

Minutes of Lee Manor Society meeting, 11th September 2024

PRESENT: Pippa Bampton, Charles Batchelor, Barbara Bird (notes), Simon Bucks, Patricia Byford, Rita Craft, David Dannreuther, Mary Donovan, Anne Fisher, David Ford, Chris Hughes, Frances Migniuolo, David Plumer, Karen Pratt (chair)

1. Apologies Helen Carr, Mike Haste, Paul Lowndes

2. Minutes of meeting held on 17th July Approved

3. Finance – Treasurer’s report accounts audit Simon reported that our current bank balance is approximately £9,500, with a few payments outstanding. We are very grateful to Tim Keeler for auditing our accounts for a number of years, but as he has now stepped down we need to replace him. We can circulate a request on Email.

4. Website update - the new website has now been launched, and news and other items of interest are invited. Minutes of meetings and annual reports, etc. can be included. So far Simon and Mike are editors, to whom items can be submitted. Chris Hughes offered photographs, and a gallery could be created. It can be accessed through the web address and a QR code, and stickers can be made available for the notice-boards, etc.

5. Ice House –Insurance It is probable that we are covered by public liability under the council or Glendale, but we should get this in writing. The openings this summer have gone well, including donations. The season closes with the Open Day this coming Sunday. Regarding possible school visits, Colfe’s has expressed an interest, and other local schools could be accommodated. It was suggested that the number actually visiting the Ice House at any time should be limited to twelve, and for the first Colfe’s visit 5th or 12th November were proposed, with David Ford and David Plumer as possible volunteers.

6. Planning update - Three items were commented on. The building of two houses on the site at the back of the Lord Northbrook pub have been approved, but the question of adequate sound-proofing (double glazing, etc) was raised, to ensure that noise from the pub doesn’t prove to be a problem. Felling a lime tree in front of 73 Micheldever Road has been objected to. Thirdly, the Wantage Road section of the wall surrounding the Church of the Good Shepherd, plus a part of the wall facing Handen Road, are to be rebuilt at considerable expense, and the Society has been asked to publicise a request for contributions.

7. Manor House Library garden improvements, including adjacent flowerbed Regarding the upkeep of the Library garden, Glendale has agreed to cut the grass. There is also £27,000 NCIL (‘cleaner and greener’) funding available in the Lee Green Ward, and we could apply for funds for improving the big flowerbed just inside the Gardens adjacent to the library garden. The Society could join with the Friends of Manor House Gardens in making the application. As the total expenditure is estimated at £4,000, it was agreed that we should bid for £2,500 and Simon Bucks was ready to finalise the application. The work would be carried out by Glendale with the assistance of volunteers, and volunteers would be responsible for its upkeep.

8. Tree-planting in Southbrook Road Charles reported that we have received five responses to the letter distributed in Southbrook Road along with some offers of financial support. Twenty tree sites have been noted, and there are four dead trees. New trees available through Street Trees for Living cost £425 each. In contact with Libby Blake at Street Trees for Living Charles will follow up the offers of interest so far, and we should publicise our progress on the website and elsewhere to encourage more involvement. It was felt that it would be useful to meet all potential donors together, possibly at the Northbrook pub, to advise them on finding other neighbours to contribute to the project.

9. Mary's garden David Ford has established that we have more time than we thought in which to move Mary's garden plants, but it would be good to make a start by moving a few as soon as possible, probably next week.

10. Community Garden Run by Dan Griffin, our Community Garden offers a great opportunity to all to garden and share produce. We will promote this facility in a special section on the website, giving dates when Dan will be there, and contact details.

11. Events – LMS walks and AGM There will be a tree walk on Saturday 5th October at 11am, starting at the Lee Green crossroads information board. Our AGM will be held in the Baring Room at the Manor House Library on Wednesday October 16th at 7.30pm.

12. Distribution of newsletters and posters advertising the AGM Newsletters with details of the AGM will be delivered in local streets, and posters will be put up on notice-boards at the stations, etc.

13. AGM arrangements In order to prepare the venue, volunteers should arrive by 7pm. Regarding refreshments, Charles will supply wine-boxes and soft drinks, Frances will arrange for the glasses, dishes and serviettes, and Anne Fisher agreed to organise the 'nibbles' such as crisps and other small items.

14. Tree in memory of Ralph White, Chair of LMS for many years who died 01/10.2023 - We will continue to consult Ralph's family about planting a tree in Ralph's memory and with their agreement a suitable site can probably be arranged in Manor House Gardens.

15. Community Centre – alternative for meetings The Community Centre will no longer be available for our meetings from October, so another venue must be found. In future, Lee Green Lives will be using St. Peter's Church Hall on Weigall Road for its activities and services and other community groups can book the Hall for evening use, in particular, on Thursday evenings. Other possible venues were discussed. Frances will investigate the alternatives available and report back and then it can be decided if meetings should continue on Wednesdays or change to Thursday evenings. After the AGM in October our next regular meeting will be in November.

16. AOB Charles has been contacted by the Lewisham History Society about help in managing their website. It was noted that the Society had itself been in need of similar help.

The date and venue for our next regular meeting remains to be decided. (See 15 above.)