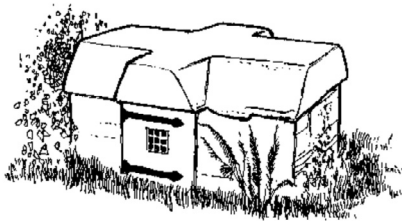


Annual Reports

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, 1999, by Robin Morris

*'There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune'*



Drawing of the Well Cross

We have been somewhat preoccupied during 1999 in trying to achieve our Millennium Project which is the Statue of Emperor Nerva in Southgate Street, Gloucester. An enormous amount of work has been done by the Committee and in particular by Tony Ault and Nigel Spry. We have been much encouraged by a letter of support (together with a generous donation) from The Princess Royal. Negotiations have also been proceeding with the Gloucester City Council in order to finalise the location of the statue. I will not elaborate further on this project because it is being dealt with in greater detail elsewhere in this report.



Door knocker of St. Nicholas

I am afraid that the Gloucesterians who take an interest in Robinswood Hill have had to be very patient with us over the restoration of the three wells. Happily, however, the formalities have now been finalised. I understand from Dr Peters of Astam that work will commence just after Easter this year and the restoration should be completed by the middle of the summer. The contractors will be Messrs McAllister and Wyatt. The contractors have indicated that they wish to deal with all three wells at the same time i.e. Red Well, the Well Head and the Well Cross. Hopefully therefore everybody's patience will be rewarded in good time for the summer holiday season.

I have to confess that I have not been a very good attender at the meetings of Gloucester Historic Buildings in 1999. This is largely due to the fact that I have been under some pressure at the office for a number of reasons beyond my control. In this respect I hope 2000 will be a calmer period for me. Be that as it may, there have been a number of interesting projects under consideration by the Board of Directors. We have been joined this year by the City's new Chief Planning Officer Jerry Spencer who has brought some new thinking into our deliberations. Jerry has introduced a paper which contained justification, a job description and person specification for a new post as Historic Building Project Officer. The purpose is to create a post jointly funded by the Council and Gloucester Historic Buildings which could give dedicated time to preparing and maintaining a Buildings at Risk register prepare capital projects in which the Company could engage seek to attract additional funding for Historic Building schemes, including funding from The Editor, Corey Environment under the Landfill Tax Credit regime.

Keith Birtles the City Treasurer has circulated a paper to the Company Directors on the ability of the Company to meet one half of the cost of the post. Agreement has been reached in principal as to the appropriate salary level necessary to attract applicants with the appropriate skills to undertake the duties of the post.

The post is being advertised and interviews are likely to take place in early April. The Civic Trust will appoint a nominee to participate in the short listing and interviews. At the time of writing these comments it is proposed that Allan Russell will be our nominee. He has local authority experience and the necessary architectural background. The initial period of the contract will be for 3 years.

I appreciate that this is a big step for us to take and the decision was only taken after considerable discussion.

Hopefully a good candidate will come forward and the Company will be able to move on to a new phase in its work on the historic fabric of the City.

Thank you to everybody for your individual contributions to the functioning of Gloucester Civic Trust. I look forward to working with you in the year 2000 in the promotion of the welfare of Gloucester and its Citizens.