

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



Minutes of Lee Manor Society meeting, 6th May 2025

PRESENT: Charles Batchelor, Barbara Bird (notes), Grace Blyth, Simon Bucks (chair), David Dannreuther, Mary Donovan, David Ford, Mike Haste, Martin Kicks, Frances Migniuolo, Brian Mooney, David Plumer, Karen Pratt, Diana Stevenson

1. **Apologies** Patti Byford, Julian Hawkins, Alex Martin, Patricia O'Reilly
2. **Minutes of meeting** held on 13th March 2025 Approved
3. **Finance** Simon reported much activity in and out of the account, resulting in a balance of almost £7,000. There has been expenditure in connection with the Southbrook Road tree project, and the Ice House has raised funds. John Payne has promised financial support for the website, and this will be acknowledged prominently there.
4. **Plant Mart** Karen reported on progress in the planning. Residents of three houses in Micheldever Road have once again generously given permission for us to use their front gardens. Arrangements for publicity involve posters and flyers ahead of the day, and banners and bunting on the day itself. Volunteers to run the various stalls are coming forward, and we will need more volunteers to help put up stalls, etc. in the morning and to take things down and clear away afterwards. We'll email requests for more volunteers.
5. **Leegate** According to the London Square website, further changes to the plans have been proposed and are under consultation. They hope to begin demolition by mid-year. Concern was raised about the safety issue involving the removal of asbestos, and the general effect of the work on traffic, including the buses. David Ford questioned whether the wood from the felled trees could be put to some good use.
6. **Planning update** For details of Mike's report, see separate document.
7. **Trees:** Southbrook project, memorial tree for Ralph White, spring tree walk

Charles reported that 14 households in Southbrook Road are involved in matchfunding new trees. Implementing the plans is complicated, involving arranging with the council the funding, the placing of the trees because of underground pipes, cables, etc., as well as the choice of trees.

Agreement has been reached with Glendale about the placement in Manor House Gardens of the tree in memory of Ralph. The tree will be a common alder, which has medicinal properties appropriate to Ralph's profession, and will be planted later this year.

Charles and David Ford will lead a tree walk on 31st May.

8. Sustainable Streets Martin raised the issue of the appearance without prior agreement of double yellow lines and a cycle lane in part of Leyland Road. The Society will ask the Council for an explanation, and will take up general new regulations separately when they become clear.

9. Ice House There are still gaps needing to be filled in the rota for this summer's opening of the Ice House.

Marking the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Ice House was raised.

10. Manor House Gardens Festival The Society will again have an information stall along with other groups, and the Ice House will be open for part of the day.

11. Heritage Trail Simon suggested making a bid for Lottery funds for expenses. To cost it we need to decide on notice-boards and where to place them, and the Council must be contacted for permission. David Plumer and Simon will consult on a list and a route to follow.

12. AGM Planning The AGM will be held on Wednesday October 1st. The Baring Room in the Manor House has been booked. We still need to find a speaker.

13. AOB

We plan to hold a Society social event in August.

Society members were saddened to hear of the death in May of Ian Paton, an early member and long-time supporter of our activities. In recent years Ian had generously made available the use of his front garden in Micheldever Road for the Society's annual Plant Mart and Garden Party. In 1984 Ian, who worked in publishing, was responsible for the installation of the Greater London Council blue plaque at 13 Handen Road, commemorating the birthplace of Sir Stanley Unwin, founder of Allen & Unwin, publishers of among others Bertrand Russell, Mahatma Gandhi, and JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit*. Ian will be much missed.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd September in St Peter's Hall at 7.30 pm.