

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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Next Regular Meeting
7.30pm on 14 May 2014
at: 105 Burnt Ash Road, London SE12 8RA
Open to all residents in the area. Formalities end 9.00pm - pizza afterwards

Notes of our Meeting on 16 April 2014

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White (Deputy Chairman), David Plumer, Veronica Simmonds, Anita Whitfield, Jenny Lowen, Sylvia Ling, Chris Peters, Kierly Capeless, Diana Stevenson, Judy Cole, Anne Fisher

Apologies: Sheila Peck (Secretary), Lorraine Burton (Treasurer)

Annual Review

Charles is writing the Annual Review from Lee Manor Society and it is expected to go to press in late April, ready for delivery to street representatives from May 3 and to all households in the Lee Manor Conservation shortly thereafter.

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Lee Manor Society will be held on Wednesday 21 May in the Baring Room, The Manor House, Old Road, starting at 7.30 pm. Nominations for the posts of Officers (Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) should be submitted to the Secretary (Sheila Peck) no later than two weeks before the meeting. The current officers are offering themselves for re-election. Dr Geraldene Wharton, Reader in Physical Geography at Queen Mary University of London and former chair of the UK River Restoration Centre, will give an illustrated talk on **The rivers of Lewisham and the benefits of river restoration and sustainable flood management around the world**. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Plant Mart

Plans are well advanced for our Annual Plant Mart on Saturday 17 May from 2 – 4 pm at 2 – 6 Micheldever Road. Once again, a reminder that gifts of plants for sale will be much appreciated: please contact news@leemanorsociety.org if you can help. We also expect to open the Lee Manor Community Garden at the same time and you will be more than welcome to come and visit and see the progress we have made.

Update on St Modwen's proposals for the redevelopment of Leegate

The Society was recently represented at an informal briefing about the latest plans for Leegate. The proposals still involve a large ASDA supermarket but the bulk of the store will be hidden by family houses along Leyland Road and a new development of homes along the boundary defined by the south side of the car wash and the car park. Some 250 housing units are being suggested. The pavements would be widened and more trees planted. A covered walkway would be built diagonally across the corner of the site closer to the Lee Green crossroads – this would contain the store entrance and independent kiosks for smaller retailers. Parking would still be on the roof of the store while above this four-to five-storey blocks of apartments would be built.

We welcome these improvements but still feel there is not enough public space in the development. We hope there will be further improvements to these plans before they are put to the public in consultation meetings later this year, possibly as early as June. A fuller report of the draft plans will be published in the Annual Review.

Ice House Panels

The current descriptive panels in the Ice House are deteriorating because of the ingress of damp. It was decided that we will commission new panels (enamel on metal) which will be much more robust. The source files for the original designs have been located, and an order will be placed with the supplier.

Replacement Boundary Stone

You may have noticed the unique parish boundary stones located towards the east end of several of the east-west roads in the Conservation Area. One particular example in Handen Road was badly damaged many years ago and the remains were recently removed by the Council because of an alleged 'trip hazard'. We are seeking planning permission to replace the missing boundary stone with a modern, matching replica and expect to place an order with a firm of stone masons in the very near future.

Boone's Almshouses at the Emmanuel Pentacostal Church

We are saddened to see that these locally-listed buildings have been summarily demolished, and to find that there was no way even for Lewisham Council to oppose this action. Although outside of the Conservation Area, we will scrutinize any plans for the site to ensure that there is not the gross overdevelopment seen in the previous proposal.

Local Assembly – 22 March

Lee Green's Local Assembly has agreed to develop a Local Plan, in which we want to approach all our priorities in a more strategic way – which would mean, e.g. for Leegate, the need to link traffic, parking, housing and a range of other issues much more comprehensively. The membership and brief for the steering committee is currently being agreed.

We thank the Community Centre for hosting the meeting