

LEWES PRIORY TRUST

Registered Charity No 1123751

**Minutes of the
Seventh Annual General Meeting**

**Held at
The Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lewes**

on Friday 17 June 2016 at 7 pm

Present:-

**John Lawrence (President) (JL)
Sy Morse-Brown (Chairman) (SMB)
Graham Willsher (Treasurer) (GW)**

Trustees: Rosey Eggar (RE), Arthur Franklin (AF), Andrew Norris (AN)

Members in attendance:

Hugh Anderson, Tracy Anderson, Mary Benjamin, Paul Benjamin, John Bleach, Colin Brent, Judy Brent, Penny Brown, Mary Burke, Helen Chiasson, Colin Child, Brian Cramp, Susan Crossett, Rosey Eggar, Arthur Franklin, Anthony Freeman, Pauline Freeman, John Freeman, Andy Gammon, Christine George, Angela Grove, Christopher Grove, Arabella Hobson, Chris Hobson, John Kennett, Rona Kennett, Fiona Marsden, Debby Matthews, Graham Mayhew, Margaret Tomlinson, Frances Tufnell, Jane Vokins, Krystyna Weinstein and Beryl Wilkins.

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from: Barbara Abbs, Helen Clement, Roger Clement, Daphne Harvey, David Harvey, Tom Sholl, Marcus Taylor, David Tufnell and John Vokins.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting were approved nem con.

3. Directors' Report

SMB summarised the report which had been circulated previously. He said that the year had once again been very busy and highlighted the following matters:

- a) General repairs to the masonry had been carried out under the direction of Richard Andrews, Trust architect.
- b) There had been 30 events during the year. 13 of these had been on site including numerous school visits and guided tours.
- c) Priory by Candlelight in its second year had been even more successful with 1500 visitors and it was hoped to it would be repeated this year.
- e) Southover Bonfire Society and Synergy Theatre had made use of the site.

- f) On behalf of the Trustees he paid tribute to Kate Hickmott, Helen Chiasson, Arthur Franklin, Tony Freeman and Helen Poole for all their guided tours.
- g) A fourth study day entitled Eat, Drink and be Merry had been very successful. Another one was organised on the subject of the Cloister and the Gate on 1 October with distinguished speakers.
- h) The £100,000 Heritage Lottery Grant for the "Putting the Priory on the Map" had now been successfully completed and the final payment received.
- i) Cataloguing Priory stones had progressed and a representative sample is on the Trust website.
- j) The Trust had launched a project to develop a community kitchen garden at Priory Park. The Mayor had kindly made it one of his charities which had already raised £396. Lewes Town Council had granted £1,700 and £230 had been generated by the sponsored walk from Pyecombe Church.
- k) The Banner Project was 50% complete.
- l) A second conference of the UK Cluniac Group had been held in Barnsley in November last year. The group was continuing to develop and the conference this year will be in Dudley.
- m) The European Federation of Cluniac Sites general assembly will take place on 22-24 June in Palencia. Tony Freeman and Kate Hickmott will represent the Trust..
- n) Grateful thanks were expressed to the volunteers who had kept the Herb Garden in such good heart under the guidance of Tracy Anderson.
- o) Thanks were due to Andrew Norris for his work as Membership Secretary and website & social media manger.
- p) Membership had held steady over the last year.
- q) A request for a volunteer to be minute secretary was made.
- r) RE would be retiring as a Trustee. Thanks were expressed to her for all her work over the years.
- t) Tony Freeman would be conducting a tour in Wittenberg in September.

4. **Accounts**

The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 had been circulated previously to members. SMB has been standing in as treasurer for the last 12 months. He was pleased to announce that Graham Willsher had agreed to take on the role.

SMB reported that, following the completion of the last HLF grant, The Trust assets were around £30,000 which was the average for the last number of years.

The Accounts were approved without further comment.

5/6 **Retirements & Appointments**

In accordance with the Constitution,, SMB and RE retired. SMB was re-elected proposed by John Lawrence, seconded by Helen Chiasson. Paul Benjamin was elected proposed by John Lawrence, seconded by Frances Tufnell. Graham Willsher was elected proposed by Helen Chiasson, seconded by Tracy Anderson.

7 **To appoint auditors/independent examiners for the coming year**

The appointment was approved nem con.

8 **Any Other Business**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

EMIL GODFREY MEMORIAL LECTURE

At 7.45 following the meeting, Arthur Franklin introduced Professor Richard Hoyle (University of London). His informative lecture "Thomas Cromwell and the Dissolution of Lewes Priory" was very well received and a vote of thanks was given by TA.