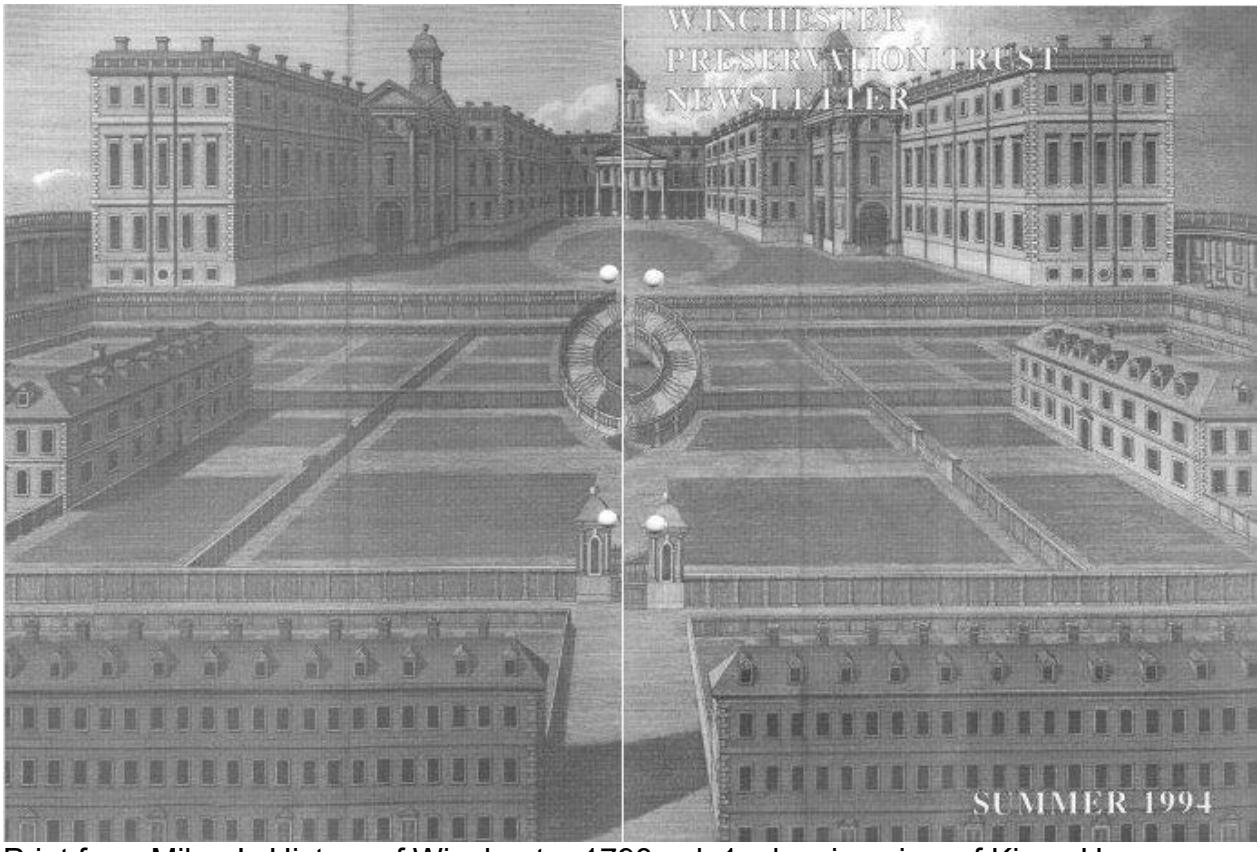
**Title Picture - TrustNews Summer 1994**



Print from Milner's History of Winchester 1798 vol. 1, showing view of Kings House and the Castle - the site of the present Penisula Barracks

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**Message from the Chairman - TrustNews Summer 1994**

I have written a somewhat longer message than usual, in order to cover in greater detail two subjects which in their own way are of great importance to the Trust.

In particular, the Peninsula Barracks. Measured in hours of work done voluntarily by members of the Trust over the last six years, it has probably been the most time-consuming single project ever undertaken by the Trust, involving studying plans, the politics, the conflicting pressures, and negotiating and reasoning out the eventual Trust line.

I am most grateful to those members who have devoted so much time and expertise to this work.

**The Peninsula Barracks**

One of the Trust's major concerns reached a climax on 24 May 1994 when the owners of the Barracks site, the Crown Commissioners and the Ministry of Defence, announced that the winner of the bids for developing the site is Arundel Estates. Arundel will develop the Conservation Scheme originally conceived by the

Winchester architect Huw Thomas, and sponsored by SAVE Britain's Heritage. This is the scheme supported by the Trust.

Of the known options for developing the site, the Trust has always considered that the Conservation Scheme would be in the best interests of Winchester. Primarily, the scheme treats the whole site as a single unit; it involves the minimum of demolition and new-build, it preserves the historical integrity of the site and it gives to the City the greatest amount of public open space.

To put this situation into context, you may recall that the Trust has been closely involved with the Barracks site since 1988, when we were first faced with a high-density housing proposal for the Lower Barracks. In early 1993 we became aware that, not only had the Lower Barracks developer withdrawn for financial reasons, but also that the City Council was proposing the formation of a management trust to operate the Upper Barracks primarily for museums and student facilities, both accommodation and teaching. However, the Trust had some doubts as to whether the funding could be assured, and was under no illusions about the difficulties of creating and operating administrative trusts. Also, the City scheme made no provision for the Lower Barracks.

In September 1993, SAVE held a public meeting to publicise the Conservation Scheme. Although, at that time, the Trust had some doubts as to whether SAVE could get its act together and find a developer, we decided to contribute £2500 towards Huw Thomas' work in developing the outline scheme.

By early March 1994 there still seemed to be no sign of a developer, in fact it appeared that most developers who might be interested in this type of site were of "the green-field" or "demolish-and-start-again" variety - and were not experienced in the rehabilitation of existing buildings. However, all was revealed at a public meeting in the Guildhall on 29 March when SAVE introduced Michael O'Brien, the Chairman of Arundel Estates, a Midhurst-based firm who specialises in the rehabilitation of large country houses.

Even then, the Trust was not absolutely certain that Arundel was the right developer for the job, so we embarked on a mission to find out as much about the company's record as we could by seeking references, visiting Arundel's work-sites and concluding with a face-to-face session in the Heritage Centre.

As a result of this research we became confident that Arundel was competent to develop the Conservation Scheme to a high standard. We therefore wrote a letter of strong support to SAVE, and explained our reasons in the 6 May edition of the Hampshire Chronicle.

So much for the past, where do we go from here? Firstly, I believe it would be difficult for the Trust to exert any pressure on the balance between private housing on the one hand, and museums and student facilities on the other. We believe that the City Council will press for as many museums and student facilities as possible, whereas the developer will want sufficient private housing in order to get a return on his investment. The result will inevitably be a compromise.

However, in addition to the Trust's normal detailed study of the planning application building-by-building, the Trust must be very alert to see that there is no reduction in the amount of public open space. We are fortunate in that we believe that the developer will not want to spend time and money tangling with the archaeologists, and it is the sensitive areas of archaeological interest, including both the upper and lower parade grounds, that will provide the open space, linked by footpaths with trees and landscape features.

**Traffic**

Some of our members may wonder why the Trust concerns itself with traffic problems. The reason is that, today, traffic plays an important part, not only in influencing the character of the City, but also in ensuring that Winchester operates reasonably efficiently and is a pleasant place in which to live. All these matters lie firmly within the objectives of the Trust.

I do not think it will have escaped the notice of our members that the experimental one-way High Street scheme is causing wives not to speak to husbands, and people to cross over to the other side of the road when they see someone coming who is known to hold opposing views! Under these circumstances, we all become "experts", and if the change in traffic direction causes more traffic to pass our own front doors, then we all become "very great experts" - in fact "right"!

The experimental High Street scheme and the bus-influenced lights at the Upper Brook Street/St George's Street corner are in part a means of speeding up the traffic from City Bridge to the railway station, which will also be the route of the Park and Ride buses due to start operating in the early autumn 1994. Casual observation and the opinions of busdrivers lead one to believe that in this respect it is succeeding, and is also speeding up incoming traffic in Southgate Street - but at what cost?

The permanency of this scheme and a decision on whether there should be a major reorganisation of the traffic, possibly involving the pedestrianisation (except for buses) of the area outside Barclays Bank, will be the responsibility of the recently re-shuffled City Traffic and Engineering Committee under the new Chairman, Councillor Pamela Peskett.

The Trust will continue to monitor progress on traffic by observing the meetings of the County and City Council Committees concerned with traffic, by studying relevant documents, and by informal discussions with councillors and officers.

Antony Skinner

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**Development Control Committee - TrustNews Summer 1994**

A lot can happen in six months.

At the beginning of the year we were expecting a battle with Tesco to prevent their setting up shop at **Bar End**. Their appeal has been withdrawn, for their operations

are now to be based at Winnall (together with a large DIY outlet), and the city centre may have cause to regret the additional traffic that will be generated as a result. There also remains the time-bomb of what use will be proposed for the **Bar End land** purchased by Tesco; because of its cost it seems unlikely that it will be allowed to remain as a playing field, and consequently this approach into Winchester may still be at risk.

Six months ago permission had recently been given for a high-density development on the lower Peninsula Barracks site, and an attractive lower-density scheme for both the upper and lower barracks sites had just been proposed. The Trust supported the latter scheme, both verbally and financially, but who would then have thought that the low-density scheme treating the upper and lower barracks as a single entity (something that originally everyone wanted) would now be the accepted proposal?

We were then also facing up to an influx of building societies into the High Street; they have now settled in, for better or for worse, and we are adjusting to the visual and commercial change they have brought to the city centre.

Other large schemes that could affect Winchester's future, especially as regards traffic generation, were also in the offing. These included several housing schemes: on Romsey Road at the entrance to **King's School**, which is now completed; at **West Downs School**, where no building work has yet taken place and the main activity has been provided by the staff of the County Hospital using part of the grounds for parking while improved facilities for parking their cars are made in the hospital grounds. Here the construction of the **multi-storey car park** progresses by leaps and bounds, as do the repairs of the listed **Butterfield Block**.

Also in the pipeline were housing developments at **Upper Brook Street** and **Airlie Road**; works at the former site are largely completed and those at the latter are still in progress.

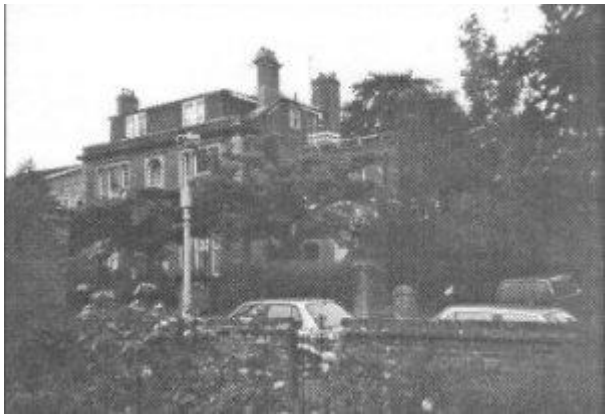

Carlisle House and Lee House in St Thomas Street

Although most of the applications made during the past six months have on the whole been less momentous for the future of Winchester than those discussed in our last Newsletter, it is good to know that the Trust has been able to influence the outcome of some of these proposals. One such was an application by the new owner of the **Southgate Hotel**, who approached us at the beginning of the planning

process because he wanted to remove any avoidable delays from the planning procedures. We were unhappy about the changes proposed for the roof of the building, since they would have involved removing part of the pitched roof to install a large square water tank, and after discussion it has been agreed that special tanks can be fitted within the existing roof structure so that the roofscape of this Listed Building can remain intact.

The Trust is also concerned about the future of **Carlisle House** and the adjoining **Lee House** in **St Thomas Street**. Carlisle House is currently under consideration for use for Night shelter, a very beneficial use on social grounds. It is however less desirable within the remit of the Trust's raison d'être, which is to preserve the character of the city of Winchester. Carlisle House is a Listed Building of some size and importance and it was feared that, unless 24-hour supervision can be guaranteed, the fabric of the building might be damaged, or at worst, be destroyed by fire. The Trust therefore objected to this proposed use of Carlisle House.

Six months ago we were commiserating with the planners over their lack of legal control over activities in Conservation Areas; now we are taking them to task for not making the best use of those controls that they still possess.


Edmond's Lodge, 86 Christchurch Road

The trigger that roused us to action was an application to demolish **Edmond's Lodge, 86 Christchurch Road**, the claim being that the structure was not worth saving because of its bad condition. The building is a typical component of a part of the Conservation Area that largely consists of Victorian houses; it also happens to be one of a row of three similar houses and because of this its loss would be especially damaging to the character of the road. This part of the city's Conservation Area has already suffered considerable damage from planning permissions given in the '60s and '70s that are now considered as mistaken (to put it leniently), and indeed on one side of Edmond's Lodge there is what can only be called an aberration of planning consent from that period. Although the bulk and mass of the proposed three-storey building would be similar tom that of the present two-storey house, and its detailing aims to copy that of its older neighbours; on a three-storey building the features appropriate for a substantial two-storey house seem out of scale and the Trust objected on the grounds that the new building would be detrimental to the Conservation Area.

It then became apparent that the City officers would be recommending the scheme for approval to the Planning Committee, on the grounds that the cost of repairs and renovation would be too expensive to be economically viable. We felt very strongly that to give this consent would set a very dangerous precedent for the future of Winchester's Conservation Areas, because no use had been made of a relevant paragraph in the Winchester Area Local Plan. This stated that consent to demolish a building (whether listed or not) in a Conservation area would not normally be granted unless it could be shown that the building was wholly beyond repair or incapable of reasonable beneficial use. The Trust was not convinced that this was so in this instance and indicated that it was prepared to back this opinion by offering to pay for a survey of the building by an independent expert. We are now waiting to hear whether this offer will be accepted, before deciding our future action.

We intend to continue questioning the Planning Department's present policy on Conservation Areas, which seems primarily to be based on the expediency of being sure that an appeal against a refusal will not be upheld. If Conservation Areas are worth having we should be prepared to protect them, even if on occasions this might seem to be tilting at windmills. This is especially so now that there are signs of a more sympathetic attitude toward Conservation Areas coming from central government.

An application for a development on the site at the junction of **Union Street and North Walls with Durngate** for the care of the elderly mentally infirm is currently in the pipeline, and the Trust has recently had a presentation of the scheme.

The Development Control Committee is glad to report that each viewing panel now has a qualified architect as one of its members, and a professional opinion is therefore part of our weekly comments.

Members of the Trust wishing to participate in the protection of the environment of their city will be interested to know that in the Council is encouraging comments from members of the public during the fifteen minutes before the formal business of the monthly meetings of the Planning Committee. A team of planning officers has also been set up to monitor breaches of planning control and to enforce the decisions reached by our planning representatives. The enforcement team would be glad to hear about any undesirable events that you may notice: they can be reached at the Planning Office on Winchester 848177.

Shione Carden

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**Landscape Committee - TrustNews Summer 1994**

We have continued to look at the weekly list of planning applications which refer to trees and new schemes involving landscaping and have visited the sites. We are also in touch with the City Departments and attend the Town Centre Management Group. We had a meeting with the City Engineer and agreed on new seats for the High Street. It is an opportunity, when all the street furniture has to be removed for Le Tour on July 7, to replace some of the older items. The design chosen is part of a

range of street furniture which can be supplied to match, such as litter bins, benches, tree grids and could provide a coordinated set and be implemented as and when finances permit. Unfortunately the paving surface in the precinct is being `roughened' to be less slippery for the cyclists (but at last pedestrians will benefit too) and not replaced with a more appropriate material but we hope this will happen before too long.

Planning applications recently commented on include: **Winton House**, Andover Road, which is a non-residential institution owned by HCC where 80 more car parking spaces are to replace pleasant lawns and garden. **North Walls Police Station** applied to build a low wall on the road frontage and to include 'salvaged broken dressed stone' in the flint wall. We suggested the wall be similar to the nearby brick wall at Durngate bridge. We suggested some tree planting at **Stanmore Youth Centre** extension to improve the derelict area at the approach to the building. We objected to the felling of a large silver birch in **Ranelagh Road** which has been refused but the sloping area in front of the house is to be turned into a space to park a car. We are particularly concerned about small front gardens being replaced by hard surfaces for cars as the delight of so much of Winchester's residential areas are the planted front gardens providing a break from pavement and traffic.

The new application for **Culver Lodge** for two houses in the garden is an improvement on the first scheme, but we are concerned about the very fine magnolia kobus. We are liaising with the Architect to see if adjustments can be made to safeguard this tree.

At **St Thomas' Centre**, Southgate Street (previously the Record Office) the application was to pollard three lime trees which provide a good green canopy and we feel such drastic pruning should not be undertaken until the newly-planted plane trees are larger, as the green impact here is much needed. We objected to the scheme put forward for landscaping (or lack of) for the new **Registrar's Office** in the former **South Western Inn** and suggested that parking could be shared with the Records Office large gravel space, up to now unused as far as we can see. This would release the area shown for car parking to create a pleasant garden for the use of those coming to the Registrar's office. We disliked the continuation of the small paving slabs, as those round the Records Office, which would make a very sterile area. In addition we considered the building should have a 'friendlier' and more inviting setting both for those using the office and by people arriving in Winchester by train. We objected to the application to fell one of three silver maple trees planted to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Queen's accession to the throne outside the **Queen Elizabeth II Court**. We consider that insufficient thought and co-ordination in planning has been given to this whole frontage. Decisions of lighting, paving, grass, planting of an oak (for it's acorns to feed the Hampshire Hog?) and now the removal of a tree, appear to be taken in an ad hoc way.

We intend to complete the tree survey of the inner City area this summer. It has taken considerable time but emphasises the variety of interesting trees that have been planted in the past. We are very keen to see tree planting continue and our scheme for Friarsgate/Eastgate Street was disappointing as the tree pits had not been prepared prior to planting, in spite of advance planning. We have been assured that the scheme will be completed this Autumn and a meeting has been arranged

early in August with the relevant City departments to decide on tree planting sites and varieties of trees for the 1994/95 planting season. The Trust is contributing £1000 towards the costs but we have to get the practicalities of planting, especially in paved areas, greatly improved. Trying to get trees planted in pavements or other hard surfaces brings up every kind of difficulty as we have already seen in our endeavours in Friarsgate. We will continue our efforts as trees contribute such an important part to the City scene.

Gillian Bauer

**Stop press from Landscape Committee report:**
**Without further consultation, the silver maple tree was felled at dawn one recent Saturday morning.**

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**Urban Studies Committee - TrustNews Summer 1994**

The Urban Studies Committee have continued to concentrate on the Chippindale Venture and the photographic study of Winchester. The Chippindale Venture is now in its fifth year. On 30th June 1994, all the students - more than 200 in number - from Year 11 (14 years) at the Henry Beaufort School, Winchester took part in a Chippindale Workshop and assumed that their school was to close and that a new use for the campus was needed. They were able to use all the existing buildings, demolish some and retain others, or clear the site and start afresh. It was assumed that sufficient funding was available for any reasonable scheme.

Preparatory work with site analysis and a short exercise to design a new performing arts centre had been undertaken. The pupils were assisted by local planners, architects and landscape architects from the Winchester area and by undergraduate students. The morning was spent preparing proposals for the site, and in the afternoon, these were presented by the pupils, first to "planning committees"; drawn from among their own number, with a select few being assessed by an outside panel of planners and other professionals.

The Chippindale Venture aims to foster an increased awareness of the manmade environment and the forces which shape it, by hands-on work in the classroom with non-teaching adults. Amongst the benefits will be the breaking down of traditional barriers between design professionals and teachers, and the stimulus to students of group working on a complex and challenging cross-curricular project. The Venture relies on the voluntary contribution of professional time by designers and their firms or local authorities. There was an opportunity to discuss with participants during the day, whether this was the most effective way of using professionals' time in the classroom, whether the students can rise to the challenge and the suitability of the project within the National Curriculum timetable.

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**Heritage Centre - TrustNews Summer 1994**

The New Year heralded the likelihood of much increased interest in the future of Peninsula Barracks. It was therefore arranged that the Heritage Centre should be open every Saturday to display not only the low-density Conservation Scheme supported by the Trust but also the earlier high-density scheme for the Lower Barracks approved by the City Council in 1993. A petition supporting the Conservation Scheme was signed by the many visitors to the Centre.

In February the former Manager of the Centre, Alan Cooke, produced a series of photographs of Winchester taken from unusual angles. From this, the idea of an identification quiz was taken up by another former Manager of the Centre, Tony Hunter, and the Hampshire Chronicle. The newspaper ran the photographs for six successive weeks and the editor, Steve Robinson, kindly presented the prizes at the Heritage Centre in April. So great was the response that the Hampshire Chronicle may well run a further competition.

Also in February, the Winchester City Guides used the Heritage Centre as the headquarters for their "International Day of the Guide" when tourist guides from all over the world promote their expertise by providing free tours.

We are most grateful to Rodney Youngman, who came virtually direct from his hospital bed to set up the year's main exhibition on "Winchester at War", as the Heritage Centre's contribution to Winchester's activities to commemorate D-Day in 1944. The exhibition was officially opened by Viscount Montgomery (Monty's son) on 20 May in the presence of the Mayor of Winchester and the President of the Preservation Trust, Sir Peter Ramsbotham. In his speech, Viscount Montgomery reminded us of the sombre days of 1944 and of the sacrifices made for peace in Europe, and asked us to encourage young people to visit the exhibition.

After presentations to Viscount Montgomery, Lady Montgomery and to Mr Youngman, the party left the Heritage Centre in a 1931 bus of the former King Alfred Bus Company.

Administratively we have seen some changes. The Heritage Centre Manager, Joy Williams, is leaving Winchester and has handed over the task to George Burnett. Joy has been involved with the Heritage Centre since its inception; we shall miss her enthusiasm and her ability to achieve the impossible in the shortest of timescales, and we thank her very much for all she has done for us.

Sadly John Balchin, who for many years ran the book sales in aid of our funds, died in April. John's widow, Eunice, has very kindly said that she will continue the sales, so please get out those unwanted books and bring them to the Heritage Centre in time for the autumn sale.

Rosemary Kinnaird-Smith has been making steady progress with the Resources and History section, so that we are becoming better equipped to answer queries about the history and the more recent development of the City.

We have applied for a renewal of the lease of the Heritage Centre from the City Council on an annual basis, and we would like to encourage more of our Winchester-based members and their guests to visit us to see the exhibitions and learn about the work of the Trust.

After the "Winchester at War" exhibition closes at the end of September, we will be putting on an exhibition in October to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Chartered Institute of Transport - a further example of a local organisation using the Heritage Centre to show the work of their members in all facets of transport that contribute to the daily life of our City. Do you know how many locomotives, ships, and aircraft bear the name "Winchester"?

Chris Webb

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**Projects - TrustNews Summer 1994**

The Projects Group exists to identify areas of our city that require attention, either by preserving existing details, or providing new items of interest. Current projects include; repairs to railings outside a house in St James' Lane, helping with a new hanging sign for a shop in Chesil Street, providing assistance to a group in Hyde wishing to commemorate the supposed burial site of King Alfred, and working towards a design competition to improve the fountain in St George's Street. The Projects Group welcomes suggestions for projects, from whatever source. Contact Antony Feltham-King on Winchester 852444, or leave a message at the Heritage Centre.

Antony Feltham-King

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**Bargeboards of Winchester - TrustNews Summer 1994**

**Heritage Centres and Councils**

After Elizabethen times ornamental bargeboards became fashionable again with the development of the romantic movement and of the Cottage Ornee in the early nineteenth century, and for a time they became an opportunity for the Victorian craftsman and builders to demonstrate their skill with ornate decorative coverings of the joint between the gable end and the roofing. These have been a special architectural feature in Winchester. Nick McPherson has sketched some of the more obvious ones in the City. Can readers guess where they are? (answers). If anyone knows of other good examples in Winchester please let the Editor know and they could be published in a future issue.




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## Annual General Meeting - TrustNews Summer 1994

The AGM will take place on Monday 7 November at the Guildhall (see Diary for details). The guest speaker is **Marcus Binney OBE**, who will speak on the work of saving fine historic buildings in this country. He is Chairman of SAVE Britain's Heritage, who sponsored the winning bid for developing the Peninsula Barracks site awarded to Arundel Estates. SAVE started by saving country houses, but is currently concentrating on ex military establishments.

Marcus Binney was a former editor of Country Life, has written numerous books on architecture, including French chateaux and railway architecture, and is now The Times architectural correspondent.

Also at this occasion, **Dame Elizabeth Chesterton**, as Chairwoman of the Selection Panel, will present this year's Design Award winners. An Architect and planning consultant, she serves on the English Heritage Committee for Historic Areas and Buildings, and until recently was a long standing member of the Royal Fine Art Commission. She collaborated on a conservation study of the historic core of Kings Lynn and was responsible for the Beaulieu Estate plan which led to a study of all estates from Southampton to Lymington.

Wine will be available after the meeting, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend this yearly event of the Trust.

## Of Mynstres and Mills - TrustNews Summer 1994



Map showing route of river from Black Ditch to St Cross

Water was essential to the early religious communities, not only for the obvious reasons of supply and drainage, but also as a source of power for milling. Did the Saxon community and its successor at St Cross have a mill within its precincts?

**John Keevil**, who was actively associated with the milling trade until 1960, and for whom archaeology has been a lifelong interest, sets the scene and explains his theories about St Cross.

The 1083 Domesday Survey of Chilcomb, an area which extended across the Itchen valley from the south wall of the city to the boundaries of Twyford, mentions nine churches including St Catherine's-on-the-Hill and the White Monastery. Milner in his history of Winchester, writing in the 1790s, mentions that soon after our island was converted to Christianity, a monastery was erected at Sparkford on the site of St

Cross. This may be no more than speculation on his part, but the evangelising monks did set up 'kieves' (their local headquarters) at strategic points around the country and Sparkford would have been in a good position where, presumably, there was a ford across the River Itchen and its boggy margins.

There is some evidence that like many communities in the south of England, the monastery here was attacked and laid waste by the Danes during the ninth century, perhaps then struggling on in a depleted form until adopted by Bishop Henry de Blois for his new foundation of St Cross Hospital at the beginning of the 12th century. When King Alfred died in 901, the two great communities of New Mynstre and Nunna Mynstre were founded in the City under the terms of his will, and it is possible that the Sparkford Monastery received some restoration at this time of revival.

It is significant that the church at St Cross, unlike its near contemporary the Cathedral, has the same orientation as these Saxon mynstres, suggesting earlier origins than the present Norman building. The Sacristy on the end of the south transept is believed to be Saxon work and, together with the traces of a cloister between it and the chancel of the present church, provides a clue to the original layout of the domestic buildings, which would have been served by the existing water course designed to run close by the cloister before turning south to join the river further down stream. The importance of mills to religious as well as to secular communities can be judged by the early history of the city mynstres. Nunna Mynstre on the site of the Abbey Gardens had its own stream, water rights and mill within its own precinct from the time of its foundation. These water rights were jealously guarded because, without water power, corn would need to be ground daily with a hand quern - a most laborious business.

When founded, New Mynstre (on a site north of Old Mynstre in the cathedral grounds) had neither water nor mill within its immediate precincts, so it had to acquire milling facilities by other means. John Crook in his excellent article "Winchester Cleansing Streams"* describes how in about 970 Bishop Aethelwold brought water into the precincts of both New and Old Mynstres by diversions from the Black Ditch through the area of the Brooks.

The Headbourne Worthy stream of the river originally fed into the Black Ditch near the village, but was diverted to impound water for a mill at Hyde (near the white bridge in Gordon Road). Mill pounds were necessary to achieve a sufficient head of water to drive a mill wheel when the strength of the diverted stream on its own would not provide sufficient power. Some worked on a continuous basis and others by storing up water over a period of time and releasing it to drive the mill at intervals.

In 1110 the New Mynstre was moved to Hyde adjoining this mill and became Hyde Abbey. An interesting question then arises as to whether the Headbourne diversion was done as precursor of the mynstre's move, since both streams were part of the water rights of the Abbess of Nunna Mynstre, who claimed damages from the Abbot for diversion of her water in 973. The following is an extract about the adjustment made by King Edgar, given to me by the late Sidney Ward-Evans, Hon Archaeologist to the City in 1930, which may refer to this incident:

"In the 10th century Aethelgar, Abbot of New Mynstre, with the consent of King and Bishop, assigned for peace and concord to Eadgyfu, Abbess of Nunna Mynstre, the King's daughter, the same mill which the Bishop gave and another with the Borough instead of the water course which he had diverted, formerly belonging to the Nunnery".

In any event, the nuns appear to have patrolled the banks of the Headbourne Worthy diversion to the extent that it is still known as Nuns' walk to this day!

The importance of mills is illustrated by these records, and by the fact that there was much other water engineering carried out at this time. Domesday mentions four mills in the Chilcomb area; I would suggest one at Blackbridge, two at Gamier Road, and the fourth, perhaps the mill at Sparkford which was to become St Cross.



Plan showing projected line of stream through the Hospital

The stream which taps off the Black Ditch at Garnier Road to supply St Cross is similar in size to the Hyde Abbey diversion and could very easily have had the same purpose of feeding a pound. The stream was channelled through the Meadows and can now be seen in the area north of St Cross from where it runs on underground across the outer court of the Hospital on the same diagonal line, until it meets the 15th century buildings on the inner court and is diverted around them to form their drainage system.

If the stream's original line is projected across the later inner court, as shown on the plan, it meets the north west corner of the excavations which can still be seen in the park to the south of the present Hospital buildings. If the banks of the stream were slightly raised using the soil from its trench, it would then have been about nine feet above the point at which the tail stream rejoins the river. This fall would have been sufficient to drive a mill from water impounded at the higher level.

There are excavations and embankments at this point which indicate the possibility of a linear pound running due south to meet a small ditch which also runs back to the river and could have been an overflow channel from the pound. And the present white gate onto the main road with traces of a track (now extended beyond the pound), might even be the original entrance and lane for the corn carts.

Christopher Currie has recently written a fascinating article in the journal of the Hampshire Gardens Trust outlining his investigations and conclusion that these previously mysterious earthworks are the remains of a large rectangular medieval moated garden, a useful arrangement in the days of freely wandering deer and vagabonds. Our theories are not, however, mutually exclusive, as the necessary water engineering for the mill would have created much of the enclosure needed for a later moated garden.

It can also be seen from the plan that the water feed to the fish pond in the Master's Garden is parallel to the water course running through the outer court, and that the line of the outlet from the fish pond is parallel to the remains of what would have been the tail water stream from the mill that also provided the drain from the domestic buildings adjoining the present Sacristy. This all implies a contemporary master plan for the water engineering which, in a monastery of that time, would almost certainly have included a mill.

The main course of the river in Saxon times was to the east of the present line, but it too was later diverted to form a mill pound, and the following extract from the records (13 Richard II 1392. William of Wykeham, Bishop. John de Campden Master) records how this came about.

"Stagna et dua excluse molendinum cum sagitta et unum molendinum the tribus videlicet ad orientatem partem dictorum molendinorum de novo facta fuerent".

I have given it in the original Latin in case anyone wishes to improve on my translation, which is:

"They have newly made a mill pound and two mill hatches with sluices and one mill away from the community clearly to the east away from the part of the mills' control".

This "newly made mill" must refer to the present St Cross Mill further down stream, and one can still see its embanked mill pound, the two sets of hatches and their sluices, and the mill buildings themselves which have, of course, been rebuilt many times over the intervening years. The last line of the extract emphasises that the new mill was remote from the control of an existing earlier mill, which supports the case for there having been a Saxon mill at Sparkford and St Cross.

Perhaps the old mill had become inadequate, or perhaps Bishop Wykeham even foresaw the need to enlarge the accommodation at St Cross, which would require the destruction of the little Saxon mill with its headwater embankments, and cleared the way for the great reconstruction that his successor Cardinal Beaufort carried out some 50 years or so later.

John Keevil

**Diary - TrustNews Summer 1994**

**Friday 19 August 5.30pm**
The President of the Trust, Sir Peter Ramsbotham and Lady Ramsbotham 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).*

**Three Summer Walks**

**Thursday 28th July**
Nick McPherson, Architect. A walk round Hyde Meet at the Heritage Centre at 6.30 pm

**Thursday 25th August**
Michael Bullen, Conservation Officer. Historic Buildings Bureau, County Planning Department. A walk through Winchester College Meet at The Heritage Centre at 6.30 pm

**Thursday 7th September**
Huw Thomas, Architect. Peninsula Barracks Meet at Guard Room, Romsey Road entrance at 6.30 pm

**Monday 7th November 7.30pm**
AGM at the Guildhall, King Charles Suite. Guest Speaker Marcus Binney OBE,Chairman of SAVE Britain's Heritage. Presentation of Design Awards by Dame Elizabeth Chesterton. Wine will be available after the proceedings.

**Monday 14th November - Saturday 3rd December**
Exhibition of Trust Design Awards at the County Library, Jewry Street

**The Heritage Centre 30/32 Upper Brook Street, Winchester**
Exhibition Winchester at War ends in September
Celebration of Winchester Transport in October
Autumn Book Sale. To be announced later. Please look out unwanted books. Watch local press for details. Heritage centre will open from November to March - Saturday mornings only

**Saturday 8th October**
Southern Comfort meeting. Host Guildford Society (Details Margaret Slade 0483 570645)

**RIBA Lectures (Southern Region, Central Hants Branch)**

All lectures, open to the public, will be held at The Tower Arts Centre, off Romsey Road, on Thursdays at 6.30 pm. Single ticket £3. Bar snacks are available before and after the lectures.

1 September Julia Barfield of Marks Barfield Architects

6 October Frank Duffy, President Royal Institute of British Architects

3 November Richard Feilden of Feilden Clegg Architects

1 December Michael Stacey and Nick Randall of Alan Brookes Associates

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**Bargeboard Answers - TrustNews Summer 1994**

1. 48 Kingsgate Street
2. 98 Christchurch Road
3. The Stables, Kingsgate House
4. 54 Hyde Street (The Old Rectory)
5. 21 Edgar Road
6. 18/19 Orams Arbor
7. 98 Christchurch Road
8. Hyde Tavern
9. 17 Christchurch Road
10. The Stables, Kingsgate House
11. Dunford House, Christchurch Road
12. 17 Saxon Road