

# The Manor Trust Spring Newsletter 2020



Dear Friends



Like you, we are reeling from the awful situation of COVID-19. The virus appears to be coming to a peak as we write this letter, which brings us to say that we hope that you have all stayed safe and well. This has to be a slightly different spring newsletter because of the circumstances we find ourselves in, however, mother nature knowing nothing about the restrictions we find ourselves under, continues to gather momentum and delight residents in both houses with an array of colour, thanks to our gardeners, Francis at the Elms and Tony and Fiona at the Lodge. We are anxiously hoping new Covid measures will be introduced soon so they can all come back to us. On the good side the residents are using the gardens now the warmer weather is occasionally upon us.

Before talking about how the Trust is faring in this climate of uncertainty, we will continue by bringing you up to date by confirming that the AGM scheduled for Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May has been postponed. We are currently thinking of ways to conduct the business side of the AGM and we may be in touch with Members about this at a later date. Meanwhile we welcome David Hindley as a new trustee, who like Mike lives very close to both houses. We are now four trustees, Sue, Mike, Graeme and David.

We also report that Rory Madden at Arthur Daniels Accountants retired early in the year and we wish to extend sincere and grateful thanks from our Patron, the Trustees and Vice-Presidents for his and his firm's work over the many years producing our Audited Accounts and for latterly undertaking the payroll; for his advice; and for his diligent attendances for almost 40 years of AGM's at The Manor Trust! We wish him better health and a well-earned retirement. We are pleased to announce that we have engaged Morris Crocker as our Accountants who are renowned for their expert help and advice to Charities.

We are sorry that Nigel decided to step down from his role as Events and Volunteers Co-ordinator in December 2019 and words cannot express how grateful we have been for his loyalty and hard work over the many years in raising funds; for his ideas and ability to follow through on these, and so the Secret Book Shop was born. Paula hopes to carry on the traditions set by Nigel when we are eventually able to lead more normal lives. Wendy still attended the weekly BHC meetings, before the lockdown.

For some of our longstanding supporters who don't get out and about usually, we can report on what took place over the Xmas period. Firstly, we had a wonderful annual Christmas Fayre on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December followed by the turning on of the lights of the Community Xmas Tree situated in the Elm's front garden. This was followed by mulled wine, mince pies and the singing of carols.



It was thanks to the herculean efforts of Steve, Chris, Pete and Martin that this was possible, and we offer our sincere thanks to them.



We hope to repeat this in December 2020, which will be something to look forward to.

On the same theme and over the Christmas period residents at the Lodge were entertained by volunteers Jill Munden and Chris Miller with a 'craft session', see over the page....



and some residents, both male and female, made cards and little pouches / bags to put 'goodies' in for their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and decorations. We are fortunate to have volunteers who not only raise funds for the Trust, but also give of their time to our lovely Lodge residents. The Lodge had 3 Xmas trees last year and the one in the hall was extremely welcoming, with a second tree in the dining room. A 3<sup>rd</sup> tree in the small lounge meant that everywhere you went there was a tree to brighten up the home. The residents and visitors always say how beautifully the staff decorate the home at this time of year. Just before the COVID-19 lockdown we were pleased to welcome a new resident, Olga, who has settled very well and and has made new friends.



Sue has been helping Renate and Jemma with new and adapted policies and procedures that have needed to be written and adhered to due to COVID-19, despite staff being already trained in the prevention and control of infection. Other procedures were put into place shortly after we sadly had to stop visitors, with the agreement of the residents, on 16<sup>th</sup> March. Staff adopted the policy of leaving their uniforms at work, with the small lounge becoming a temporary changing room and where the uniforms, once laundered, are hung on the large coat rail borrowed from the Elms! We can also report that 300 masks were delivered to the Lodge in early April, from the government via the local council outlet; we have sufficient aprons and gloves and Sue has outsourced face guards in case of need and is looking to purchase some gowns so that we can be ready before the onset of any suspected outbreak of the virus. Emsworth Corporate Planning HR department is sending through summaries of the government updates, which Sue listens to avidly, then sifts through ECP's summaries each evening, amends where necessary by converting to a word doc., to send relevant information to the Lodge Managers; these summaries have proved invaluable, together with CQC's updates. Alan Mak's Havant volunteers have been utilised to avoid staff having to make any unnecessary and potentially unsafe journeys to shops when extra items are required, and we thank them for their help.

Sue wishes to thank both Managers for their leadership throughout this ongoing crisis and all staff who have changed their hours by undertaking double shifts to reduce the footfall each change of shift inevitably brings. A member of staff is living in. Meanwhile they are all tirelessly cleaning, disinfecting and adhering to very strict protocols to mitigate against the virus.

Some residents are 'FaceTiming' their relatives and all have telephones or mobiles. Rod Neale from 'Circular Computing' has loaned two laptops to the Lodge for other residents to use for Skyping/Zooming their friends and relatives and we thank him and his company for this kind and thoughtful gesture. A daughter of a resident is having weekly sessions via the television with the residents and the kindness of strangers and relatives at this time is really welcome.

Residents have been planting sunflower seeds again this year and staff are doing those extra tasks that are usually performed by visiting professionals. Kaila is washing and setting hair, Lacey as an ex-hairdresser is keeping those styles neat and tidy and making sure our male residents don't have to resort to a pony tail later on! Other staff including Jemma are looking after hands and feet and some staff are finding they have hidden artistic talents as extra activities are performed in the way of arts and crafts and quizzes. Night staff are often better placed to offer emotional support, and this they do in abundance along with the same disinfecting routines as the day staff. Renate arranged for a solo singer/guitarist to entertain the residents from the back garden. Retired staff have offered their services and so at the time of writing Sue reports that all Lodge residents are well and happy and that they are receiving brilliant care.

Paula our Trust Manager is also sifting through updates and sending relevant financial information on to Valerie our Trust Administrator. She is also in touch with our Elms residents offering to shop and for the Lodge, when she comes to the Elms to test the fire alarm each Friday. Valerie is also at home working on transferring data on to a new accounting system, preparing invoices for payment and the staff payroll.

Margaret is waiting to welcome you again at the Thursday Luncheon Club. Her number is 02392 61952 should you wish to participate; and Jill and volunteers are waiting to welcome you to the Elms Community Café with a chance to browse the library on the second Tuesday of the month and to much more.

Paula can be reached on [trust.office@manortrust.org.uk](mailto:trust.office@manortrust.org.uk). The Lodge on [lodge.office@manortrust.org.uk](mailto:lodge.office@manortrust.org.uk).

Please look after yourselves, and to Bernard Stanley the Trusts Co-Founder, currently residing in the Bedhampton Nursing Home, we wish him a safe journey through the crisis and hope that he can regain the amazing progress he was making with the physiotherapists very soon. For news of the Trust please go to [www.manortrust.org.uk](http://www.manortrust.org.uk), and look for 'the Lodge Old Bedhampton' on Facebook. Thank you all for your continued support and 'stay safe', as the current expression goes. We hope to see you all again soon.

