

Minutes of Lee Manor Society meeting, 12th June 2024

PRESENT: Charles Batchelor (chair), Barbara Bird (notes), Patti Byford, Helen Carr, Rita Craft, David Dannreuther, Mary Donovan, David Ford, Frances Migniuolo, David Plumer, Karen Pratt

APOLOGIES: -

1. Minutes of meeting on 8th May Clarification was added concerning proposed change of use of 1 Aislibie Road.

2. Review of the Plant Mart Many thanks to Karen for organising the event, and for supplying the following report.

The Plant Mart and Garden Party was a great success and raised almost £1500. It also raised the profile of the society and it was good to have the community garden open and information about LMS available. Planning went well but for next year we shall need to source enough tables and gazebos well in advance and plenty of strong people to erect them. We did not have enough volunteers this year and we must make sure that more of us help with pricing and selling and are able to relieve the various sellers during the afternoon. Having discouraged people from bringing their donations too early, the collection of items went well and were stored at John Higgins's house in Micheldever Road. John may not, however, be available next year, so we should try to get more people from Micheldever Road involved, with baking, plant growing and storage facilities.

The publicity seems to have been effective as we had plenty of visitors.

We made a good deal of money from the raffle and tombola. Prizes for the former were excellent but some of those for the tombola were disappointing and we probably need better prizes for next year.

The plants and cakes made a lot of money too and we would do even better if we had more cakes to sell next year. £2 was a reasonable price and didn't impact sales. We should still have books (and CDs or even vinyl) for sale but some thought that bric à brac was not worth having and if we dispensed with it we would have more space for selling plants and perhaps offering more activities for children.

We also need more people to help with the disposal of unwanted items and clearing up after the event.

KP thanked all those involved and asked for further suggestions. David Dannreuther suggested we have name badges for the sellers.

3. The street tree planting programme Charles reported that the management committee has decided to focusing attention on one street, Southbrook Road. A letter will be delivered to all houses, informing about the issue of maintaining street trees, and inviting responses expressing interest in wanting trees, offering matched funding and willingness to look after trees. Charles will draft a letter for our next meeting.

It's been noticed that some newly-planted trees are not thriving; possibly not the right choice of type of tree.

4. Plans for the Society 2024 AGM The date of the AGM is being brought back closer to the date in previous years. It will be on Wednesday October 16th, in the Manor House. (There will be a Management Committee meeting closer to that date in August.)

Regarding a speaker, it was suggested that trees would be a good topic, and Paul Wood might be a possibility. Candy Blackham, author of Green Lewisham, was also mentioned.

5. The Manor House Gardens Festival on June 22nd We will have volunteers at a table with information about the Society in general, and the Ice House will be open, 12 – 5pm.

The Ice House rota was also updated, including assigning volunteers to the Open House Sunday, 15th September.

6. Planning matters We reviewed a report from Mike Haste listing current proposals and the Society's responses.

7. Work on the Manor House front garden and the buggy shelter The broken shelter is functioning, with a temporary fix. Now the other shelter round the corner is available, it's possible the one at the front could be dispensed with, but both may be needed. The users should be consulted.

8. AOB

- When the work on Leegate starts, the plants on Mary's garden by the carwash might be suitable to go to the Manor House garden, or may be moved to the green space across the road.
- The issue was raised of the Lime bikes being left everywhere now, often in inconvenient and possibly dangerous places. David Ford has been photographing them and will be reporting the situation to the council.
- Simon has reported that our current balance is £9,435.79.
- Our new website will be active soon, thanks to Tom Bilson.
- Frances raised the possibility of growing cuttings or planting nuts from the walnut tree on Burnt Ash Road, which will be lost when building starts on the house planned there.
- David Plumer was congratulated on the success of his recent History Walk. We hope more may follow.

Future Meetings:

July 17th (postponed from 10th)

No meeting in August

September 11th

AGM, October 16th

November 13th