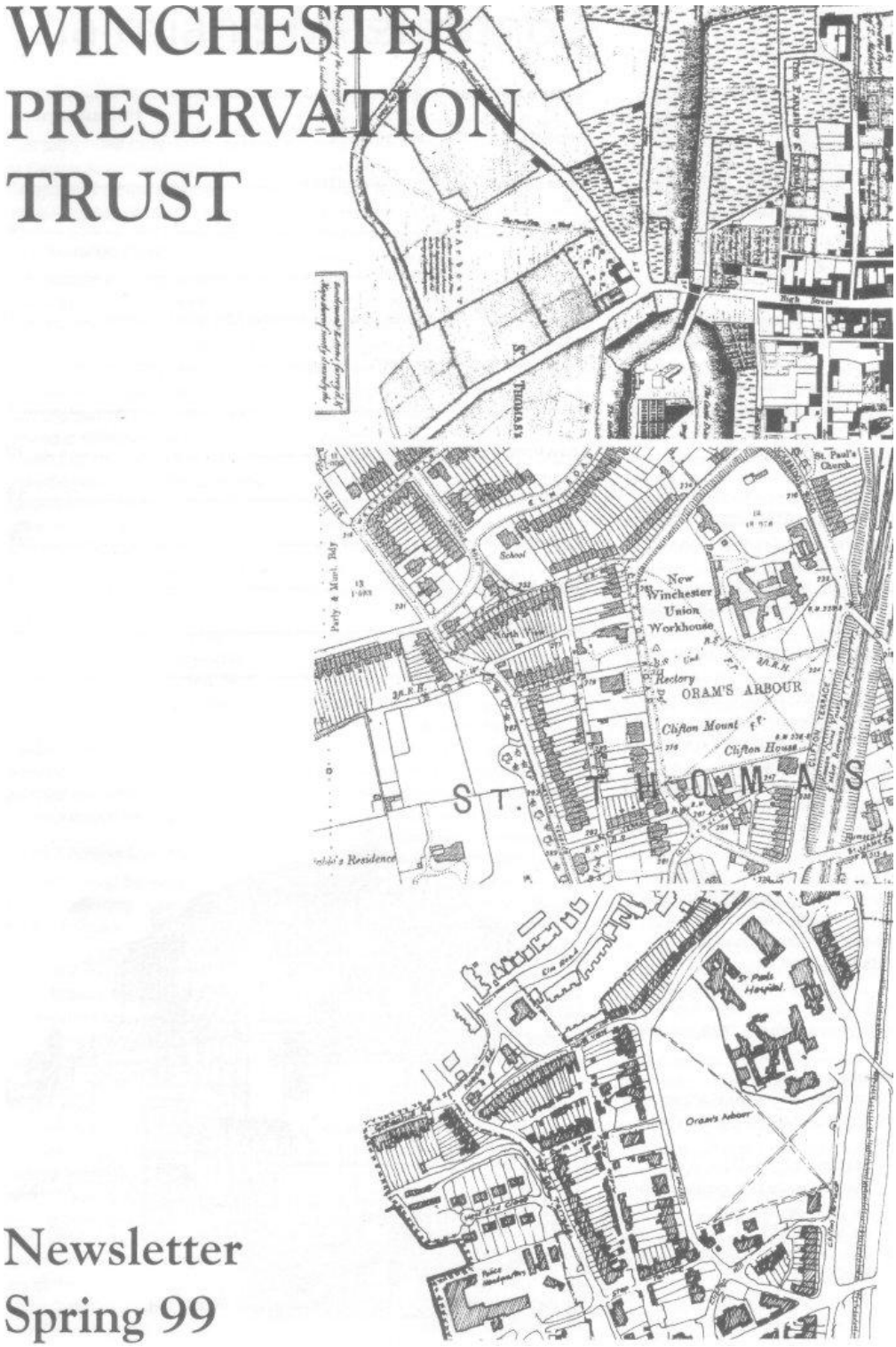
**Title Picture - TrustNews Spring 1999**




3 maps showing development of the Oram's Arbour/St James' Lane Area
1. Map by Godson, 1750, reproduced by kind permission of British Museum
2. OS Map of 1897
3. Map, as used for Neighbourhood studies

## Chairman's Message - TrustNews Spring 1999

### George Burnett

I am sad to have to report the death of George Burnett who died on 14th December. A tribute to him is included in these pages.

### The Heritage Centre

I am pleased to be able to tell you that at long last the lease of the Heritage Centre is now ours and that construction work is due to start on 18th January. It is estimated that the work will be completed by the end of May and that the first tenants will be moving in shortly afterwards. In the interim our Secretary will be operating from the home of the Treasurer who has very kindly found room for our office. Mail should continue to be sent to the Heritage Centre and an answering service will be available on 01962 851664.

The cost of the conversion and refurbishment will be in the order of £35,000. About £15,000 will be off-set by a grant from the City.

The financial cost of the delay in finalising the lease is now being assessed and efforts will then be made to recoup this loss.

### Development Control



The Pagoda House, St James' Lane,
drawn by Nick Bourne as part of Neighbourhood Studies

The pressure on the perimeter of the City is unrelenting. The hotspots at the moment are:

**Morn Hill, Percy Hobbs Roundabout**. Installations for 21 white-painted dish aerials up to 16.4 metres (54 ft. approx.) in diameter, with two subterranean equipment buildings: educational buildings for Intech (8,500 sq. metres): 120 bedroom hotel (7,500 sq.metres): with vehicular access, parking, security fencing and landscaping.

All this is on the site of the existing scrap and knackers yards. A 16.4 metre dish would stand as high as the top of the sword on King Alfred 's statue in the Broadway.

**Land to the east of St. Cross Road. and south of Five Bridges Road**. Provision of sports facilities and changing rooms for Princes Mead School. This is on meadow land behind the ribbon development from Ghost Corner to the railway bridge under St. Cross Road.

The Trust views these latest planning applications with great concern and has objected to both. The aerial farm at Morn Hill will be highly visible from many points on the landscape setting for Winchester. This is quite unacceptable on such a prominent feature. We are sad to have to object yet again to an application which could solve Intech's search for a permanent home but the price to be paid in landscape terms is far too high. The application went to the Planning Committee on 28th January.

If planning permission is given for either of these sites we are concerned that the wrong signals may be sent to other developers waiting in the wings with land on the perimeter or with sites nearer the City centre. It may also make it more difficult for the Planning Committee to refuse consent if they have already set precedents. As it is we are stuck with the existing planning consent for an hotel at Morn Hill which is the legacy of an injudicious consent given in 1987. We must hope that wiser counsels will now prevail and that both these applications will be refused.

There are other possible threats to the perimeter. The City has plans to create an outdoor leisure centre at Bushfield but the details are still confidential (why, I cannot imagine) so details are not available. The County, together with the City, are also considering another Park & Ride car park in this area. there are six possible sites but consultation has not yet started . Our Development Control Panels will be watching the situation, as will our traffic team, and will then report to the Trust's Council when the proposals are clear.

The other major known threat is at Barton Farm on the northern perimeter of the City and to the east of the Andover Road. Some of the land belongs to Winchester College who are anxious to sell it for development. No time frame has been given.

**The Broadway & Friarsgate Area**

The Trust has had a briefing on the outline plan by the Chief Planning Officer. Not all the details were available at the time and the Trust has reservations about the scheme as presented. We are preparing a letter to the Chief Planning Officer setting out our views and ideas. At the time of writing this is not completed and therefore at this stage I will say no more. But be assured we will monitor progress carefully.

**Other Issues**



Heritage Centre, Water Colour by Hugh Casson

The Trust is also keeping a watch on:

- The Future of Winchester Study
- City traffic management and cycle routes
- High Street lighting

More on Development Control will be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

**Townscape & Landscape Study**

This is nearing completion and, when published, will be a valuable tool in the battle to prevent unbridled and damaging development in and around the City. On publication it will be available in the Library. I hope that by the time the next Newsletter goes to press we will have more information on a publication date.

**St. Paul's Hospital**

As you are probably aware a serious fire broke out on Friday 1st January at about 1.00 p.m. causing major damage to the roof of the former Workhouse building. It was probably started by squatters. The buildings are still the property of CAPITECH, but are insured by the future developer, Gleesons. Work is shortly to be put in hand to secure and weatherproof the building. Conversion work will start in the Spring once planning consent is given.

**Dates for your Diary**

In response to views expressed at the AGM in November we are to hold a **Members Night in early summer** in the Milner Hall. This will give us an opportunity to tell you what the current issues are and to hear your views. Further details will be circulated to you in due course.

The AGM will be held on Monday 1st November, time and venue yet to be announced.

Best wishes to you all for 1999.

**Stop Press:**
**The new study:**
**'Winchester City and its Setting' is now available at the local study library, Jewry Street Library.**

**Development Control Committee - TrustNews Spring 1999**

The New Year seems a good time for an update on some of the applications discussed in previous newsletters.

We understand the **Queen's Court site** on the upper level of **Peninsula Barracks** has been sold on (at a vast profit because of its planning consent) and hope this won't lead to the gruelling process of considering yet another scheme for this site - it took from November 1997 to May 1998 to agree the last development.

The prospects for **Bereweeke Road** have improved somewhat. Instead of facing demolition, the **Chantry Mead Hotel** is to be converted into 11 flats - a great improvement on the ugly new block of 21 flats originally proposed, even though there will be a sea of parked cars at the front. The appeal against refusal of the 43-bedroom nursing home proposed in place of **Bereweeke House** was dismissed, and the applicants have come back with a scheme for a new block of 16 flats. Benefits of the scheme are the scale of the building, which seems acceptable as seen from the road, and the steep slope of the site, which means that virtually all the cars can be parked under the building. From directions other than the front, the block could seem disturbingly large and the lack of cohesion in its design, especially regarding the unrelated styles and proportions of the windows, does nothing to improve this impression. We feel the design needs further thought and have objected to this initial proposal.

New flats are now also proposed at **Ropewalk House, 1 North Walls**, where a scheme for 11 flats replaces one for six 3-storey town houses, to which we had objected. We have also objected to the current proposal, which is even less sensitive of its surroundings than the previous one, being a lumpen 3-storey block sited near the boundary on the corner of North Walls and Hyde Abbey Road in a way that would dwarf all existing nearby buildings on the north side of North Walls. A decision on this is awaited.

Members may have seen the results of another appeal reported in the local press. This was the dismissal of an appeal by the Portman Building Society against the City's refusal to let the ex-Hush Puppy premises at **29 High Street** be used for offices. The importance of this decision was not obvious in the report, but it is in fact a local watershed, being the first time a building society's desires have been treated as less important than the environment of Winchester's central conservation area. Ever since the Abbey National's successful appeal in 1992 allowed them to take over a retail site in the High Street, the City (strongly supported by the Trust) has fought against similar changes of use, only to have their objections dismissed on appeal. Useful though such outlets are, building society window displays of cash dispensing machines and notices have no 'sparkle' and their cumulative effect is detrimental to the character of the High Street. This decision is therefore very heartening.

Closed circuit television (CCTV) and its requirements are also exerting pressure on the city centre. The present lighting is apparently not considered adequate to allow a satisfactorily clear picture to be taken, and the County Surveyor wants to rectify this.

Unfortunately, it is proposed to do this in an ad hoc way by tacking a vast number of "luminaires" onto various buildings in the **High Street and The Square**. As far as can be judged from the very limited details provided, the result would be a lot of rather crude fittings and lighting levels more suitable for a football pitch than the centre of an historic town. We feel most strongly that Winchester deserves something better than a basic technical solution to this problem, and we are urging that an assessment of the character of the different areas should be undertaken, so that the levels of lighting needed by CCTV can be provided in a manner suited to this sensitive part of the City.



The proposed Morn Hill Site

Another threat is the telecommunications industry. As well as the 21 large satellite dishes proposed at **Morn Hill**, sites for masts with antennae and smaller dishes are constantly sought in Winchester and the surrounding districts. Government policy is to encourage the growth of this industry, which has been released from many of the planning constraints facing lesser mortals. Full planning applications are not needed for masts not exceeding 15 metres, and the local authority has only 28 days (instead of the usual 8 weeks) in which to decide whether the siting of the mast and its associated equipment is so intrusive that it warrants an Article 4 direction which revokes permitted development rights, so requiring a full application -this process needs the Secretary of State's approval so it means a very tight schedule indeed. Masts above 15 metres need normal planning consent, and if an appeal follows a refusal, it is more than possible for an obtrusive mast to be permitted because it "fills a black hole in communications" and is therefore "in the national interest". Apart from the continuing expansion of the various operators' coverage, the demand for sites is being exacerbated by the change from analogue to digital technology. The cellular (analogue) systems that needed masts spaced about 20 miles apart are now being replaced by the personal communications (digital) networks that require a typical mast-spacing of about 5 miles.

In the last few months the siting of a 15 metre (and therefore permitted) mast and its associated unsightly ground-level structures has had to be allowed on the **Teg Down Reservoir** site between the Sarum Road Hospital and the houses on Chilbolton Avenue, and the planning authority has successfully managed the withdrawal of a scheme for a 20 metre tree mast on the skyline at **Maybush, Oliver's Battery Gardens**. The operators will no doubt come back with further proposals. Currently going through the planning process is another mast (22.5 metres high with associated equipment cabins and security fencing) somewhere on land belonging to the **Winchester Lawn Tennis Club, Bereweeke Road**. No details were provided in the application of how this very tall mast on the Winchester skyline would look from a distance, and it appears that the tennis club now wants it sited elsewhere on their land. Once its location has been decided, a balloon will be flown to establish from where the mast would be seen. Watch this space for further developments!

These recent applications in and around Winchester are only the tip of a very large iceburg that is threatening to engulf us all, to the detriment of local environments all over the country. Government directives encourage mast-sharing or installations on existing structures and expect operators to show that all possible options have been considered; sadly the local authorities have been left with no means of making this happen. This state of affairs could lead to an uncontrollable proliferation of masts littering our towns and countryside, with every view blighted by one of these towers. We suggest our members should write to their MP to press for changes in the present legislation before it is too late to improve this unfortunate situation.

Shione Carden

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**The Chippindale Venture and Workshop Programme - TrustNews Spring 1999**

*The 99 Programme involves 2 schools:*

**Kings School Fair Oak** is a comparatively small private school teaching children from the age range of 11-18. The school draws on a wide area and includes many children from Winchester. The workshop-day we are planning will be a different experiment in that we are involving the whole school age-range.

The brief we are in the process of preparing involves their own school by proposing new classroom facilities, but with the emphases on environmentally controlled facilities, the use of grey water, exploring the way in which the building could be heated, using very low energy levels, ventilation control etc. At the same time the school is situated in a very sensitive planning area. So the design, positioning and relationships with the existing building will need to be explored and resolved!

This one day exercise will culminate with a presentation by the children to an invited panel.

**Olivers Battery School** is a Chippindale Venture programme which takes place over seven weeks and culminates in a presentation day on the 14th July. Thirty-five 11 year old children will be examining ideas for a school common room for themselves.

This year our programmes are ambitious, largely brought about by having to fit into the school curriculum and for both schools it is June and July. We are therefore hoping, indeed praying that all the 'professionals' we draw on will be able to give us their time and enthusiasm over a slightly longer period.

Keith Leaman

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**Neighbourhood Studies - TrustNews Spring 1999**

**Oram's Arbour and St James' Lane**



Clifton Road by Nick Bourne

During the past year, the Trust's projects group has been working on a series of neighbourhood studies, examining in detail the individual areas of Winchester. These are not intended to be definitive guides to the areas concerned, but it is hoped that they will provide some useful background information concerning the history and character of the various parts of the city which make up the whole. These studies may be useful to planning officers and planning committee members considering the impact of new development in the neighbourhood. They may also prove of interest to those wishing to know more about the area in which they live.

The first in the series focussed on Fulflood, whilst the second, and more recent, takes a close look at the area around Oram's Arbour and St James' Lane. It is hoped that the following extract from the Oram's Arbour and St James' Lane study gives a flavour of the area. The background research, and line drawings, are by **Nick Bourne**.

**The origin of the name**

The area as a whole does not have a generally recognised name. Oram's Arbour itself is central to the northern part of the area and St James' Lane and St James' Terrace are very distinctive features of the southern half; hence "Oram's Arbour and St James'".

The name "Oram's" originated after an Alexander Oram took a lease from the City Authorities on an "arbour" in 1698, also described in the lease as a "pasture" (land on which to graze animals). Chambers Dictionary refers to the Anglo-French word "herber", meaning grass, leading to confusion with the Latin word, "arbor", meaning tree. We cannot be certain of this derivation of "arbour", but it did not, in this case, mean "a shady retreat enclosed mainly by trees or climbing plants". Other older names include "Erdberi" and "Herbur". The land continued to be leased by the City for many years until it was fully opened for recreational use, but it seems the citizens had recreational rights on this land since much earlier times.

**History**

Prior to the plague in the 14th century, the area was inhabited, with two parish churches, St.Anastasius on the site of the present St Paul's, and St James', in the present Catholic Cemetery. This last has been in almost continuous use since the

Middle Ages. Following the plague, the area remained largely unpopulated until the railway was built in 1839; this stimulated development. The demand for officers' houses close to the barracks also contributed to the demand for housing.

Development started in 1836 with the Workhouse (later St Paul's Hospital, and now to be re-developed as housing). In the 1840's development quickened with mostly terraced and semi-detached houses, the finest being Clifton Terrace (1840-51), in cream brick with elaborate Bath stone dressings, by O B Carter.

Development of some other terraces was even slower. West End Terrace and St James' Terrace (begun 1840) took, judging from the style, some fifty or sixty years to complete.

**Land use in the area**

***(a) Residential***

Most of the area is in residential use. It is built on a saddle-back hill which slopes down from the west, steeply to the east and north and less so to the south. The roads are a mixture of former country lanes (such as Clifton Road) and laid-out streets (West End Terrace), which has given rise to some interesting intersections (Step Terrace, Clifton Road, Clifton Hill), all adding to the picturesque informality which is so characteristic of the area.

Although generally "middle class" in tone, cheaper housing is interspersed throughout the area, thus breaking up any dominant uniformity. It is noteworthy that some of the most imposing terraces and houses are closest to the railway, suggesting that those living here in the 1840s were much less concerned about the proximity of the railway than the 1890 Victorians who built very small houses near the railway in Fulflood.

Clifton Terrace (1840-51) is the most formally grand and probably owes more to Bath than to London in its particularly distinguished design. The central part of the terrace is the original building, and in this part, the two end houses project slightly, forming definite terminations to the terrace. This subtlety was lost when the terrace was subsequently extended to the north and south. These later extensions are set back just behind the frontage of the original end houses. The ground floor of the terrace is fully stone faced with wide horizontal joints, and the first and second floors are stone dressed with yellow (stone-coloured) brick infill for the plain surfaces. The dressings around the first floor windows to the later parts of the terrace are more elaborate with a full entablature supported on consoles. All first floor (drawing room) windows have balconies with particularly fine decorative wrought-iron balustrades. Some of the houses have been converted into maisonettes. The roofs of these have suffered some alterations, in the removal of chimneys and the addition of modern-design rooflights.

It is worth noting that St James' Terrace is picturesque partly because of the small variations in the design of the houses, and of their setting in ornamental trees. The pastel-coloured walls add a lightness of heart. Clifton Terrace is not considered to be picturesque, as the exclusive use of self-coloured materials and large stone blocks

and dressings add weight giving it a solid dignity and a great sense of permanence and presence. It was built to a consistent design with variation only for changes in taste in detail.

There are some interesting individual houses in the area, of which the most notable is The Pagoda House in St James' Lane, built in 1849 for the Mayor of Southampton. However, there is very little which is autentically Oriental about it; a three-storey half-octagon with corner brackets apparently supporting the roof, each consisting of six open squares. This conceit is intended to suggest the pagoda. The second floor casement lights are divided into lozenges and squares belonging to the homegrown "Cottage Ornee" style. At the rear, plain double-hung sash windows are employed. This kind of building in the late 18th and early 19th centuries resulted from a reaction to the more restrained Georgian style towards more exotic Oriental forms and to a picturesque "Gothick"; Brighton Pavilion being the most notable.

***(b) Hospital***

St Paul's Hospital on one side of the Arbour is now closed and is being converted for residential use. These former workhouse buildings are rather austere, but do form an important group of buildings in this part of the city. In addition, the chimney is a prominent landmark. The present proposal for the conversion to residential use retains many of the former hospital buildings, and introduces new terraced houses in place of some of the lower quality existing buildings.

***(c) Cemeteries***

The Roman Catholic Cemetery in Romsey Road is a quiet and secluded place, not visible from the road as its ground is set at higher level. Its gate house is dated 1829. The West Hill Cemetery in St James' Lane also has a gatehouse and is more open to view. Parts of it are being returned to natural chalk downland, to encourage the conservation of wild plants and insects. This use makes a permanent "breathing space" in an increasingly built-up environment, and is now more accessible to the public.

***(d) Open Space***



Cottages on the south west corner of Oram's Arbour

The remaining open space in the area is Oram's Arbour. This mown grassland is a very important recreational area. From it one can enjoy wide views of the city, the

horizon being visible even above St Paul's Hospital. The mature trees along the hospital boundary also help to frame the view out to the east. Some of the houses fronting the Arbour are quite distinguished and their protection is important. The cottages on the south-west corner make a pleasing group with trees. Although the area in front of the Police Headquarters contains many fine trees, this "park" is dwarfed by the Police building, and is practically inaccessible. However, it is, at least, another green space.

**Positive features of the area**

The following are some of the factors that give the area its special character. All of these have helped to create a lively and attractive neighbourhood in which to live.

- *(a) The layout of Clifton Road following, in part, the course of the medieval ditch on the north side of Oram's Arbour.*
- *(b) The original Victorian development was built to a higher density than, for instance, Christchurch Road, although some of the house designs are of similar character*
- *(c) More modest terraces in red brick have been "stepped" - in pairs, with front facing gables, on the northern arm of Clifton Road, or singly, as in Step Terrace, to take up sloping ground.*
- *(d) Identical and reversed designs are usually limited to two or four repeats. The fashion for rendering of facades has led to the application of Renaissance, Classical or "Gothick" details, often imitating stone and painted in pastel colours or white.*
- *(e) Some rendered and brick-faced houses have flint-faced backs with brick bands and trimmings, leading to picturesque effects which take away the banality of so many backs of Victorian terraces.*
- *(f) The very slow rate of progress in building some of the terraces has resulted in minor (Clifton Terrace) or major changes of style (West End Terrace and St James' Terrace).*
- *(g) The provision of three mews (Middle Road, Crowder Terrace and Mews Lane) has allowed the building of unusual staff cottages, stable and other conversions.*
- *(h) A few attractive cottage groups, such as that on the south-west corner of Oram's Arbour, and also two pairs of five-storey semi-detached houses, each pair under one large gable, on the corner of Clifton Hill and Clifton Road.*
- *(i) Oram's Arbour itself provides a pleasing recreational space where people can meet.*

**Conclusion**

This is a particularly attractive part of Winchester. It has a high proportion of listed buildings and is not unduly threatened by spoilation from permitted development or road schemes. The redevelopment of St Paul's Hospital, a potential threat, appears to have been resolved satisfactorily. The Police Headquarters and Prison sites need to be watched but there is no apparent imminent danger. The area is well provided with trees and the needs here are largely restricted to maintenance. These have a positive effect not only at the neighbourhood level, but also for the landscape of the city. There is a wealth of views into and out of this area and the consequences of

proposed development and tree planting need to be carefully considered; a loss of an outlook could occur in the most unlikely places. The study again shows the subtle linkage between small-scale details and their effect on the city as a whole.

Antony Feltham-King

*Copies of Fullflood and Oram's Arbour/St James' Lane studies are available through the Trust. Future projects include Hyde, St Cross and Christchurch Road.*

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**Public Art in Winchester - TrustNews Spring 1999**



Elizabeth Frink: 'Man on Horse',
Upper High Street

A few years ago there was displayed on the Inner Close of the Cathedral wire sculpture by Sophie Ryder. There were large boxing hares, a flock of sheep walking in line and horse rolling over and kicking its legs. The exhibition was very popular and those of us who live on the spot noticed with pleasure how people's expressions

changed as they walked past the sculpture. However solemn or preoccupied they were at the outset, by the time they were leaving The Close many of them were smiling. This tells us how responsive people can be to public art and how it can affect our mood.

As we look about this great city' however, it is difficult to find many examples of sculpture or ceramics. We have the Frink Man on Horse in the High Street, King Alfred outside the Guildhall, The Soldier outside the Cathedral, and not much else. But consider the public spaces - Abbey Gardens, the Inner and Outer Closes, the forecourt of the County Court, the walls of many of our commercial and public buildings. What a difference the bright colours of ceramics or fine sculpture would make!

Visual art in towns and cities is important because beauty and meaning strengthen and elevate our lives and usually afford pleasure. Architecture should fulfil this function but we may question if such developments as the Brooks' Centre in fact do so. A tedious functionalism has affected much modern thinking about our towns and cities. Sculpture or ceramics in public places are for US all. If good artists create them and if the subject matter is such as to transform emotions that might be dispersed or darkened we will discover a civic influence that unifies the community, gives it identity and is a health-giving reality. In Rotterdam there stands Zadkine's To a Destroyed City (1953) which holds together the outrage the decimation by the Nazis of Rotterdam during World War II and the courage required to rebuild in 1945. Outside the UN Building in New York stands Barbara Hepworth's massive Single Form (1963), a modernist work full of grace and religious feeling, encouraging all that is best in human nature.

These are only great examples of what I mean. In a city like Winchester there is surely room for more carefully selected sculpture than we possess at present. We will be told that sculpture costs money and some may say it is unproductive. In quantitative terms I suppose that public art is useless but in deeper human and community terms it remains important to us all. Since tourism is emerging as a vital Winchester Industry it must be true that the more impressive our city looks the more magnetic it will be to potential visitors; but that apart may no rich citizen's be encouraged to consider the value of public sculpture and ceramics as memorials and gifts to the city'? May we not seek to emphasise 10% for art on any building project? Costs in building may thus include a 10% levy for adornment. Should not the City Council re-consider its duty in this respect?

As we look at the Cathedral or the Great Hall we see that our forebears cared for the quality of their buildings. Can we do less?

Keith Walker

*We are grateful to Rev. Canon K Walker, Cathedral Librarian, for his contribution*

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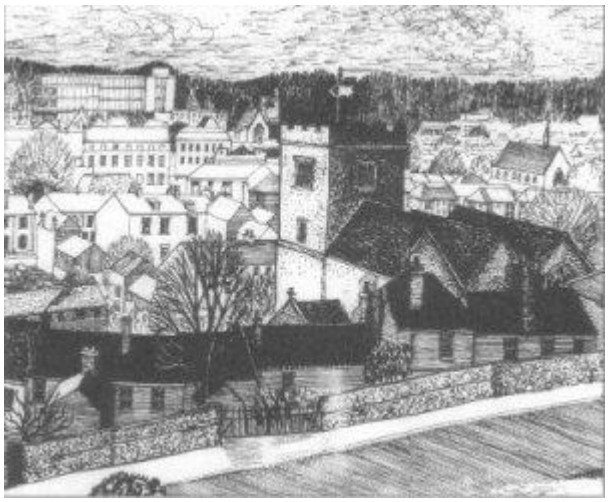
**Parthenon in a Puddle - TrustNews Spring 1999**

**Conservation Officer's farewell talk**

Having only worked for the Trust since March, actually this was for me more of an introduction to Andrew Rutter, his principles and his knowledge. And what a lot there was for me to discover at the Milner Hall on 9th September, where Andrew gave a lecture entitled **"Time, Townscape and People; Winchester's Place in the World"** to Trust members and guests.



View of Winchester, about 1980,
by Andrew Rutter, drawn from St Giles Hill

It is impossible for me to try to recreate the content of Andrew's talk here. I have tried to capture something of the event through a few quotations and points which particularly struck me.

Andrew has been in Winchester for thirty years - approximately one thirtieth as long as the Cathedral. When he first started working at Hampshire County Council he identified "little understanding of design", as he quoted from a letter he wrote then. But he went on to read a letter written to the Hampshire Chronicle in 1970, soon after Andrew joined Winchester City Council, which set out the criteria by which the Preservation Trust would judge the City Council's design decisions. Over the years since then he has gathered a wide acquaintance of buildings, townscapes and landscapes, which he has used positively to influence the quality of design and planning of Winchester and its environs.

Andrew's slide-show travels took us all over the globe, from Edinburgh to Canada, from St Cross to Africa, and from Stonehenge to the Parthenon (beautifully photographed as a reflection in a puddle!). Always he drew us back to parallels and comparisons with good and bad planning and design in Winchester. He mentioned the importance of structure, "a wonderful way of creating decoration". He commented on the constraints of having "a lot of communications to cram into a small space [Winchester]". He stressed the importance of people, who "can make an enormous difference". He also pondered upon the supremacy of Nature - "we think we're masters of the world - but we're not".

In conclusion Andrew said he had enjoyed "a wonderful job", thanked the Trust for all its help and hoped it would continue to support his successor as it had supported him.

He writes:

*"At that time most of the houses on the west side of St John Street had been pulled down to give way for the planned dual carriage way. The cars parked on the left-hand side of the picture indicates where the new road system would cut through to a roundabout across the river in one direction and through St John's Street to Chesil Street in the other.*

*The church stood in isolation, with the Archaeologists investigating Roman graves. It was normally locked because of vandalism.*

*This drawing helped the process of negotiating the present houses which wrap round the churchyard and down Water Lane."*

As the new pen-pusher and envelope-opener at the Heritage Centre, I found the evening a fascinating and most enjoyable one. Andrew said at the beginning of the talk that he had once read that "work is love made visible". If this is so then Winchester has surely been blessed with the love of Andrew Rutter.

Rolly Thomas

The chairman of the Trust, Michael Carden, wrote a letter to the Hampshire Chronicle (1981) in support of Andrew's work under the title 'Rebuilding Winchester', with the closing paragraph:

> "As to Eastgate Street, we hope that the planning Authority will have greater regard for the principles stated earlier, and will not fall for the plausable arguments which claim that a clean sweep is the only viable solution, that inconvenient old buildings are beyond repair, and that modern design cannot be improved by critism"

Michael Carden, Chairman
Winchester Preservation Trust

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**Organisation - TrustNews Spring 1999**

The City of Winchester Trust Ltd
Winchester Heritage Centre,
30/32 Upper Brook Street,
Winchester, 5023 8DG
Tel: 01962 851664

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

**Chairman:** Robin Merton Esq.

**Deputy Chairman:** Michael Carden AADip, RIBA

**Hon Treasurer:** Capt Ian Fothergill Grant RN (retd)

**Secretary:** Mrs Rolly Thomas
(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:** Margrit Waldron

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 **11th May 1999**

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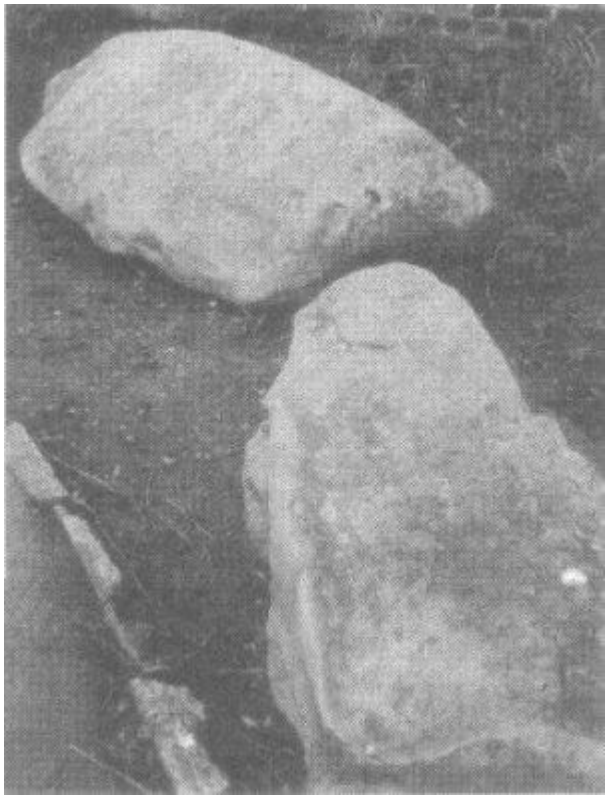
**Prowling around Winchester - TrustNews Spring 1999**

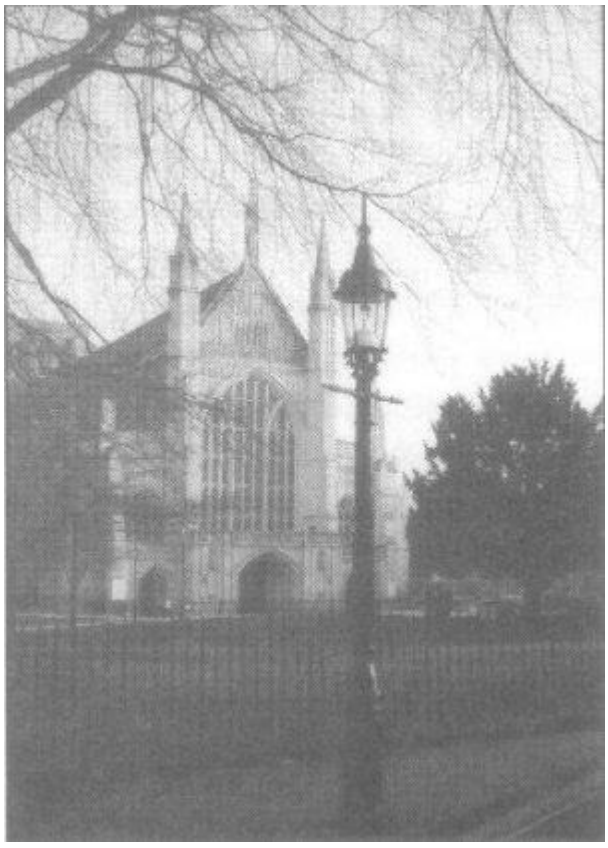
**A series of observations by Miss Winifred Powley a resident now in her 90's.**

**Sarsen Stones**



Sarensen Stones, Abbey Gardens

At the upper entrance to Canon Street is a large well-worn dirty-looking brown boulder. This puzzled me as I had noticed others on odd road corners. I discovered they were Sarsen Stones. For the uninitiated, these are large hard sandstone or conglomerate boulders, also known as grey-wethers, though here they are more brown than grey. They are found in chalk counties, mostly in the south of England and were laid down under pressure when the sea covered this area. They are thought to be relics of sand dunes. I had always connected this phenomenon with Wiltshire, and was very surprised to find so many in Winchester. There is one at the entrance to the Close by the Priory Gate and another at the corner of St. Thomas Street and Minster Lane.

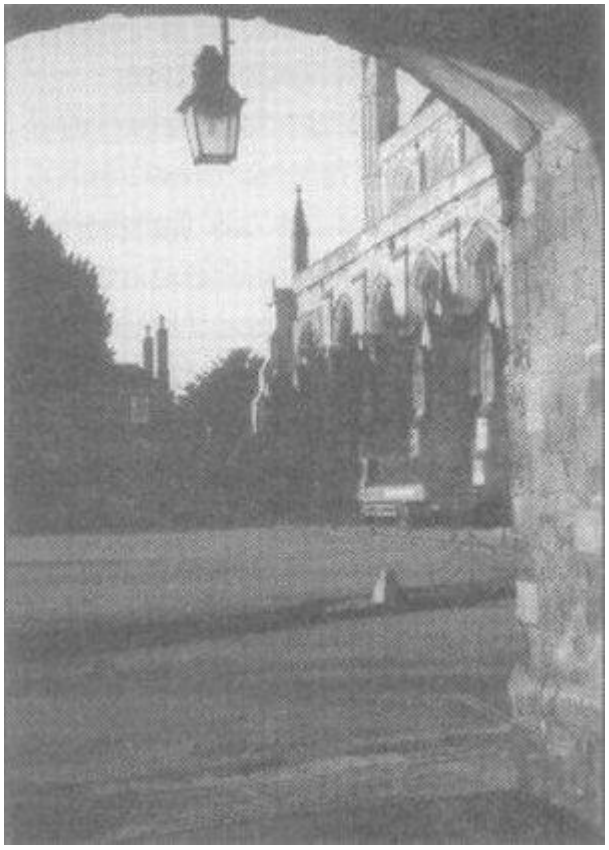


The Gas Lamp in Great Minster Street

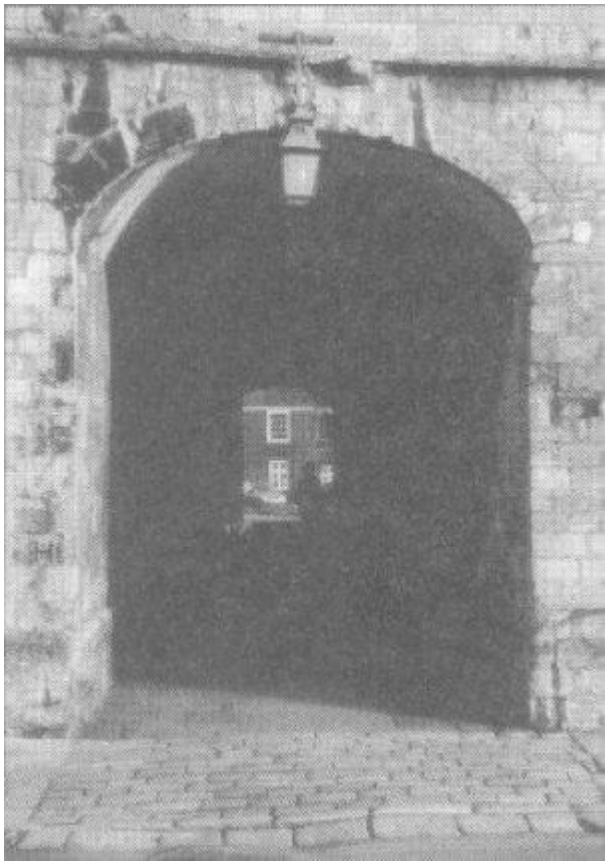
**A gas lamp**

The gas lamp situated opposite Minster House in Great Minster Street and facing the west end of the Cathedral, outside the railings of the Cathedral Green is not an ordinary one. It is a rare example of J. and E. Webb's patent Sewage gas destructor. The flame which burns continuously from 2 burners, not only provides illumination but also burns off any gas rising from the sewer to which it is connected. It is now converted to natural gas but still burns.

**Curle's Passage**



View from Curle's Passage



View into Curle's Passage

Who was this Curle? When the monastic buildings were still attached to the Cathedral it was customary for the city dwellers to use a 'short cut' through the Cathedral in order to get from the East Gate to Kingsgate, thus saving themselves a long walk. Apparently their behaviour at times was most unseemly so the bishop of that day, Walter Curie (1632 - 1647), diverted this traffic by opening a passage (now called the Slype) through an outside buttress. Even today cut into the stone at the South-West corner of the Cathedral is an inscription - a hand pointing to the West door, and beneath it (in Latin) "To Pray" and one pointing in the other direction - "To Walk".

**The Stavanger Stone**

This is a large ledger stone or grave stone placed on the site of St. Swithun's original burial place by the north west wall of the Cathedral in part of what was said to be the monks burial ground by the side of the Old Minster.

The story, and I like to think it authentic, tells of a Benedictine monk from Winchester, Reinald by name, who sailed across the North Sea in 1125 and founded the city of Stavanger and built a cathedral which was dedicated to St Swithun. Anyway there seems to have been a connection between the two cities from quite early times. More recently, in 1971, the city fathers of Stavanger sent a large ledger stone inscribed SWITHUN to be placed on the site of the saint's burial place. Once again I had passed it by many times without realising its significance.

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**Summer Walks 1999 - TrustNews Spring 1999**

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| 3rd June | **Winchester's Ancient Trees** | **Liz Ford**<br>Landscape Architect |
| 10th June | **City Railings** | **James Webb**<br>Hampshire County Council<br>Historic Buildings Officer |
| 17th June | **Feeling and Appreciating Trees** | **Andrew Rutter MDip MRTPI**<br>Retired City Conservation Officer |
| 24th June | **Commerative Sculpture** | **Richard Baker DipArch RIBA**<br>Head of Architecture Design<br>Eastleigh Borough Council |
| 1st July | **Owen Carter's Winchester**<br>Meet at Jewry Street Library | **Robin Freeman**<br>Local Studies Librarian<br>Hampshire County Library Jewry Street |
| 8th July | **To be confirmed** | |
| 15th July | **To be confirmed** | |
| 22nd July | **St Cross Hospital & Chapel**<br>Meet Porters Lodge St Cross Hospital | **Michael Carden MDip RIBA**<br>Architect & Trust<br>Deputy Chairman |

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| 29th July | **Winchester College**<br>Meet Porters Lodge, Winchester College | **Patrick Maclure**<br>Director, The Friends of Winchester College |
| 5th August | **Victorian Winchester** | **Michael Morris**<br>Retired Architect & Victorian Society Member |
| 12th August | **The Search for Alfred: Hyde Abbey Church Latest Excavations** | **Graeme Scobie**<br>Archaeologist City Museum Service |
| 19th August | **Hyde Through History** | **Nick McPherson**<br>Architect, Illustrator & Trust Walks Organiser |

**Walks:** Meet at the Heritage Centre in Upper Brook Street at 6.30 pm unless stated otherwise.

Contribution: £1, last year's walks raised £500 for the Trust. Thanks to Nick McPherson and the speakers.

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**New Publications - TrustNews Spring 1999**

**Winchester City and its Setting**. Produced by 'Landscape Design', Available from the Jewry Street, Local History library.

**Winchester** by Tom Beaumont James. published by BT Batsford/English Heritage. 1999 A new chronology that highlights some of the less obvious features.

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**Summer Walks 1998 - TrustNews Spring 1999**



Summer Walk Group

**Most Trust Members will know that the 1998 Season of Summer Walks – which ended in mid-August – was the best ever. As one particularly generous lady remarked, "Thursdays since the 13th of August just haven't been the same".**

I think the reason for the popularity of the Summer Walks has been a combination of favourable circumstances. Firstly, the amazingly reliable weather: well, it would have been sad indeed if we had had a repeat of 1997. Secondly, the continuing quality and variety of our specialist Walk Leaders. I must thank them all for their generous agreement to lead us "regular walkers". As you know, some of the Leaders, like Andrew Rutter, Richard Baker, Huw Thomas and Michael Carden are perennial fixtures in the Walks Calendar. They are extremely good at their respective specialities and I hope that they will agree to continue to lead walks into the future. Some leaders have resumed from successful walks in previous years and have unsurprisingly been equally effective in better weather conditions. I am thinking in particular of Colin Burden of Plincke Landscape, John Townsend of Winchester City Council, Tom James of King Alfred's College and Patrick Maclure of the Friends of Winchester College.

We had an especially rewarding evening from one of our new leaders. James Webb, the new Hampshire County Council Historic Buildings Officer was really quite provocative and perhaps surprisingly "modern" in his interpretation of many of Winchester's elements of townscape. A third reason for the walks success was the solid support of a considerable number of Trust Members. Of course, the walks are open to all comers, but a reliable caucus of evening enthusiasts goes a long way towards making a walk enjoyable, educational and fun. One of the Preservation Trust's aims is to widen a person's appreciation of Winchester's unique cultural and historical heritage. The Heritage Centre has always been at the heart of this mission, but with its temporary closure, the Summer Evening Walks are one way of allowing the process to continue.

Nick McPherson
Summer Walks Organiser

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**OBITUARY - TrustNews Spring 1999**

**Lieutenant-Colonel George Parry Burnett 1921-1998**

George Burnett died on 14th December aged 77 after a short illness. He joined the Council of the Trust in 1986 after his interest in planning matters was aroused by a decision to build a motorway interchange on the tennis court of his former home in Surrey. Subsequently he chaired the Development Control Committee of the Winchester Preservation. Trust and was also a member of the Town Planning Committee. in 1994 he took over from Joy Williams the onerous task of managing the Heritage Centre until its closure in 1997. it was a very busy and time-consuming post and involved organising the stewards' roster, making running repairs to the building, checking the day's takings and dealing with a myriad of enquires from members of the Trust, school parties and the many visitors to the Centre. This he accomplished with his usual aplomb, dry sense of humour and his exceptional organisational skills.

George was commissioned into the Scots Guards on 13th May 1941. On 20th April 1942 he joined 2nd Battalion of that Regiment serving in the Western Desert. On the

14th June that year he was captured by Rommel's Afrika Corps and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner in various camps in Central Europe. From here, as he used to say 'he watched the Allies blitz from the cheap seats!'. After the war he returned to duty and saw service in the Middle East, Kenya and Malaya. After a tour of duty with the Guards Parachute Company he was appointed to command 2nd Battalion Scots Guards. Subsequently he had various staff appointments in the United Kingdom, Washington and Paris.

He was a well-known figure in Winchester accompanied by his very large Alsatian, Jackson (Jake). His American-born wife, Natalie, pre-deceased him. He is survived by his son and two step-daughters, to whom we send our sympathy. George and his wit will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

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**Diary Dates - TrustNews Spring 1999**

**Book Sale:** Saturday 20th March, 9am - 3pm, St Maurice's Covert
The previous book sale organised by Jo Gordon-Watson raised the excellent sum of £370 for the Trust. Many thanks to Jo and all those who helped.

**AGM:** Monday 1st November, The Guildhall. Details later.

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**Membership - TrustNews Spring 1999**



View from West Hill Cemetery, drawn by Nick McPherson

**Subscriptions for 1999/2000 fall due on 1st May 1999.**

As notified in the last newsletter the rates of subscription are:

Single £8.00
Family / Household £12.00
Corporate £15.00
Junior £5.00
Life Single £100.00
Life Family £120.00

Those members aged 65 or over who wish to continue their subscription at the previous rate may do so.

**New Members**

The Trust welcomes the following new members who joined in 1998:
Mrs R A Cursons
Mrs G Dowson
Mr and Mrs T Jones
Ms C A Macintosh RIBA
Mrs M North
Mrs S J W Scott
Miss B Selby
Mr and Mrs.J A R Spratley
Mrs M Waldron
Mr and Mrs C G Walker
Mrs M E Wilkinson