

# NEWSHEET



NUMBER SEVEN

ROMSEY

AND DISTRICT SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1979



## CHERVILLE STREET CHALLENGE!

At the A.G.M. of the Buildings Trust, our Chairman Dr. Peter Johnson, was able to announce that Contracts for the sale of 45-67, Cherville St., had at last been signed by the Test Valley Borough Council. The first stage of a five year battle to save these properties now draws to a successful close, the second stage is already gathering momentum. Building Regulation permission for Plans to renovate the first four properties 45-51, has been sought, and it is hoped that other statutory formalities will have

been completed so that work can start in April or May of this year.

64, Cherville St. was renovated and sold during the year; is it the smallest two-storey building in Romsey?

Tenders have been accepted for the cottages in Nursling, and work will start in mid-January. The three existing cottages are to be converted into two, three bedroomed homes. Not only do each of them have a reasonable garden, but their setting is remarkably rural, considering they are so close to the

centre of Southampton. As an additional benefit they are on the borders of a nature park recently established by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists Trust.

The Trust therefore enters 1979 full of optimism, and success in the Nursling and Cherville St. schemes will ensure that the organisation and financial basis of the Trust can be used in other difficult projects.

### Folk under Aries

This year the Folk Festival is to be held on Easter Saturday April 14th.

Romsey is extremely lucky they are returning after the frosty welcome given to them last year. It is hoped they will dance in the Cornmarket and not be relegated to the area around the Magistrates Court. Do give them a good reception.

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# PLANNING

During the past year 180 planning applications have been looked at in detail and observations have been submitted in respect of 46 of these. It should be stressed that only in a small number of cases has the Society been violently opposed to development proposals.

In three cases written representations were submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment on appeals against planning refusals. In one further case, 23-31, Bell St., the Society was represented at a Public Inquiry called following an appeal against the recent refusal of planning consent by the T.V.B.C.

Some 45 letters have been sent to members of the Society covering points raised on planning matters.

In addition to the above, the relevant Local Authorities have been made aware of the Society's views on the Bell St., Draft Development Brief (general support); Traffic Problems (general concern); Extensions to the Romsey Conservation Area (strong support) and the condition of Roads and Footways in Romsey and District (a call for action spotlighting the main problem areas)

*Somewhat disappointing has been the continued non-appearance of the Romsey Town Centre Plan, in spite of regular hints throughout the year in the local press that its publication for public comment was "anticipated shortly".*

*Members will recall that in October 1974 some of your Steering Committee were assured by Officers of the T.U.B.C. that the plan would be ready in Spring 1975.*

## PERHAPS 1979 ?

Meanwhile, traffic and parking problems are beginning to dominate the thoughts of traders and residents alike.

The forthcoming opening of Broadlands House to the public has, in particular, generated mixed feelings in terms of possible increased business prosperity on the one hand, and worsening environmental conditions with increased traffic and congestion on the other.

There are even whisperings of multi-storey car parks.

The Society will keep a close watch on events during 1979 and will no doubt continue to liaise with other interested bodies in the town and district in the quest to promote a healthy and attractive town-economically, socially and visually.

## DIARY

ABBEEY HALL

Wed. 21st, February 1979 A.G.M.

CROSFIELD HALL

Sat. 3rd, March 1979  
GIANT Jumble Sale

Tues. 1st, May Public Meeting.

## ❁❁ Christmas Card Competition ❁❁

THE SOCIETY ARE OFFERING A £15.00 PRIZE FOR THE BEST 'PEN AND INK' DRAWING FOR A CHRISTMAS CARD. Closing Date: 1 June 1979



# Letter from the chairman

*I feel that one can look back on 1978 as a year of continued growth, strength and achievement.*

*Apart from the untiring work of the various committees and a number of members and not wishing to single out anything in particular the year will perhaps be remembered for the work to the Burial Ground in Abbey Water and the purchase by the Buildings Preservation Trust made possible through the help and backing of the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust, of 45-67, Cherville Street, after several years of endless and often frustrating negotiations. Both Don Hargreaves and the Trust must be congratulated and the latter has shown that results can be achieved by gentle but persistent pressure and lobbying.*

*As my term as Chairman comes to an end I would thank the Officers, Committees and members for their past help and support.*

## membership form

SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

£1.00, 50p for students and O.A.P.s  
Life Membership £10

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Send to: Mr. R. Waters,  
Treasurer,  
8, Little Meads,  
Romsey, Hants.

# WATERWAYS

The Waterways Sub-Committee is pleased to report a year of progress concerning the local waterways.

Naturally, the remaining portion of the Andover Canal "Barge River" has claimed most of the attention during the year, perhaps the most important occurrence was that following negotiations with the County Council by the Sub-committee. A licence was granted by the County Council permitting recreational use of the waters adjoining council property. Negotiations will start in the Spring for similar permission for the water fronting the new housing development at Cupernham.

Throughout the year, the tow-path has been maintained in good order as the result of organised working parties, and the individual efforts of various members to name a few:

Mr & Mrs Hatch of Station Road,  
Fred Bedford,  
Les Bax with his Allen Sythe,  
and Jack Smetham.

The organised working parties have always been well supported, one was combined with a barbecue, which made a very pleasant social event, thanks to the efforts of chief cook Maria Chapman.

The proof that other people appreciate our efforts was realised when the Society received the congratulations of the Winchester Ramblers Association, for the good general condition of the towpath.

On June 11th., the Inland Waterways Association, in conjunction with local canal and amenity societies organised "I WALK" which was probably the largest sponsored walk ever held, the intention being that every canal towpath in the country would be walked that day, the money raised being divided between the Inland Waterways Association and a suitable local Charity. The Waterways Sub-Committee felt that this was not an opportunity to be missed, and "our" two miles of towpath was walked, adding to the hundreds of miles throughout the country. Despite a clash with another sponsored walk in the district Romseys "IWALKERS" raised over £30 for the Hospital Appeal, and for the I.W.A. National Waterways Restoration Fund.

Plans for 1979 include a closer surveillance of one or two 'danger spots' within the town, and where the pipeline to Cupernham has crossed the canal towpath. If help is forthcoming it really is time something was done to attempt the clearance of the Fishlake Stream, as debris in this waterway appears to restrict the flow of water into the Abbey Water, and Middlebridge streams

A new book of walks is planned for publication during 1979.

Anyone who experiences difficulty of any sort when walking a path should make contact with either Ron or any other member of the footpath committee. In the past we have dealt with both natural and deliberate obstructions in addition to clarifying the route of overgrown or confusing paths. Occasionally, we have spoken with difficult landowners, although happily, this is a rare problem.

# Footpath Report

During the year the footpaths Committee met on seven occasions at the home of Ron Genge. Much plotting and coffee drinking took place, and resulted in successful plans for a large number of footpaths in the district being waymarked and signposted. Several problems with landlords have been amicably settled although there is somebody in the Toot Hill area who disapproves of our activities. In the last few months several signposts have been removed or broken.

More volunteers are always welcome to help with signposting and waymarking, as well as the annual task of clearing the paths. Anybody interested could phone Ron Genge. TEL. NO. Romsey 513057.

It is our long term aim to waymark most paths in the district. This consists of putting yellow "blobs" at strategic points along a path to give walkers guidance. The scheme (which is a national one) is ideal because it is simple to mark, does not desecrate the countryside, and helps walkers to keep to the paths. For this last reason waymarking usually meets with approval of the landowners. If you are looking for these marks, they are often to be found on tree trunks or fenceposts. All the paths in our booklet 'Around Romsey' are now marked in this way.

## A warm welcome awaits you at

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# Townscape Report

The Townscape section started the year with work in hand on three projects:

The Burial Ground in Abbey Water,

The Town Map Board,

The Town Trail.

All the necessary approvals to proceed with the re-ordering of the Burial Ground had been received by the Spring, and with the encouragement of a £150 grant from the Hampshire County Council, a programme was arranged for a brisk attack on the work in June and July. However, we had not reckoned on the complications arising from building work on the adjoining plot, nor on the difficulty of some of the operations, and in spite of the arduous efforts of a fairly large group of members, it was autumn before the new turfs were laid and the slabs pointed.

Miss Mitchell arranged for the renovation of the teak seat that her family had originally donated. The first tree a liquidamber, donated by our President Mrs. Wellington, was planted on 2nd December, and the second tree, a malus floribunda donated by the Mayor, Mrs. Malpas, is due to be planted as soon as conditions permit. A variety of shrubs and ground covering herbaceous plants will be added when the weather has become warmer. We have ordered the re-pointing of one wall which is in very bad condition; we intend to clean down and repaint the railings, and also to purchase a second seat. By early summer the Burial Ground should be a sitting space, and we hope it will be a much more pleasant spot- please don't judge it in its present unfinished state.


The Map Board project has been taking second place, but is too good an idea to leave on the shelf. The Hampshire County Council, as the authority responsible for the Magistrates Court have given permission for a town map board to be erected on the forecourt of that building and the next stage is to submit an application for Planning approval.

The Town Trail has been on the stocks for far too long but during this time, the route has been planned, the description written and illustrations prepared. The project took a big step forward in November when the draft material was submitted to the Southern Tourist Board and accepted by them as suitable for their sponsorship. The original intention of combining two walks in one booklet has been changed - the second walk will be in a subsequent publication and some of the material for this is already prepared. Our objective is to have the first booklet printed and on sale in April of this year.

## Winchester Theatre

Imitation is very flattering, so it was a great pleasure to see the first edition of 'News from the Theatre Royal in Winchester' which has been inspired by our Newsheet. It tells of the fantastic enthusiasm to save the Theatre and the recent progress. They still need help and money, if you're interested details can be obtained from the Theatre.

The Society wishes them every success.





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Saturday 3rd March 1979  
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MARCH 20th, Tuesday

Winchester & County Music Festival  
'The Creation' Haydn

MARCH 29th, Thursday

Romsey Schools Music Festival

APRIL 27th, Friday

Peter Stevens Quintet,  
Music for the Hospital  
(Abbey United Reformed Church)

MAY 13th, Sunday

London Oriana Choir  
The Monteverdi Vespers

June 24th, Sunday

Monteverdi Orchestra  
Conductor - John Elliot Gardiner

JULY 3rd, Tuesday

All Ohio State Fair Youth Choir

JULY 14th, Saturday

Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra  
Conductor - John Elliot Gardiner

JULY 27th, Friday

Bournemouth Sinfonietta

AUGUST 7th, Tuesday

London String Orchestra

SEPTEMBER 16th, Sunday

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## King John's House

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Romsey 512285

Since King John's House opened again on June 20th 1978 over 2,000 visitors have passed through its doors. In addition school parties have been shown around and various social functions have taken place, including lunch for Lord Asa Briggs, after he had opened the Schools Environmental Project Exhibition in Romsey Abbey.

It is now possible to hire King John's House for meetings and the smaller rooms in Tudor Cottage are suitable for Committee meetings. It is also hoped to have travelling exhibitions and musical evenings.

The Management Committee relies completely upon Voluntary Custodians to open the House. The task is not difficult or onerous and great pleasure can be gained from chatting to the visitors who come from all over the world. A telephone call to Mrs. O. Sherratt, Romsey 512285 or a note dropped through the letterbox in Tudor Cottage will bring more details.

From May 31st - June 3rd 1979 there is "A Ring of Flowers in Romsey Abbey". When thousands of visitors will come to the Abbey; we ought to be open for as long as possible during those few days. We ask especially for help at that time.



## Building Preservation Trust Competition

The Romsey and District Buildings Preservation Trust has decided to hold a competition to design a plaque to be affixed to buildings in recognition of work carried out by the Trust.

A prize of £30 is being offered for the best design and if a suitable winning design is submitted it is the Trust's intention that a quantity be produced and used to 'sign' its buildings.

The competition is open to all to design a plaque of any size or shape, provided it is no larger than that which can be contained within a square measuring 300x300mm.

There are no restrictions on designs, patterns or motifs, but the following legible inscription must be incorporated in the design containing the words ROMSEY & DISTRICT BUILDINGS PRESERVATION TRUST and a date.

The plaque may have colour/colours bearing in mind the reprographic difficulties associated with certain materials.

The choice of material suggested by the competitor should be durable and capable of withstanding the test of time.

There is no limit to the number of entries.

Entries need not necessarily be full size.

Submissions MUST be original work.

The closing date for the competition is Saturday 31st. March 1979 and all entries should be sent to the secretary, Dr. F. Akerman, 7, The Harrage, Romsey. and marked 'Plaque Competition'. The name and address of the competitor must be clearly printed on the back of every design submitted.

The results of the competition will be announced on Friday 13th April 1979

Judges of the competition will be Dr. P. Johnson (Chairman of the Trust) together with J. Trowbridge, D. Hargreaves and M. Beasley. (Architects).

## Creatures

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