

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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Next Meeting

**8.00 pm on 11 June 2008 at
98A Effingham Road SE12 8NU**

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

Note of our Meeting on 14th May at 12 Micheldever Road

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White, Sylvia Ling, David Plumer, May Clarke, Linda Cohen, Eric Moody, Andrea Breugelmanns, David Ingram, Josephine Cauty and Sheila Peck

Apologies: Caroline Bosworth-Davis, Steve Griffiths, Faye Carney, Jim Mallory and Richard Bainbridge.

Annual General Meeting – 8 May 2008

We were very pleased with the level of attendance this year which was well above last and we agreed that the Church Hall is a very pleasant venue which we will be happy to use again next year. After that we may have other options such as the new Northbrook School or even the Manor House. The financial accounts were discussed and it was decided that, in future, a fuller version would be made available. It was also agreed that an agenda would be circulated with the Annual Review. We would like to thank Nick Pond for the very interesting and positive talk he gave about biodiversity within the Borough.

Plant Mart – 10 May 2008

It was again a good day even though maybe somewhat too warm for comfort for the ‘workers’! We were pleased to learn that we again made a profit in excess of £800. We didn’t have quite as many plants on offer as last year, but managed to sell them all. We do very much appreciate the donations of plants, jams, cakes and other items we receive from our supporters and will undoubtedly be asking for their help with this very successful event again next year - be prepared. The new ‘face painting’ was a great success and we hope will be a regular feature in the future. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make the day such a success.

Planning

- 54 Micheldever Road. There are plans to expand the dental practice at this address. The NHS service will be maintained but the practice will expand to include a hygienist, cosmetic dentistry and, in the future, a cardiologist. A bigger practice is likely to put further pressure on parking. These issues have caused concern among local residents. The Society has reservations about the intensive commercial use of residential property in a largely residential area. (The new owner has since assured us that there are no plans to do work that would detract from the look of the house or to remove any of the front garden for off-street parking.)
- 37 Manor Lane: Construction of a rear roof slope extension with lights for conversion of loft. The Panel (representing local conservation societies in Lewisham) considered the proposal objectionable because it was ‘clumsy and inappropriate’.
- 94 Effingham Road: Construction of a single storey extension to the side with an extension to the rear roof slope - there was no objection from the Panel.

- 25 Southbrook Road: Construction of timber shed in rear garden - no objection from Panel
- 110 Burnt Ash Road: Replacement windows with double-glazed timber to front and aluminium to rear
- The Panel advised that the windows must be sliding sash, horns should be reproduced as existing and trickle vents should not be visible.

Northbrook School

The planning department has announced it will hold a public meeting on Thursday June 5. The meeting will be at Ennersdale School, Leahurst Road. The project team and planners will be available for questions from 6pm while the formal meeting will start at 7.15pm. This is earlier than we recommended. We urge all residents to attend. We noted that in 2005 the former Head, John Ratcliffe, advised us that, in the remodelling, the then existing shell, footprint, mass and height would not be exceeded which is certainly not now the case. We are also particularly concerned at the emphasis which appears to have been given to reducing the impact on Manor House Gardens to the detriment of surrounding streets, especially at the south and eastern boundary. The Society feels that the cover provided by existing trees and vegetation means the school building would in fact have little or no impact on the Gardens. The text of the invitation indicates we can ask questions and get more information on the scheme. There is no indication of any willingness to modify the scheme in the light of any suggestions residents make. We do not believe there has been any proper consultation over this.

Ice House and Lee Green History Boards

The History Board for the Ice House is being financed by the Blackheath Historic Buildings Trust (which is restoring Boone's Chapel) at no cost to the Society. It is proposed the Board will be sited to the right side of the entrance to the Ice House. There will be a separate new board advertising opening hours to correct the confused information on the existing boards. A draft design for the Lee Green Board is currently under consideration.

Boone's Chapel

There will be a Grand Gala opening of the Chapel over a period of four days – September 18-21 - which will include the Open House weekend. The celebrations will include a Service at St. Margaret's Church on Belmont Hill and a blessing of the Chapel immediately before the opening on Open House weekend. The Chapel will be open to the public between 10.00am and 5pm over Open House Weekend and we will open the Ice House over the same hours.

Traffic issues - 273 Bus Route and white lining in Manor Lane

We are pursuing our efforts to obtain more information about the proposals and are in continuing contact with Chris Hutchins who is seeking agreement from the LBL and TfL for a Public Meeting. Eric Moody reminded us that Southbrook Road is one of the most congested roads in the area and is becoming a 'rat run' and also a parking place for commercial vehicles. Traffic jams occur daily and there have been accidents caused by the congestion. We are considering approaching Len Duvall, who is the Labour London Assembly Member for Greenwich and Lewisham and has good contact with TfL, to help in the negotiations.

Leegate shopping centre

There will be another meeting of St. Modwen (the owners), the Society and Council Officers in June to discuss the possible demolition and redevelopment of Leegate.

DIARY DATES

1. Lee Green Local Assembly - Tuesday 10 June at Emmanuel Pentecostal Church Hall, Lee High Road from 7.00 pm. This will be an opportunity to meet our Councillors and to discuss with them what matters to us, to work with them and others to shape the future of Lee Green and to consider how the Locality Fund of £10,000 could be spent. Please do come along.

2. The Ice House - Open the 1st and 3rd weekend of each month until Open House Weekend on 20th and 21st September. Opening hours as usual, 3pm to 5pm but on Open House Weekend we will be opening from 10.30am - 5pm to co-ordinate with the Boone's Chapel opening.

Many thanks to Julia and Ralph for hosting the meeting