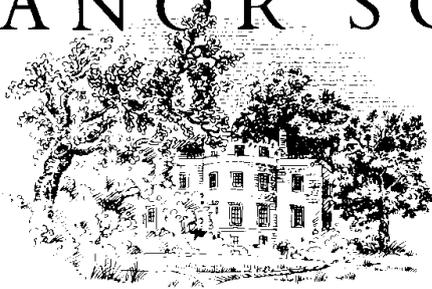


LEE MANOR SOCIETY



For further details on some of the topics below, visit <http://www.leemanorsociety.org>
Please consider changing to our email distribution – write to news@leemanorsociety.org

Next Meeting
8pm on 11th March 2009 at
66 Effingham Road, SE12 8NU

Open to all residents in the area. Formalities end 9.30pm - nibbles afterwards

Notes of our Meeting on 11th February at 12 Micheldever Road

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White, Andrea Breugelmanns, David Plumer, Steve Griffiths, May Clarke, Jeremy Carden, Suki Picarda, Oliver Crispin, Faye Carney, Jim Mallory and Sheila Peck

Apologies: Anita Whitfield, Sylvia Ling, Pauline Hatfield, Sue Byford, Father Richard Peers, Janice and Michael Goodwin and David Stopp.

Lee Green Assembly to be held 17 February

Jim Mallory presented proposals from the assembly coordinating committee for the creation of a “Friends of Leegate” to promote the shopping centre and put pressure on the owners, St Modwen. Leegate emerged as the top concern of local residents at previous assembly meetings. Lee Manor Society members supported the Friends idea but expressed concerns that large amounts might be spent before St Modwen had demonstrated more commitment to the redevelopment.

Greater clarity has emerged over the selection procedure for the assembly coordinating committee in July last year. Representatives of existing local groups were in theory excluded on the grounds that room needed to be made for new people. We had no objection to this though, subsequently, representatives of other local groups were included on the committee. Apparently, legal advice from the council established that everyone who put themselves forward had a right to be elected on to the committee. The society had not suggested anybody so we remained unaware of this procedure. We are disappointed that the assembly should have got off to such a muddled start and that the society with the longest commitment to improving Lee should, initially, have been excluded. We support the assembly in principle. It is not our current intention to seek membership of the committee though we will work with it and Ralph has joined the Friends of Leegate group on our behalf.

After quite lengthy investigations, Ralph found the minutes of the coordinating committee meetings on the Lewisham Council website and we have also received copies of recent correspondence between committee members, councillors and council officers. We feel that information from assembly and coordinating committee meetings should be more readily available. We also feel that the names and some details of coordinating committee members’ affiliations or street addresses (not numbers) should be shown on future assembly notices.

We are pleased to learn that St. Modwen has asked Lewisham Council to include Leegate in its master plan but understand that, as yet, there has been no direct contact between them and the assembly.

Lee Green Heritage Panel

Jeremy showed a full-size print of the final print of the proposed panel which met with everyone's approval. Charles is now in contact with Transport for London, which controls the pavements at Leegate, to arrange a site meeting to discuss our proposals with them. Jeremy is investigating panel manufacturers.

Controlled Parking Zone Plans

We are sure you are all aware that the Council's recent CPZ proposals have been approved by local residents. We understand that Taunton wants a consultation and we now need to consider the impact these changes will have on the remaining roads in the Conservation area. In fact, in agreement with the Assembly, we would like a review of the whole of Lee Green Ward to be undertaken with a view to including more flexible arrangements.

Charles has pursued his correspondence with the Council about the pavement parking in Manor Lane and more 'pay and display' facilities. Charles and Jason Dalrymple carried out measurements of Manor Lane to establish it is six feet wider (a car's width) than, for example, Longhurst Road in the original Hither Green station CPZ, where pavement parking is allowed. This reinforces our view that pavement parking is unnecessary in Manor Lane. The council says it is considering removing some of the pavement parking.

Ice House

We have again been invited to partake in the Open-House weekend by opening the Ice House and have accepted the invitation. A draft of the proposed rota Sunday opening duty for this year was circulated for approval and possible readjustment. We could do with more volunteers to share the invariably enjoyable task of supervising entry, explaining the history and chatting to park visitors.

Trees in the Area

The council has planted six of the eight trees we requested - two at the end of Southbrook Road, one each in Manor Lane and Handen Road and two in Taunton Road. A third tree was planted in Southbrook Road but two of our suggested sites were unsuccessful.

70 Handen Road - removal of a lime tree. It turns out that the tree was diseased and therefore had to be removed. No permission is required to remove diseased or dead trees though we feel some notice should be given to avoid unnecessary protests.

27 Southbrook Road- the council halted the intended removal of an oak tree in the rear garden. Alert neighbours noticed the work and halted the procedure. Our thanks to them.

Dogs

The council is offering the free micro-chipping day for dogs owned by Lewisham residents. Owners must produce proof of ownership and residency in the Borough. Lewisham also wants to introduce dog control orders which will attract on-the-spot fines of £75 for failing to remove dog faeces, not keeping dogs on a lead in designated areas or when directed to do so by an authorised officer, permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded and taking more than the specified number of dogs onto land. Consultation is in process.

The Year Ahead

The following dates have been agreed subject to availability of suggested venues:

Ice House first open day of 2009 – Sunday, 5th April, 3-5pm;

Annual General Meeting – 14th May;

Plant Mart – Saturday 16th May

Annual Social Evening – Friday 11th September

Many thanks to Ju and Ralph for hosting the meeting