

LEWES PRIORY TRUST

Registered Charity No 1123751

**Minutes of the
Seventh Annual General Meeting**

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

on Friday 12 June 2015 at 7 pm

Present:-

**John Lawrence (President) (JL)
Sy Morse-Brown (Chairman) (SMB)
Chris Walker (Secretary) (CW)
Robert Scrivins (Treasurer) (RS)**

**Trustees: Tracy Anderson (TA), Rosey Eggar (RE), Arthur Franklin (AF),
Andrew Norris (AN)**

In Attendance:-

**Hugh Anderson, Mary Benjamin, Paul Benjamin, John Bleach, Nina Bridger,
Anne Bullock, Colin Child, Bridget Child, Brian Cramp, Tom Crossett, Anthony
Dicks, Lucinda Fouch, Leslie Franklin, Marion Franklin, Anthony Freeman,
Pauline Freeman, Andy Gammon, Carol Hazelden, Kate Hickmott, Arabella
Hobson, Christopher Hobson, Michael Kennedy, Fiona Marsden, William Parker,
Tom Sholl, Marcus Taylor, Andrew Thomas, Margaret Thorburn, Frances Tufnell,
Esther Watts**

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from: Victoria Trehaille, Mary Budleigh, Chris George, David & Daphne Harvey, Barbara Abbs, Vivien Hill, Pamela Wedgewood, John and Jane Vokins, Irfon Roberts and David Tufnell.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

3. Directors' Report

SMB said that the year had been very busy with 27 events having taken place and highlighted the following matters:

- a) Two Heritage Lottery Grants had been received and the trust had won a Design and Conservation Award.
- b) New warning signs had been added to the site and new fencing was about to be put in place and some of the paving was being redone. He said that the trust took its responsibility for the safety of the site very seriously but it was impossible to police it at all times as it was open to the public round the clock.

- c) The Battle of Lewes Memorial had been refurbished.
- d) Candles had been placed around the site on Heritage Open Day which was very effective and this 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) AF, TA and Kate Hickmott had arranged a study day which had been very successful. Another one was planned in October with distinguished speakers. Kate Hickmott and Helen Chiasson had obtained £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for day long workshops entitled "Fighting, Feasting and Freedom".
- h) A grant application had been made for the "Priory for Beginners" project with Brighton University.
- i) A grant of £100,000 was received for the "Putting the Priory on the Map" project.
- j) With the assistance of the Research Group a catalogue of Priory records and artefacts was being prepared.
- k) Kate Hickmott and Helen Chiasson had obtained a payment of £750 from Lewes Town Council for a banner.
- l) The trust had been represented at the UK Cluniac sites conference at the British Museum in November. Some Trustees will also be attending this years event at Monk Bretton Priory.
- m) Helen Chiasson and Kate Hickmott were discussing a European Education Project with their French counterparts.
- n) Grateful thanks were expressed to the volunteers who had kept the Herb Garden in such good heart. Julia Behren's workshop had been well received as had the open day which included puppets for children.
- o) A request for a volunteer to assist with publications was made.
- p) Membership had held steady over the last year.
- q) Thanks were expressed to Susan Murray for her support whilst the Lewes Town Councillor Representative at the Trustee Meetings. As she was now Mayor, Esther Watts would be replacing her and the Trustees looked forward to seeing her at the next meeting.
- r) TA would be retiring as a Trustee having also been Membership Secretary although she will continue as a member and assist with study days. Thanks were expressed to her for all her efforts over the years.
- s) Kate Hickmott and the Trustees had written a development plan for the next ten years.
- t) Tony Freeman would be conducted a tour of Normandy in September.

4. **Accounts**

The Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 had been circulated previously to members.

RS reported that income of £20,687 had been received during the year and £25,000 had been spent leaving £32,000 of Unrestricted Funds.

£57,000 of Restricted Funds had been received and £32,000 spent leaving £39,000 in reserve.

RS said the trust was in a good financial position.

The Accounts were approved without further comment.

SMB announced that RS would be stepping down as Treasurer after the meeting and expressed his thanks for all his assistance during his tenure. He asked for a volunteer to replace RS as Treasurer.

5/6 **Retirements & Appointments**

In accordance with the Constitution, TA, SMB and CW retired and Paul Benjamin and Frances Tufnell proposed and seconded SMB and CW as directors and they were re-elected.

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

Helen Chiasson proposed and Arthur Franklin seconded the appointment of Knill James which was agreed.

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, the President introduced George Ferzoco (University of Bristol). His enlightening and humorous lecture "Monastic Education in the Middle Ages" was very well received and a vote of thanks was given by AF.