

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



Minutes of the Lee Manor Society meeting of November 13 2024

Present: Simon Bucks, Charles Batchelor, Rita Craft, David

Dannrreuther, Mary Donavan Anne Fisher, David Ford, Chris

Hughes, Jane Kimber, Maria Smith and Frances Migniuolo.

1. Apologies: Barbara Bird, Grace Blythe, Helen Carr, Mike

Haste and. Karen Pratt.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on September 11. Approved.

3. Financial Report. Simon reported the Society has £8,808 in the bank. He emphasized that as payments for venue and other calls on funding were increasing it was important for the Society to work hard to fundraise. There was a discussion of whether a paper copy of the annual accounts should be provided for the AGM. Simon felt it was important to reduce the use of paper but Rita and David D felt some copies should be available. It was agreed a few copies would be available for circulation at AGM.

4. Flavia Bartram from South East London Community Energy (SELCE) gave a presentation about the organization's activities to promote the retrofitting of homes to improve insulation, reduce energy use and cut carbon dioxide creation. Retrofitting includes the installation of double-glazed windows, draught proofing and the fitting of solar panels. SELCE is a 'society for community benefit' established for 10 years. It carries out assessments of homes for £300 and then suggests tradesmen to carry out the work. It seeks to get residents in a street to work together to reduce costs. One suggestion was that SELCE and the Society could co-host events to promote retrofitting. Members raised concerns about the costs involved and about a possible clash with the Society's objective of preserving the character of individual homes in the neighbourhood. It was agreed this needed further consideration.

5. AGM Review. The AGM on October 16 was felt to have been a success though there was some disappointment that the number of attenders – 26 – was lower than hoped given the quality of the after-meeting speaker. Paul Wood spoke about the street trees of London.

6. Autumn tree walk. Attracted 15 people and lasted more than two hours. Focused mainly on the Burnt Ash Road 'avenue'. Charles and David (Ford) felt it was a success despite the lack of autumn colour. The next spring walk will take in Manor House Gardens.

7. Relocation of Mary's Garden across Burnt Ash Road from the petrol station triangle to the corner of Taunton Road. This had been completed successfully though a buddleia was struggling.

8. Ice house insurance. Charles reported that agreement had been reached with the council and the Friends of Manor House Gardens for the Society to be included in the 'Friends of' Charter that covers the activities of the Friends of the Gardens. This was agreed by the council services manager Vincent

Buchanan though, for reasons that are not clear, the Society could not enjoy cover of the charter in its own right. The charter extends public liability insurance to the Society's ice house openings. David F and Charles hosted a visit by a dozen A-level pupils and teachers from Colfe's School on November 5. This formed part of the school's economics strand and showed how one technology – ice houses – had been superseded by mechanical forms of refrigeration.

9. Mike filed a round-up of recent planning applications and decisions. These are now being posted on the Society website and attracting a lot of 'traffic'. Decisions included approval for details of the two homes in Southbrook Road behind the Lord Northbrook, for change of use of the Chinese takeaway at 124 Burnt Ash Road to a dental surgery. Still to be decided is a replacement 'phone box' at 115 Burnt Ash Road for the two tired red boxes. The new box is open plan and incorporates a heart defibrillator. It also has an illuminated advertising panel which we felt should not be too intrusive.

10. We noted the Local Assembly meeting of October 8 at which it was revealed that a Section 106 Agreement – covering the developer's contribution to local amenities as part of the Leegate redevelopment – had still not been agreed. This was holding up the start of work.

11. Matched funding planting of trees in Southbrook Road. Charles reported that the Society had obtained commitments from residents to plant 12 trees. Charles and Libby Blake, the local Street Trees for Living representative, have surveyed potential planting sites and spoken to many residents. The council removed four dead trees following a request by the Society.

12. The Society is looking to plant a tree in memory of Ralph White, our former chairman, in Manor House Gardens. Ralph was a pharmacist so we are looking for a tree with medicinal qualities. Potentials include the foxglove tree (anti-ageing), medlar (digestive disorders), common alder (skin disorders), white cedar (headaches and fevers) and Guelder rose (muscle cramps). It was agreed that possible locations should be discussed with Glendales who manage the Gardens.

13. Charles read out an appreciation of Peter Richardson saying that a service of thanksgiving for Peter's life was held on November 11 in the Church of the Good Shepherd following his death, aged 85, on September 16. After a career as a merchant seaman and then with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, in retirement Peter became an active campaigner on local issues. Together with Pat, his wife, Peter founded the Manor House library group and campaigned in defence of public libraries nationally. He found a more relaxing outlet for his energies volunteering as a gardener in the grounds of Eltham Palace. Peter will be missed.

14. Dates for future meetings:

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday, December 18 at 105 Burnt Ash Road. This will be a short meeting followed by Christmas fare.

There would be no regular meeting in January 2025. The February LMS meeting will be held on Thursday, 7.30pm, 13 February at St Peter's Church Hall SE12 8HQ on the corner of Weigall Road/Eltham Road. Please note the change to meeting on a Thursday.