

# The Spring Newsletter

Manor Trust  
Bedhampton  
Heritage & Care



50  
years'  
young!

## Dear Members and Friends

Welcome to this our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, when on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1967 The Manor Trust was first established. A great many changes have occurred during the 50 years' as many of you will testify. Although it is good to reminisce and take ourselves back to 'the good old days' when regulations were few and we were free to undertake any project without much ado, we are not going to do this. Instead we are going to tell you about the recent changes and look to the future and share our aspirations. This is what it has all been about, saving the Trust for posterity and helping The Elms and The Lodge to survive what is promising to be an eventful time ahead.

### With your help:

We shall be embarking on improvements and continued restoration of our lovely historic grade 2 star listed Elms, upgrading The Lodge, sharing our assets with the community, engaging with the young and giving all our residents the best quality of life possible.

We have already begun to shape the future by reinstating a library in the old ante room. This room now houses the Secret Bookshop and was officially opened by a much-loved author Michelle Magorian (of 'Goodnight Mr Tom' fame) on Saturday 4th February.

Here you see Michelle with Bernard and Sue with a glimpse of the new library behind and Cynthia's portrait in the distance.

You might just recognise the picture below. Our new tables and chairs have been donated by the Secret Bookshop and it is pleasing to note that some of you, our supporters, have sponsored a chair, which means that we have funds for even more improvements. Thank you.



The trustees extend grateful thanks to Nigel, proprietor of the Secret Bookshop for helping us to transform the Waterloo Room and for voluntarily working hard to see that all our events are such a success. Also, we are indebted to the volunteers of the BHC for their hard work in producing coffee, cakes and manning the stall every month at the coffee mornings.



For those of you who have not seen it here is the new look Waterloo Room. The main reasons for new chairs and tables are that we are required to have fire retardant furniture in the Waterloo Room and because of the increased and varied activities we now hold, it was necessary to have light folding tables and stackable chairs for ease of handling and storage.

**The Annual Christmas Fayre** was held in November and was a very good morning with many people coming from far and wide to sample the home cooked cakes and mince pies with a cup of coffee. The homemade crafts were sold out quite quickly and everyone was in a festive mood. Thank you to staff and volunteers who worked hard before the day as well as on the day to make it such a success.



On Tuesday evening 4<sup>th</sup> April, there was an interesting talk given by Dr. Dave Allen entitled, 'Game for Toffs' a social history of cricket, that caught the imagination of the mostly male audience. All of our evening talks are arranged by Nigel Gossop our Events and Volunteers Co-ordinator.

### **NEW - Coffee Morning with Books**

On the **2nd Tuesday of the month** there is now a coffee morning with books held in the Waterloo Room 10am-12noon. This has been ideal for the local village residents where all are made welcome and has proved to be very popular. We will be pleased to see you and do bring a friend. Our thanks go to Nigel and of course to the BHC volunteers who bake cakes and biscuits for the occasion!



**At the Lodge**, we continue to help our residents to enjoy full lives and have by courtesy of a grant extended the WI-FI facility here, which enabled us to acquire some computer Tablets for the residents who do not own a laptop. One tablet has been put to good use to help staff to communicate with a profoundly deaf resident. In fact, new technology has a positive effect on many of our residents. Since the dearly loved cat Bernard passed away we were pressured into replacing him.

We now have 2 cats, a brother and sister who are lifting the spirits of us all.

We welcome our new gardener at the Lodge, Michael Langridge who has taken over from Maureen.



We just managed to snap the beautiful Magnolia tree in The Lodge garden before the winds and rain came and Spring has come to The Elms at last after a rather wet winter.

We welcome Mrs Valerie Moller who took over from Katie as our Administrator in November last year and Wendy Gossop as a part time administrator who has just joined us. Valerie understands the work of a charity and comes well recommended. Wendy, as most of you know is a BHC volunteer and helps Nigel with the fundraising. We also welcome Kathleen, a new resident at the Elms and hope that she enjoys her new home in the refurbished Flat. Kathleen is continuing to help us at the Lodge and Elms with our fundraising activities and was selling homemade cakes recently at the Lodge Easter Fayre.

The Luncheon Club continues to thrive and Bernard wishes to thank Margaret and Carol our cooks, June and all our other helpers who turn up without fail every Thursday. Lunch is served at 1230.

### **50<sup>th</sup> AGM Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 11am-12pm**

The next important date in our calendar is The Manor Trust's 50<sup>th</sup> AGM on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May to be held as usual in the Waterloo Room 11-12 and all Members and Friends are welcome. On this day, we shall be introducing two new trustees to you, Ms Rhona Stokes Dip. Ed. Cert. Ed and Mr Jeffrey Wilson FCIOB who have served on the Governing Committee before agreeing to become trustees and Bernard and Sue can highly recommend them to you all. They have both worked hard in their own areas of expertise and we shall be asking Members to ratify them as trustees.

We once again thank all our hard-working staff and volunteers for their considerable help and hope to see you all at our **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 11am.**

**With best wishes from the trustees, Susan, Bernard, Rhona and Jeff.**