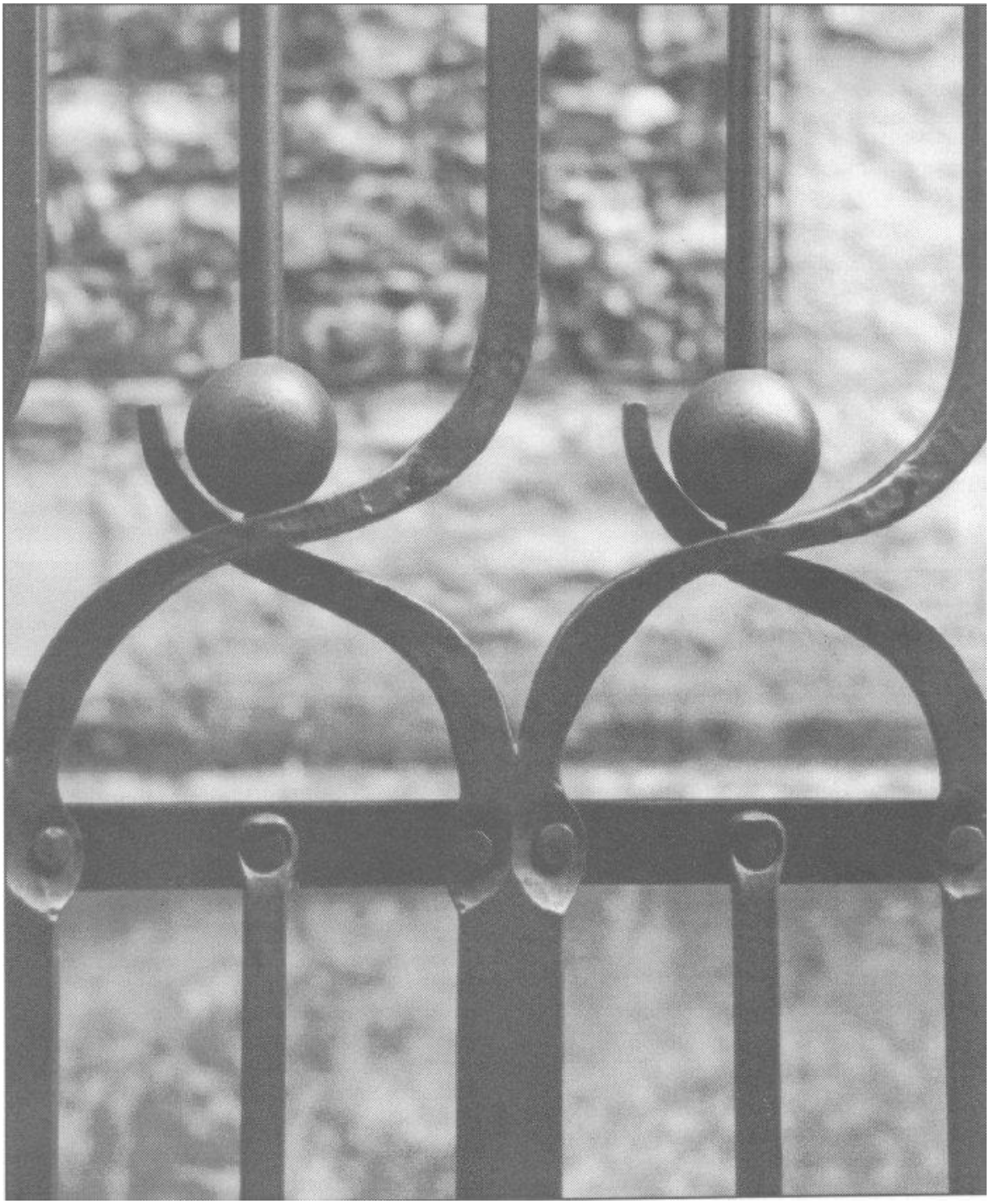
Title Picture - TrustNews Spring 1998



Detail of the Halifax Gates, College St,
designed by Charles Normandale

Chairman's Message - TrustNews Spring 1998

I would like to say thank you on your behalf for the valuable and untiring service that your late Chairman, Antony Skinner, gave to the Trust over the past five years. He has been selfless in his dedication to the task and through his efforts the standing

and influence of the Trust has been greatly enhanced in many quarters. We were pleased to elect him an Honorary Life Member at the AGM. Under Antony's guidance, the membership of the Trust has now risen to over 1,000. He has now enjoyed a well deserved holiday and we hope will be rejoining the Council of the Trust later in the year.

Flavia Bateson, the Secretary to the Trust, is to leave us in the Spring. She has served for five years and wishes to concentrate on her other activities. She has contributed much to the administration and day to day running of the Trust and will be sorely missed. We wish her well for the future. We are looking for a new secretary and the appointment will be announced in the next Newsletter.

THE HOME OF THE TRUST

Most annoyingly, we still do not have a lease on the Heritage Centre which we can sign mainly because of unreasonable conditions in the terms put forward. However, our solicitor is actively pursuing the Council and hopefully something can be resolved early in the New Year. No work can start on the building until this knot is untied.

LOOKING INTO 1998

The year promises to be a busy one with many pressures on the City and its historic and beautiful setting. The major perceived threats are:

The Bushfield Area

This is a very sensitive part of the setting of Winchester which may be considered for development of one kind or another. There are several possibilities:

- Leisure Complex - current plans for a renewed bid for lottery funding are on hold for the moment but could be resurrected.
- Housing Development by the Landlords - no plans have been submitted but this may happen at some future date.
- Park-&-Ride - the area is earmarked for a Park & Ride site serving traffic approaching the City from the south and west.

To ensure that the landscape significance is given sufficient attention, the Trust is in partnership with the Hampshire County Council (HCC), Winchester City Council (WCC) and Hampshire Gardens Trust (HGT) to commission an expert study to examine and report on the landscape and townscape of Winchester. This will of course include the Bushfield area. The Trusts are contributing both finance and expertise. The consultant's report, which is due in mid-summer, will form part of a broader examination by HCC and WCC to assess Winchester's environmental capacity, to guide future development.

Morn Hill

Outline planning permission was given some years ago for an hotel to be built on the scrap yard site at Morn Hill. At a recent developer's presentation, proposals had mushroomed into not only an hotel, but a site for Intech and three office blocks with

associated parking. In spite of criticism from the Trust and others, the developers have been asked to submit a planning application. The Trust will examine this in detail and where necessary object, comment or suggest viable alternatives.

County Structure Plan

The Deposited Plan proposed 44,000 new dwellings would be needed in Hampshire by 2011. The Panel at the Examination in Public (a government procedure) disagreed and suggested a figure of 56,000. The arguments are further complicated by the formation of the two unitary authorities - Southampton and Portsmouth - who have decided views on the numbers they can accommodate; leaving the balance to be built in the rest of Hampshire.

HCC has now proposed a figure of 54,000. The Trust is however at a loss to understand why they do not defend their original figure of 44,000. If it was valid when the Plan was deposited, why is it not valid now? The bottom line is that the Minister may order that the figure of 56,000 be adhered to. A similar situation has arisen in West Sussex and here the Minister did intervene. The Trust is actively involved in supporting the Council for the Preservation of Rural England which is leading the opposition to this increase.

This situation may impact on housing development in the areas of Micheldever Station and/or Barton Farm. We are in touch with the Dever Society on this and related matters.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Winchester needs all the support it can muster to prevent the despoliation of our historic City and its unrivalled setting by ill-judged and precipitate development. You, the Members of the Winchester Preservation Trust, can help in several ways.

Although we have at last broken the 1,000 members barrier, we need to increase our membership. The more members we have, the more weight will be given to the objections and arguments that the Trust may deploy on your behalf. A membership form is enclosed. Please encourage your friends and neighbours to join. If you need more forms, please contact the Heritage Centre (851664).

If you are worried by proposed developments, or the policy direction being taken by national or local government, do please write to our Member of Parliament and/or your local Councillors (both County and City) to tell them of your concerns and fears.

And lastly, from time to time we need the active help of some of the membership in the day to day activities of the Trust. Your officers work long and hard on your behalf but sometimes they may need help with research or similar activities. We would like to update our membership resources and a form is enclosed. If you may be able to help, do please fill it in and return to me at the Heritage Centre.

My best wishes to you all in the year ahead.

Robin Merton

Development Control Committee - TrustNews Spring 1998

In development control terms perhaps one of the most disturbing recent events was a House of Lords ruling that followed a lengthy court case. The general effect of this is to loosen considerably a Local Planning Authority's control over partial demolition both in conservation areas and to listed buildings. Now, for example, walls can be altered, windows widened and chimneys demolished and consequently elements essential for the preservation of the character of a building or conservation area may be at risk. Thankfully, it seems that central government has appreciated the dangers arising from the Lords' decision and the situation is likely to be reviewed later this year.

It is fortunate that planning controls are not always the only way of protecting the local environment. Following wind damage to the suspended lights in **Kingsgate Street** the Hampshire County Council (HCC) propose to replace them with new ones fixed onto nearby buildings, at the same time increasing the level of illumination to meet the standard now considered acceptable. The minimum level required by the relevant British Standard would mean an intensity of lighting that would be both damaging to the historic character of the road and unacceptable to the local residents. While welcoming the removal of the lights hanging over the road and recognising the sensitive siting of the lamps on the listed buildings, the Trust joined the residents in objecting to the proposed increased number of lights. A quirk of planning legislation then became apparent: this only applies to the new lights in terms of their effect on the appearance and character of the listed buildings but cannot control how they affect the conservation area as a whole because they conform with the national standard. Ultimate control did however rest with Winchester College because they owned the listed buildings onto which the lamps are to be fixed; they granted wayleave for the fixing of only every other of the proposed lights, to be reconsidered in six months' time.

External influences often have unexpected results on local events. Unspent funding from central government to the HCC has resulted in money needing to be used by the end of the current financial year. Given for Winchester's park-&-ride schemes, our apparently insane method of national accounting means that this money would be lost to the local budget unless some alternative use can be found for the excess funds and we are now suffering the consequences, which include a crop of traffic calming schemes and cycle ways, however undesirable and inappropriate these might be to the local environment.



Bereweeke House,
threatened with demolition for a nursing home

It is all the more disturbing when these accounting "fixes" are compounded by millennium events that can have further detrimental consequences. Desirable though it may be to have cycle ways from one end of the country to the other, why should this endanger the character of Winchester's ancient environment, such as the water meadows of St Cross? And do we really want to have "millennium gates" into Winchester? What is their purpose? Are they intended to mark the 30-mile limit into the city, or its historic boundaries? The thought of stumpy brick piers as seen elsewhere on some approach roads is not viewed with enthusiasm by the Trust, who very much questions the desirability of having such gates in the first place.

Bereweeke Road is currently threatened by three sizeable developments. Although the proposed relocation of the **Friary Bowling Club** to **Westgate School Playing Fields** together with its attendant **doctors' surgery** has been refused, it seems likely that sooner or later some other scheme will be proposed for this site. Various developments have been proposed in the past for **Bereweeke House**. The present one is for a 43-bedroom nursing home, to which the Trust objected because the large size and bad design of the proposed building and the extra traffic generated would be detrimental to the area. The scheme has been refused by the council and the applicants are now going to appeal. It is also proposed to demolish the **Chantry Mead Hotel** and build a block of 18 flats (previously 21 flats) with associated parking. The design of the block leaves much to be desired and from the cramped layout of the flats and the lack of facilities provided, it seems this could be a low-cost development. Neither the building nor its density of use seems appropriate here and the Trust objected to this application also; a decision is still awaited.


Chantry Mead Hotel,
threatened with demolition for a block of flats

It seems that some overdue attention is at last to be given to **Old Market House, High Street**, although it is very sad that such a disappointing refurbishment is proposed. It does nothing to reclaim the original character of this unusual listed building and proposes altering doorways in the side and rear elevations with as little respect to the building's design as did previous conversions. The proposal to bring the shopfront to a position close behind the colonnade was especially disliked, even though evidence was presented that it may have been sited here sometime in the past. We felt that in the present streetscene the colonnade reflects and provides a visual lead-in to The Pentice and that the design of the proposed shop windows and doors bore no relationship to the scale of the front facade of the building (as indeed is the case with the existing shopfronts, but these don't jar because of their siting back from the colonnade), and we therefore objected to this scheme.

Ending on an optimistic note, it is good to see the alterations proposed for **The Brooks Centre**, since these should do much to bring life to the centre's present "dead" frontage to Middle Brook Street. The proposal by the **Royal Oak** to transform its service yard in **St George's Street** into a terrace with planting, new walls, railings and gates, is also very much to be welcomed. This has long been an area which the eye avoids and the mind consequently obliterates and the scheme should do much to improve this unprepossessing stretch of road.

Shione Carden

Urban Studies - Chippindale Venture 1998 - TrustNews Spring 1998

This year's Chippindale Venture involves four schools:- Twyford, St Faith's, Compton and Owslebury.

We have already started the exercise which, after four 2-hour sessions once a week, will culminate in a full presentation by the teams in Twyford Village Hall on 10th February. There are 11 teams, each with six children (aged 9, 10 and 11) plus an architect. They are all preparing a proposal for a Heritage Centre at Twyford Water Pumping Station. The schemes will be presented to a panel who will ask questions about the proposals and then critique each scheme.

Twyford Water Pumping Station is a Victorian building with its steam pump still intact and in working order. There are a number of interesting lime pits, salt pounds etc and a small rail system, all of which are visible and have excited the teams already into thinking about some very imaginative proposals.

The enthusiasm of the children is infectious and, as always, all the team leaders (architects, landscape architects and planners) and fully stretched in keeping up with the ideas from their teams.

It will be interested to see the final results and we are all looking forward to the great day.

A TWO HOUR SESSION WITH A CHIPPINDALE VENTURE TEAM!

We arrive - architects to the slaughter! Introductions by the teacher to a team of six children. I think I am more nervous than the children. I have two hours to get to know them - Richard, Felicity, lain (with an "i" as he keeps informing me), Leonie, Bill-Jean and Genevieve. They quickly become individuals. We struggle with trying to understand room sizes. The brief gives us 40 sq.m, 10 sq.m and so on. How do we make a decision on what size a 25 sq.m room looks like? How does it fit an adjoining space? Felicity measures her classroom. We all troop out into the playground and set out room sizes. We then prepare a linked bubble diagram indicating where the exhibition room links to the shop and to the sandwich bar. Where do the lavatories fit in and the offices and storage? Then there is the site. We have decided to place our building on the quarry, possibly with a turf roof and glass frontage. Genevieve doesn't like this idea. She would like to see brickwork and a slate roof to match the existing building. Richard wants to use the railway to transport people from the car park to the pumping station, then to the Heritage Centre and on around the other interesting sites. This is a very infectious idea! Now I'm panicking with only 15 minutes to go for this session and I have to leave them with preparation work at school.

Two hours has whipped by and I'm leaving drained from the experience. Teachers - you have my full admiration. I only had six children. As for a whole class ... phew!

Four more sessions to go, at the end of which we have to produce drawings, written explanations and a model. Tiring but exhilarating!

Keith Leaman

Projects Group - TrustNews Spring 1998

The past year has seen a shift in emphasis for the Projects group. Rather than dealing with small "built" projects, the group has focused on matters at a more strategic level.

For example, within the planning laws, householders are entitled to carry out certain works to their homes without needing to apply for planning consent. This is termed

"permitted development". In certain sensitive localities, such as the conservation areas of Winchester, this is undesirable, as piecemeal change (for example windows, doors, chimneys etc) gradually erodes historic character.

"Article four directions" allow permitted development rights to be withdrawn, where there is a demonstrable threat to the character of a localised area. The projects team has carried out research on the implementation of article four directions, put together a "test case" and submitted the proposal to Winchester City Council. It is hoped that the City can be encouraged to take up the case and put this added level of protection in place.

Secondly, the City Council is currently engaged on the reappraisal of the Winchester conservation area. This is an important matter, as an up-to-date assessment of the conservation area is vital if unsuitable developments within the city are to be successfully contested by the planning department. The retiring City Conservation Architect, Andrew Rutter, is carrying out the study. The projects group is hoping to assist Andrew in his work, but he has specifically asked if the membership of the Trust can help in bringing to his notice unusual or important items to which he would not normally have access. Please contact Andrew directly, via the Planning Department, (848177) if you have any information.

Antony Feltham-King

Chernocke Place and Winchester's Pioneer Motorist - TrustNews Spring 1998



Chernocke Place before the porches were reinstated in 1979

Chris Webb, amateur historian and member of The Trust, gives some history of his family home and the people who lived there. (This article was first printed in the Institute of Transport Administration Journal)

An interesting piece of transport history lurks behind an elegant block of houses in Winchester. In 1897 Major General Hugh Parker Montgomery (late Kings Royal Rifle Corps, now Royal Green Jackets) became "the first person not connected with the motor industry to purchase an English built motor car". So reports the Autocar

magazine recording the General's death in December 1901 at Chernocke Place, 35 Southgate Street.

General Montgomery paid the newly formed Daimler Company in Coventry £350 for his "Wagonette" car. The new company had intended this car for a director to drive from Lands End to John O'Groats for the first time, but as the General had paid for it and the delivery date was long passed Daimler released the car even though it had not been "run in". It took the General and his sister two days, with an overnight stop at The Randolph Hotel in Oxford, to drive the "Wagonette" from Coventry to Winchester, with frequent stops for railway crossing gates to be opened.

Daimler's chief foreman came to run the car in and teach the General and his groom how to drive it. Sadly, the Daimler records were destroyed in the blitz on Coventry and only a newspaper picture survives showing the car with the General.

Chernocke Place, 35 Southgate Street, is one of two blocks named after Sir Villiers Chernocke Bt (died 1779). Designed by Owen Browne Carter (1806-1859), architect also for the Corn Exchange (now the city library), Egyptian influences from his overseas visits can be seen in the interior mouldings. G E Street, architects of law courts in London, was Carter's pupil. The blocks were built between 1836 and 1845 by William White and on the Roman road -later called Goldestrete (now Southgate Street.)


The porches on a lorry in 1979

No 35 was the home first of the Lavie family from 1845 to 1873. On 18th July 1806 Captain Thomas Lavie RN protecting British shipping in HMS Blanche captured a French frigate Le Gueriere off the Faeroes without a single British life being lost. For this Lavie received a knighthood and the frigate was incorporated into the Royal Navy. To commemorate the event, Sir Thomas Lavie's brother-in-law commissioned a Flight and Barr Worcester porcelain vase. This is now in the White House and, during President John F Kennedy's time, in his personal office alongside paintings of the USS Constitution sinking HMS Gueriere en route from the West Indies in 1812. Sir Thomas' Lloyds of London urn, presented for saving the British convoy, is now in the Huntingdon Museum, Los Angeles. Sir Thomas in his will instructed his family to purchase a home and No 35 is the house they bought. His widow died in 1837 and is buried in Winchester College.

After the Lavie's left, Colonel Henry Wood C.B., Rifle Brigade and an early photographer, owned No 35 until 1919. His photographs were used to illustrate an ITV series. Henry Wood had the skull of a Russian soldier killed in the Crimea as a lampshade. He had three daughters named Olive, Hazel and Myrtle Wood!


Chernocke Place today with porches reinstated

Lady Matilda and Lady Amelia Montgomery, daughters of the 5th Earl of Macclesfield, rented no. 35 in 1875. Major General H P Montgomery was Lady Matilda's son and served in India and South Africa. He always rented a room, paying his mother £40 a year, to ensure he had a vote. At one time he commanded the Rifle Barracks and eventually retired from York to Winchester, after the deaths of his mother and aunt, to live with his surviving sister in no. 35. As well as being an enthusiastic motorist, General Montgomery was also a director of the local electricity company and no. 35 was one of the first houses in the city to be lit by electricity. Many of the old wooden DC conduits remain, albeit with a modern wiring system installed. He was indeed "the model of a modern Major General" and his motoring exploits are commemorated by a plaque on the nearby modern Anglo St James House which stands on the site of stables where the Daimler was garaged. Sadly, no further details of the car have been found and it must be assumed it was scrapped as registration marks did not come into use until 1903.

After General Montgomery's death, Dr H Godwin MB BS FRCS rented no. 35 as a home and surgery on returning from the Boer War. Between 1912 and 1918, no. 35 was a boarding house before becoming flats and offices. In 1966 the whole block was looking very much the worse for wear when my parents purchased no. 35 as a home. Since then, the house has gradually been restored to something like its former splendour. In 1979, the frontage was cleaned and porches reinstated. This was organised by the Trust to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. The fine interior ceiling mouldings have also been cleaned to reveal the 1840 details.

So, as you join the traffic in Southgate Street, remember the General who helped start the motoring industry by being the first member of the general public actually to acquire an English built motor car.

Design Awards 1997 - TrustNews Spring 1998

The purpose of the Award Scheme is to recognise quality in the design of buildings and landscape within the City of Winchester. Entries can include new buildings, rehabilitation and restoration, landscape and planting, shopfronts, signs and environmental improvement schemes.

Last year, for the seventh Award scheme, the Chairman of the Selection Panel was Sherban Cantacuzino CBE and he presented the Award and Commendation Certificates at the Annual General Meeting on 3rd November 1997. The Panel's comments on all the entries follow.

AWARD



The West Building, Winchester School of Art

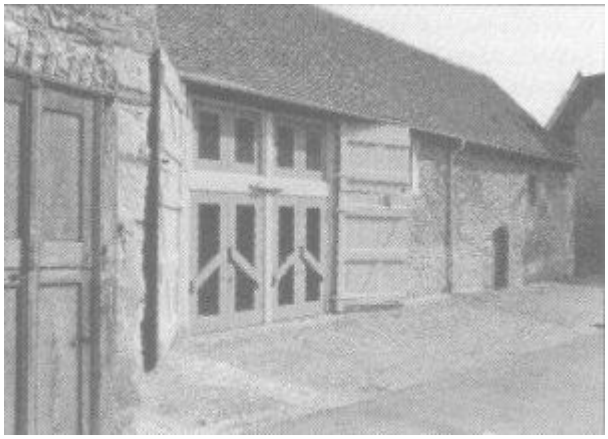
The West Building, Winchester School of Art
architecture plb

This building demonstrates that architecture is about making good spaces. It uses a fine site to the best advantage, and despite the fact that it is a building pared down to basic essentials, it is inspiring and lifts the spirit.

The main facade is clean and well proportioned, whilst to the rear there are spectacular studio spaces linked by external staircases to courtyards and external spaces, whose full potential has yet to be realised by proper landscaping.

The interaction between the new and existing art school building creates potential for an important public space for the school, and a very much improved approach to the park. The panel recognises that it was a brave decision, in the face of extreme financial stringencies, to create an entire building where future requirements can be met as and when money is available. This building makes a really significant contribution to the architecture of Winchester.

COMMENDATIONS


Hundred Men's Hall, St Cross

The Hundred Men's Hall, St Cross
Radley House Partnership

The Panel judged this a conscientious piece of restoration, especially the flint walls, brick floor, conduit skirting and roof trusses, though the underside of the uplighters might have been masked. It was felt that the solution chosen for the doors of the rather heavy timber-framed glazed screen was not the best one and that a very light screen of modern design and materials might have provided a more stimulating contrast to the original robust structure. It is good to have kept the old outer door, and to have added matching doors above.

Nothing of architectural or historical interest in this building has been removed or diminished to accommodate the new use as a visitors' room. Obviously much thought and care were invested, and technically the repairs to the historic fabric are of the highest standard.

However temporary, the bulky bar fitting at one end of the room is not up to the standard of the rest and rather spoils the general effect of the interior.

The Lee House Development, St Thomas Street
architecture plb



The Lee House Development

This development represents a huge effort, resulting in the reclamation (through some fearless surgery) of a piece of the City comprising three historic buildings, one of which is the large and important 18th century Lee House. There was room for a judiciously sited and cleverly designed row of new houses which, in their form and use of materials, owe little to traditional design, and yet fit in happily.

The conversion of Lee House is full of imaginative touches: for example the treatment of the entrance hall and front ground floor rooms, inserted staircases and the external timber platform. The panel was critical, however, of the way the old brickwork of the front wall had been repointed, and, consequently, of its unsatisfactory appearance.

It was felt that this scheme was a model of architectural ingenuity and urban spatial planning. It shows that the way buildings relate to each other can determine the success of a project, even when periods and styles of buildings are mixed together.

Landscaping the old by-pass, Bar End to Compton section
Mott Macdonald Highway Division


Landscaping the old by-pass

The Itchen Valley with its water meadows, where it passes St Catherine's Hill, is an integral part of the setting of the City. This was cut off first by the railway and later by the by-pass

The construction of the M3 extension, for better or for worse, provided an opportunity to close the by-pass and repair the damage by restoring the landscape and re-establishing the connection of the valley with the hill. The rehabilitation of the landscape has been beautifully done. At present this is somewhat spoiled by the barbed-wire fencing which is to be removed once the planting is established.

The Panel nevertheless hopes that opportunities already taken to restore this piece of land for the use of Winchester citizens will not exclude future development along the course of the Navigation and railway line for public use.

OTHER ENTRIES

New Showroom, 19 Bridge Street
Interior Designers Guild

The restoration of, presumably, an existing shop front, with possibly a new central door (no written information was supplied on the entry form) is a good effort which should be an example to others in the same block. The interesting curvilinear door handle does not really belong to the overall rather neat and sober design.

Dean Gamier Garden
Sally Hocking, For the County Planning Officer, Hampshire County Council

This garden is undoubtedly an addition to the quiet environment of the Cathedral, allowing magnificent views of the South side of the Choir and Transept. The Panel nevertheless felt the need for more enclosure to provide contrast and variety. Variation in levels might have helped. It is, for example, all on one level, and fully exposed along its whole length to the side of the Cathedral. It also questions the use of the ground plan of the church as being right for a garden. However, the Panel recognises that there are some excellent details including the gates into the garden,

and the restrained iron work which combines elegance with simplicity, and looks forward to the maturing of this garden as plants and shrubs grow.

Master's Garage at St Cross
Radley House Partnership

This makes something positive of a free-standing garage which is difficult to do. It is done through its form - square on plan with a pyramidal room, and use of materials - timber boarding and shingle roof. Siting of a garage on the axis of a gate makes it imperative that it should have presence, which it has. But the use of plastic gutters and downpipes is, perhaps, unfortunate and the exposed plastic membrane at floor level is untidy and spoils the otherwise smart look of the little building.

Hallifax Gates, College Street
Charles Normandale, for Winchester College

This is a fine example of contemporary ironwork. Winchester College should be congratulated for having commissioned an artist craftsman and not gone for a stock solution. But the effect is spoiled by the setting, especially the floor scape and the view of the yard, the improvement or screening of which appear not to have been considered. It could be said that these gates deserve a better site.

Melbury Lodge, Royal Hampshire Hospital
Whicheloe Macfarlane MDP

This building appears to be thoroughly functional and may be well-liked by its users. To the Panel, it did not appear to have gone beyond such efficiency and popularity to becoming a coherent piece of architecture. Internally a feeling for space is lacking and externally, the changing pitches of the concrete pantile roofs and the harsh combination of brick colours make the building at odds with its magnificent site. The apparent need to switch the entrance has produced what the Panel found to be a rather forbidding approach. It is unfortunate not to have taken full advantage of such a site with a design of truly contemporary relevance.

Park and Ride Bus Shelters
Queensbury International Ltd for Hampshire County Council

The co-ordination of all Park & Ride bus stops is welcomed and the form with vaulted glazed roof is a distinct advance over the old bus shelters. The colour chosen might not be to everyone's taste and in some cases the siting appears to be insensitive.

25 High Street, Refurbishment of a Listed Building
Graeme Stevenson Architects

It is commendable to have restored this corner building but was it necessary to decorate the ground floor of a simple piece of vernacular with heavy Post Modernist Doric columns inspired no doubt by the early Victorian neo-classical stone building on the opposite corner? The loss of double corner columns and crude shop window details have minimised most of the advantages of restoring the old building.

Comments on Design Awards 1997- TrustNews Spring 1998

Andrew Rutter *retiring Conservation Architect comments on this year's Award Scheme*

There is so little informed discussion on architecture and design as opposed to, say, music in this country that a local initiative like the Winchester Preservation Trust's award scheme is very valuable.

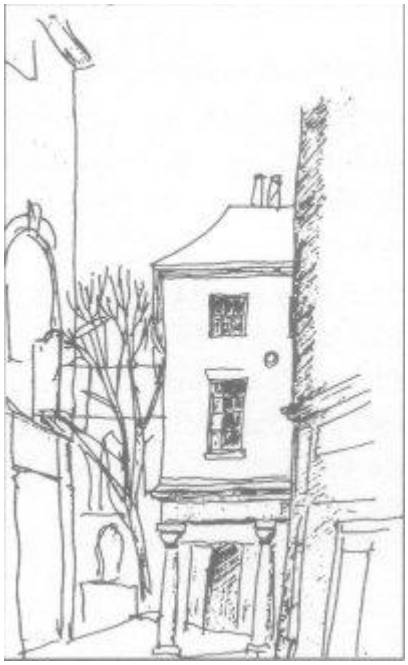
However, I find it difficult to believe that every member of the Trust would be in agreement with everything said about the current entries and it would be interesting if your newsletter had feedback. I do not remember any place for comments at the exhibition in the library but as a planning officer who has worked with the Trust for many years, may I be permitted to make some?

Firstly, I know that the Design Award Co-ordinator had to work really hard to get entries at all and this ought to be appreciated. One must wonder why there could not have been a comparison between two health related buildings, the St John's Charity home in Eastgate Street as well as Melbury Lodge. The comparison would have been very instructive even though the sites are so different. The method of procurement might have contained lessons, since I believe that the building in Eastgate Street was the result of a limited architectural competition.

Why is there no scheme from a private house developer? Is this because the Trust is perceived as being opposed to development by them?

I would not quarrel with the overall judgement but would it not be possible for the Trust to reinstate an idea tried out many years ago? This involved the public, including Trust members, being invited to look over a newly completed building and then have an explanation by the architect as to what was his client's brief, how he had tried to satisfy it and what problems had arisen through the planning process, followed by questions. If the Trust were able to arrange this with, say, the award winning scheme, it would gain extra publicity and advance the appreciation of design and the roles of different people in the process.

When Mr McKenna of Winchester Design did this for Meadow House, Southgate Street, people said, at the end of the evening, they understood far better the decisions that had been taken and the problems the architect had faced. It also gave the opportunity for admitting a mistake had been made over the choice of materials.



25 High St showing
its relationship with other buildings:
drawn by Andrew Rutter



25 High St showing
its relationship with other buildings:
drawn by Andrew Rutter

It also seems essential to obtain from applicants photographs of the "before" situation as well as the "after" one, in order to assist judges and critics. For example, I think this would have aided understanding on the motorway landscape project, 25 High Street and Lee House, St Thomas' Street - both now and in the future.

I did not think the photographs displayed of 25 High Street showed the relationship of this building to its surroundings well, although this was something that weighed with the Planning Department. One of the problems that this building suffered in the 19th century was a shop conversion by the architect Stopher, removing the structural

cross walls on the ground floor. This made it very vulnerable to being knocked down like a pack of cards by a large 20th century lorry colliding into it in the very narrow street scene. So, it needed a firm base. When one sees it framed by other buildings, I think this looks well. Who, outside the architectural world, would understand the criticism made by the judges of its being "a post-modernist" intervention? Is it not better to show purely a late 20th century change (rather than one trying to be very historical) and on a building not originally intended for use as a shop?

Although the criticism was raised that it was unfortunate the two timber columns on the corner were removed, nobody has visually demonstrated how they could be incorporated satisfactorily into a revised structural and aesthetic scheme for the base of the building. I also thought the criticism of the shopfront quite harsh, when one is dealing with a company like "Birthdays" who are not even prepared to negotiate on colour. But that is something that could easily change in future, with a different tenant, now that the structure has been put right and a framework created.

On the Lee House development, since the Trust is often criticising the Planning Department for not writing enough briefs, it seemed sad not to record that the "brave" decision to separate the two buildings was in fact made as part of the planning brief on a listed building group. This was negotiated with English Heritage, partly with a view to bringing St Thomas' spire more intimately back into the street scene, seen through the access way, and partly to introduce more vegetation into the site. This is not intended in any way to detract from the creative use made of the brief to provide a development that was commercially acceptable to the developer. The scheme does illustrate the value of having somebody wanting to do a development and really keen to use the end product themselves, accepting the real pain of the process, when the method of disposing of listed buildings does not permit thorough investigation prior to purchase.

On the Melbury Lodge site, the Local Architects Panel did ask for the whole feeling of the design to be rethought, to make it less stodgy in view of the fact that the building was to house people with a depressive illness on a site that is known to be in shadow for much of the winter. Thank goodness the Planning Department was able to remove some of the accommodation so that the internal courtyards do link up with the surrounding landscape to offer some relief and enable residents to go out and sit in the sun. In this case the Planning Department were in a weak position, since it was only a notification produre.

The achievement of the Designers' Guild in raising the whole tone of a standard shop, in line with the City Council's policy on signs and in rather an unpromising shopping location could have been more generously acknowledged. When darkness falls, it is a real pleasure to look into this showcase.

Finally, I do hope that the Trust will reinstate the idea of discussions on new buildings to complement the popular walks held in the summer, when one can only discuss buildings superficially, from the outside. Maybe it would only be architect members of the Trust who would be brave enough to do this? Perhaps at the next Chippindale Venture the children, as a warm-up exercise, could visit a building and assess it - producing their fascinating drawings.

(Comments on this Award Scheme from members would be very welcome. Please write to the Editor)

Organisation - TrustNews Spring 1998

Winchester Preservation Trust...cares for the charcter of the City

The Heritage Centre,30/32 Upper Brook Street, Winchester, S023 8DG
Tel: 01962 851664

President: The Hon Sir Peter Ramsbotham GCMG, GCVO, DL

Vice President: Sir Hugh Casson CH KCVO RA RIBA FCSD

Chairman: Robin Merton Esq.

Deputy Chairman: Michael Carden AADip, RIBA

Hon Treasurer: William Winterton FCA

Secretary: Mrs Flavia Bateson
(Including Membership)

(Full details of officers and committees of the Trust, with a list of members are published each year in the Annual Report).

Newsletter Editor: Gill Collymore

If anyone has any comments on issues in this newsletter or suggestions for future ones, please write to the Editor at The Heritage Centre. The Copy date for the next newsletter is **27th April 1998**

Robin Merton, New Chairman - TrustNews Spring 1998

The Trust is very fortunate that Robin Merton has agreed to be Chairman, following the retirement of Antony Skinner. After a career in the army, Robin has recently been Regimental Secretary to the Royal Hussars, now the King's Royal Hussars, in Winchester, which involved being responsible for the regimental museum at Peninsula Barracks. Very much a Winchester man, Robin was born here, where his great grandfather T F Kirby was a Mayor of the city, and he has been a long standing member of the Trust. He is married to Jilly, herself involved in many voluntary organisations in Winchester; they have a son and daughter. We welcome him as Chairman of the Trust and wish him good luck.

Book Sale - TrustNews Spring 1998

MARCH St Maurice Covert : 9.00am – 3.00pm

Any books should be delivered in advance. Please ring Jo Gordon Watson for delivery point (854163) or deliver to the Heritage Centre. (851664) Helpers required for the stand. Proceeds to the Winchester Preservation Trust.

Summer Walks - TrustNews Spring 1998

Nick McPherson wil be organising a further series of walks. These will take place on Thursday evenings at 6.30pm starting on 11 June. Details will follow in the summer newsletter.

Membership, Subscriptions and Donations - TrustNews Spring 1998

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all those who have recently joined the Trust: Mrs Jean Wheeler, Miss Vivien Manfield, Marie and Rod Halls, John Cooley, Mary, Andrew and Laura Dolman, Mr and Mrs Brian Hampson, Steven Costello, Carol Brady, John and Pamela Holland, Mr and Mrs C Oram, Mr A R Parkhurst, Dr and Mrs G Sharman, Cdr J A C and Mrs Moulson, Mrs Judith Martin, Stuart and Pauline Moore, plus the St Swithun Street and Symonds Street Residents' Association and the Winchester Project as Corporate Members.

The Trust has been able to hold subscriptions at the current rate for 5 years but at the Council meeting in June 1997 it was agreed an increase would have to be made in May 1998. The new rates will be:
Single (£8.00)
Family/household (£ 12.00)
Corporate (£15.00)

Existing members aged 65+ on 1st May 1998 may if they wish continue at the current rates. At the same time, a new category of Junior Membership will be introduced for those aged under 21. This will be at £5.00 per annum and we hope may encourage the many enthusiastic children and students who come into contact with the Trust through the Chippindale Venture to continue their interest. A banker's order form is enclosed for all those who pay by that method and will need to amend their subscriptions for 1998/99. Payment by banker's order does give the Trust a saving in bank charges.

Until May 1998, the rates for life membership are £60.00 (single) and £75.00 (family/household). These will also increase -£100.00 (single) and £120.00 (family/household) - from that date.

An application form is enclosed and as an introductory offer we will be happy to welcome new members now at the existing rates which will take them through to May 1999. Existing members too may also like to think of becoming life members whilst the current cheaper rates apply.

With the exception of Monday, which seems to be the popular day in 1998, the large and small meeting rooms at the Heritage Centre continue to be available for hire. We can also arrange to provide equipment (slide or overhead projector, display boards etc). Please contact the Trust office for details of availability and hourly rate (Winchester 851664).