

LEE MANOR SOCIETY

1976



2026

Minutes of the meeting of the Lee Manor Society April 29, 2026

Present:

Zandra Gardner

Mike Haste

Karen Pratt

David Ford

Jan Ford

Simon Bucks (Chair)

Frances Migniulo

Charles Batchelor

David Plumer

David Danreuther

1. Apologies: Barbara Bird

2. The **minutes** of the February meeting were approved, with one amendment to confirm that Karen Pratt was present.

3. **Finances:** Simon Bucks reported the society's bank balance at £10,144.40, with £2,450 from a grant for the Big Bed project. Simon also reported a new deal to reduce web hosting costs, saving over £600 over five years.

4. **Plant Mart and Garden Party:** Karen reported that the event could no longer use the front garden of No 6 Micheldever Road but fortunately the owners of St Monica had very kindly allowed the use of their front garden for the plant mart.

She said plants would be sold at number two and in the Community Garden, with face painting, watercolour workshops, and tombola at number four. The house at No 2 had been sold, but the new owners were happy to continue the tradition of using the garden for the Plant Mart.

Karen ran through the details of other arrangements for the event. The idea of having a celebrity guest to speak at the event was considered, but it was noted that no one has been found yet. Two celebrities were suggested for future as it was too late for this year's Plant Mart: Montell Douglas, a female Olympian and Gladiator whose family lives in Lee Green and Alex Yee, Gold medal winner of the Triathlon at 2024 Olympics who grew up in Brockley.

5. **Southbrook Road Tree Planting and Ralph White tree planting.** Charles Batchelor reported that the Southbrook Road trees were in blossom and it was suggested someone should take a photo of them for the website. He reported that the Society was getting two more

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trees from Street Trees for Living under the Big Give project. There was some discussion about the tree outside the Fish and Chip shop on Burnt Ash Road, which had come down in the high winds. Charles said the tree was diseased prior to this and its poor state had been affected by delivery trucks parking too close and knocking its branches.

Charles also said the tree planted in memory of Ralph White had suffered some minor damage but was generally OK.

6. Update on general Planning issues and Leegate development. Mike Haste said the latest update was on the website. He mentioned that there were two outstanding conditions relating to Leegate. One related to the construction logistics plan and one to the environmental management plan. Mike outlined details of other planning issues which were all contained in his regular monthly update to be found here <https://leemanorsociety.org/planning-updates/>

The meeting was reminded that London Square is inviting the Lee community to suggest names for the new buildings being put up on the old Leegate site, now being marketed as Lee Green. Suggestions can be emailed to leemanorsociety@gmail.com. Further details can be found on the website: www.leemanorsociety.org.

7. Update on the Big Bed project. Simon said the Big Bed has had a fair amount of work done on it, clearing and path building. He reminded everyone that it was a collaborative project with the Friends of Manor House Gardens. He was optimistic they would win a grant from the Mayor of London's Green Roots Fund.

8. Charles Batchelor explained the plans for the Golden Jubilee exhibition, at Manor House Library from June 29th to July 12th. There will be a drinks event on July 2nd at 19.00. He explained that he had been working on the display with Frances and Mike Haste to create panels with mounted images. The need for a budget for the exhibition was discussed. The importance of inviting local dignitaries, councillors and representatives of other community groups to the exhibition was also discussed. There was discussion about a proposed new pamphlet to replace the existing 30 years of LMS leaflet. Charles and others had been reviewing the options. It was agreed that the Society should seek sponsorship or support for it.

9. Proposals for the Annual General Meeting. Charles Batchelor said the management group had discussed holding the AGM as part of a regular meeting of the society instead of as a separate event with a speaker.

Some attendees voiced concerns that decisions were being made too often by the Management Committee without sharing them for discussion with the wider meetings. The need for more members to be involved in the management committee and the work of the society was discussed and it was noted that anyone was welcome to join the Management meetings. There was also discussion about the need to recruit more volunteers to support the work of the Society generally.

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The importance of presenting decisions made at management meetings to the larger group for further discussion was agreed. The idea of having more speakers during the year was also suggested, with the possibility of charging for events to cover costs

10. Manor House Gardens Festival, June 20th. Charles Batchelor confirmed he had booked a stall for the society in the community section of the event. It was an opportunity to showcase the work of the society, especially current projects such as the Big Bed project, tree planting and encourage people to come to the Exhibition being mounted at the library lobby in late June for two weeks.

11. Ice House 2026 – volunteer recruitment/listing their details/ filling gaps on the rota.

Dan Griffin was unable to attend the meeting. Most guide slots had now been filled, including by new volunteers, but there was still a need for more people to help. The Ice House would be open on the day of the MHG Festival from noon until 17.00.

12. New Residents' Letter Mike Haste confirmed the letter welcoming new residents had been distributed to all the local estate agents.

13. AOB One attendee raised the issue of the High Court ruling in relation to Croydon Council in March 2026 where the judge had found that the Council's Low Traffic Neighbourhood (LTN) schemes were unlawful as the fines were not being used primarily for improvements in road safety or the environment. This had resulted in affected motorists being compensated. No one at the meeting was aware of anyone in Lewisham successfully using the ruling to seek compensation for LTN fines in the borough.

14. Next meeting will be the AGM in October (TBC)