

MANOR TRUST BEDHAMPTON – THE ROLE OF TRUSTEE

Many people ask, ‘What is a trustee’ and ‘What does a trustee do?’

The answer depends upon the charity. Some charities are huge organisations with many facets to their income and to their activities. Others are smaller, and some very small. Size tends to be judged according to the income of the charity. Any charity with a turnover of less than £500,000 is regarded as a small charity, as is the Manor Trust. Charities are organisations likened to ‘Not-for-Profit’ businesses that serve humanitarian causes.

The trustee is a person who is ‘on trust’ with other trustees there to see that all the incoming money, often donated money is properly used for the declared activities of the charity that have been approved by the Charity Commission.

The Manor Trust’s Objectives - Delivering on the aims of the charity.

1. To provide a comfortable, companionable, safe and caring home for the elderly in the Trust’s properties
2. To preserve the Trust’s historic buildings
3. To foster and promote the social and historic ambience of Old Bedhampton and
4. To advance education through the trust’s Bedhampton Historical Collection

The trustees interpret the aims into the policies that move towards the achievement of those aims and then oversee the application of those policies. The area of policies most frequently addressed, for example, are fund-raising events with advertising, certain staffing matters, certain property and buildings maintenance decisions and less frequently, decisions after expert advice of the investment of charitable funds.

The trustees meet once a month at a meeting that effectively says to itself, ‘How are we doing and where are we going next?’

Delivery on the policies is usually either by employed staff, hired-in contractors or by volunteer supporters of the work of the charity.

What trustees do is both interesting and intellectually stimulating. One can meet new acquaintances and make new friends. The usual commitment asked is for a two or three year term, but it can be for more or less as suits the individual. Interested persons are usually asked to join the committee for 3-6 months to become acquainted with what goes on before making any commitment. In that way, it is a very ‘open ended’ arrangement.

This is a voluntary activity, there is no remuneration, but certain expenses can be claimed if they are agreed in advance by the committee.

For enquiries about becoming a trustee please contact The Trust Administrator Valerie Moller at trust.office@manortrust.org.uk or 023 9248 4444 (Mon-Fri a.m. only)