's garden where the monks' lavatorium was and flows in a rectangle under the necessarium. This was excavated in 1859 and was found to be a 46-holer. I am not sure why it was so large because there were never more than 60 monks! From there it ran into the mill stream which divides the dean's garden from the bishop's. This is the same stream which flows across the Abbey Gardens. The other branch flowed behind the houses on the other side of the Close, past No 11, the Pastoral Centre and Church House, to Dome Alley. Its presence there seems to indicate that this might have been the site of the monks' infirmary. Until 1884 it ran past the judge's lodging. But the fall of the land was not great enough to make this stream flow properly, and it became a series of stinking cesspits. The judges' health demanded that it should be diverted across in front of what is now the Pilgrims' School instead. Many people probably remember the Lockburn, as it was called, which flowed across the entrance to the school yard until it was covered over in 1977. From there it crosses over to

College Street to provide a nice "sweet stream" round the domestic buildings of Winchester College, but the word `Lockburn' means dirty water, and the grating here has great significance for Winchester.

William of Wykeham



The Water Gardens of Henry Penton's House near the Eastgate,
after William Godson 1748



Middle Brook Street in 1813, after Samuel Prout

When William of Wykeham planned his new college he needed land and he wanted to build it just outside the priory grounds on a field called Dummersmead. This was a recreation area used by the monks, however, and they were not happy to lose it, especially when Wykeham demanded that the monastery provide a grill over the stream where it entered his college grounds from the monastery (and before that the town, of course) and that a man be employed to catch

> "the offending dung, carcasses and putrid entrails"

that became trapped there. There was bound to be trouble. I have never heard that there was any difficulty in finding someone who was prepared to do this unattractive job, simply that the monastery did not want to pay his wages! Anyway a court case ensued which was not resolved until 1394, by which time Wykeham had been bishop for 30 years. In that time no work had been done on the nave of the Cathedral which Wykeham's predecessor, William of Edington, had begun to modernise in the 1350s.

If Wykeham had not had this trouble over the grill he might have had time to finish his project and alter the Norman transepts of the Cathedral as well as the nave. How lucky he didn't!

In spite of the grating across the stream it never ceased to trouble the College. A wall was built across Outer Court in the sixteenth century to protect the Warden and Fellows from the noisome ditch. It is the same watercourse, called 'Logie' by the College, and the polluted water from the town continued to cause problems until main drains were built for the city in the nineteenth century.

By the fourteenth century it is known that the cathedral priory and Wolvesey Castle had stone conduits with lead pipes bringing fresh water for drinking from Easton, and a town pump was erected near the Butter Cross to impress Queen Elizabeth I when she visited Winchester in 1591 (for which work Francis Porke was paid eleven shillings). It is still in place in a photograph of 1850. But most private houses in Winchester in the middle ages got their water from wells or the open water courses and this went on until the 19th century. From the fifteenth century records exist of ordinances issued by the Burgh-mote which were designed to keep the streams clean: 'if any man cast any donge, straw, dede hogge, dogge or catte or any other fylthye into the water wherby the water mought be stoppid' he should be fined twelve pence' for example. But abuses were constant.

The first detailed map of Winchester was made by William Godson in 1750. He shows the mill stream leading to Abbey Mill running down the centre of the lower High Street, before it was widened to become the Broadway' at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Slightly to the west in the High Street between Middle Brook Street and Lower Brook Street there is another stretch of open water, unconnected to this mill stream. This is Merwenhay, and records go back to the twelfth century when it was dug to relieve the problems of flooding in the lower part of the town. There are the beautiful water gardens of Mr Penton's house shown too which stood in the Friarsgate area before Eastgate Street was built in the 1840s.

Gradually many of these old watercourses were covered over, and with the coming of the railway in 1839 and the waterworks at the top of St James Lane, there was clean piped water available - for those who could pay. But Alfred's Brooks and Aethelwold's conduits were the only drains Winchester had until 1875. That is another story.

Elizabeth Proudman will continue this story in the Summer Newsletter, and on Thursday 24 March, she will give a slide lecture on The Waterways of Winchester at The Milner Hall, St Peter's Street, to which members and guests are invited.

Elizabeth Proudman

Conservation Area - TrustNews Spring 1994

The Trust responds to a Government Consultation Paper

In this recent Consultation Paper the Government reiterated its aim that Conservation Areas "should provide local communities with the means to protect and enhance the character and appearance of cherished areas".

Winchester has one, quite large, Conservation Area covering the City centre; the area round the College, the streets leading south to St Cross and Hyde. Listed buildings are well protected, whether or not they are in Conservation Areas.

Unlisted buildings in Conservation Areas are protected to the extent that demolition, most extensions and major alterations to the external appearance of the properties are subject to planning approval. But within the current regulations quite substantial changes may be made to unlisted domestic dwellings within Conservation Areas without permission. The cumulative effect of such changes, if they are not undertaken with sensitivity, can be very damaging to the appearance, not only of the individual house but to the area as a whole. This is particularly the case with terraced houses or houses planned and built as a group. For instance when older houses lose their original windows and doors and the replacements are not in keeping; when pleasant brick or flint walls disappear behind paint or pebbledash, and when slate or clay tiles give way to concrete tiles, the character is eroded. We have seen this happening in our own Conservation Area.



Copies of the leaflet 'Keep Your House in good order..' can be obtained from the Heritage Centre, the City Planning Officer, Avalon House, Chesil Street, or at the County's Information Centre, Mottisfont Court, High Street, Winchester

The Trust therefore welcomed an opportunity presented last summer by the issue of the Government Consultation paper to reflect its concerns to the Department of the Environment and to English Heritage. In company with national bodies like the English Historic Towns Forum and the Association of District Councils, the Trust urged that significant changes to unlisted buildings within a Conservation Area should no longer be "permitted development"; in other words they should be subject to planning approval.

The Trust's response made this telling point, which stemmed from our recent discussions with local estate agents:

> "the preservation of original features in older homes is a strong selling point. Much inappropriate alteration is undertaken by householders who are unaware that this is the case, and that they are damaging the environment of their neighbourhood".

The Trust comments continued:

> "if alterations of this nature were to be no longer "permitted development" the requirement to seek permission would provide an opportunity for advice and guidance to be given, to the advantage of the householder and the overall wellbeing of the City".

It remains to be seen what effect representations from na¬tional bodies and local societies such as our own may have. Unfortunately the prospects are not very promising, for, within the Consultation Paper itself, the Government made clear its distaste for any significant increase in development control or additional powers for Councils in connection with Con¬servation Areas.

In the present absence of effective planning control, the Trust has put time and money into persuasion, the main thrust of which has been a leaflet, as most members will know, which has been widely distributed to houses in our Conservation Area.

Some half dozen of the City's leading estate agents have readily agreed to stock the leaflet and make it available to would be buyers and, since it is felt that the "danger" period for many houses is when they change hands, several of the City's conveyancing solicitors have also agreed to hold copies for interested clients.

M D

Keep Your House In Good Order - TrustNews Spring 1994

Copies of the leaflet 'Keep your house in good order....' can be obtained from the Heritage Centre, the City Planning Officer, Avalon House, Chesil Street, or at the County's Information Centre, Mottisfont Court, High Street, Winchester.

New Members - TrustNews Spring 1994

The Trust's "Application for Membership" form has recently been updated with current information on our activities and copies are enclosed with this newsletter. During 1994 we aim to exceed the 1,000 members' target. The best kind of advertisement to a potential new member is the personal recommendation of an existing one. So please, if you can, see that you pass the leaflet on to a friend, colleague or neighbour who might be interested. If you'd like further forms, please contact the Trust office (851664).

Computer for sale - TrustNews Spring 1994

The Trust has recently upgraded the office computer so that the old Amstrad PC 1640 and Epson printer are no longer required. The PC uses 5.1/4" diskettes and has PFS First Choice software for word processing, database management, etc. The 30 MB hard disk is unreliable - hence its replacement. But, the machine could still certainly prove useful to someone. If you are interested, please get in touch with Flavia Bateson at the Trust office (851664) and negotiate a price.

1994 Design Awards - TrustNews Spring 1994

The Trust is now inviting submissions for the 1994 Design Awards. Awards are given for schemes, within the City of Winchester, ranging from rehabilitation of old buildings to new buildings, street furniture, landscape and the sympathetic replacing of windows and doors in period properties (following the circulation of the Trust's leaflet 'Keep your house in good order....'). Most submissions come from architects and designers, but members of the Trust are encouraged to recommend schemes which they feel are worthy of an award.

In 1991 there was a record entry of 32 schemes which resulted in nine awards and seven commendations (see Winter 1992 Newsletter).

This year's judging panel, consisting of two Trust members and two architects, will be chaired by Dame Elizabeth Chesterton, architect and planning consultant. **The closing date for entries is June 20**.

Award winners will be announced at this year's AGM in the Autumn, and schemes will be exhibited in the Public Library in November.

Further information and entry forms can be obtained from Gill Collymore, 78 Canon Street, Winchester 5023 9JQ (0962 867032).

Diary - TrustNews Spring 1994

Trust events, as well as lectures, exhibitions and seminars connected with conservation, history and architecture, of other organisations are listed below:

Winchester Preservation Trust

Thursday 24 March 8.00 pm
"The Waterways of Winchester". Lecture by Elizabeth Proudman
The Milner Hall, St Peter Street, Winchester.
wine will be available after the lecture. Members may bring guests.

20 June
Closing date for 1994 Design Award entries

The Heritage Centre, 30/32 Upper Brook Street, Winchester

1 April - September
D-Day Exhibition 'Winchester at War - The Home Front'

RIBA Lectures (Southern Region, Central Hants Branch)

All lectures, open to the public, will be held at The Milner Hall, St. Peter Street, Winchester, on Thursdays at 6.30 pm.
Single tickets £3 (Students £1.50)

3 March Martin Shirley ORMS Interior Designer

7 April David Chipperfield Architect

5 May Russell Brown Hawkins, Brown, Architect

2 June Alan Davidson Computer Graphics

Autumn lectures will be listed in the summer newsletter

English Historic Towns Forum

22 April York. Seminar 'Promoting Contemporary Architecture in Historic Areas'

16, 17 June Gloucester and Cheltenham. Seminar on Pedestrianisation in the historic environment

16 - 18 November Norwich. Conference on mixed uses for historic towns

These seminars are open to non members. Details from 0225 46915.