

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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OUR NEXT MEETING
8 pm Wednesday 8 March 2006
flat 13A Northbrook Road

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

Note of our 8 February 2006 meeting, at 105 Burnt Ash Road

***Present:** Charles Batchelor, Ralph White Steve Griffiths, Sylvia Ling, Pauline Hatfield, David Plumer, Andrea Breugelmans, Sheila Peck, Jeremy Carden, Faye Carney.*

***Apologies:** Yvette Croucher, Katherina Rist, David Stopp, May Clarke*

May Clarke

We were delighted to hear that May, one of our founding members, is back home and recovering well from her fall.

News on planning applications

- new applications include an extension at the rear of 129 Taunton Road; a dormer window at the back and roof window at the front of 77 Effingham Road; removal of a rowan tree at 106 Taunton Road and a purple leaf plum tree at the front of 87 Effingham Road; and pruning of 4 large plane trees in Manor House Gardens (north of the cafe);
- a new 2 bedroom house was planned on the vacant plot at 2 Hedgely Street (nb records show a house had once stood here) . **Action:** Charles to ask that we see the plans;
- a list of new/recent planning applications is available at

<http://www4.lewisham.gov.uk/acolnet/lewis-xslpagesDC/acolnetcgi.exe>

Click 'Advanced Search', and select 'Lee Green' from the Ward name drop-down menu.

17-19 Northbrook Road

We discussed scaled-down plans for building at the rear of 17-19 Northbrook Road. The proposal was now to replace the existing low extension across the rear of this large Victorian semi with a much taller and longer extension of modern design, which would provide 2 new self contained flats with their own entrances to the rear, plus parking for 4 cars. The extension will not be visible from the front, and the back gardens are very large ones, but nevertheless we are worried that this would set a precedent locally for major extensions at the rear of larger houses to create new flats (as distinct from providing better amenities for existing homes). This seemed like over-development, and we are also concerned at the architectural impact on these significant older houses. **Action:** Charles to write to the council.

Local listing

Charles and other local societies are continuing to press the council about its lack of response to suggestions which societies had put forward for “local listing”(this is appropriate for many interesting and attractive buildings which do not merit national listing by English Heritage).

Public meeting with local councillors

Several members attended the meeting on 30 January, which was well run and covered topics like the regeneration of the northern end of the Lewisham town centre. There was no new news about redevelopment plans for the Leegate shopping precinct by its owners, St Modwyns, despite its increasingly run-down and under-used state. Concern was expressed about the boarding up of several buildings opposite Leegate, notably the New Tigers Head pub. Cllr Gavin Moore indicated support for Charles’ suggestion that Lewisham Council prepare a design brief for the centre of Lee Green, jointly with Greenwich Council (who are responsible for the north side of the junction). This would help focus planners’ attention on Lee Green and provide a framework for its future including its appearance.

Who has the video of Lee?

Charles is continuing to research Society records to prepare for the 30th birthday event planned for Friday 15 September. He discovered that a video was made when the Lee Manor conservation area was being created and the hunt is on for a copy of that video. We would love to hear from anyone who has a copy, or knows where one might be found. We are also looking for any old pictures or documents from the early years. The sub group is investigating a suitable venue.

Manor House Library

Council minutes for the Mayor and Cabinet committee indicate that the Council’s financing for the project is still going forward through internal procedures. Public notices of the plans to demolish the existing extensions to the library have been given (though the Society has not been informed by the council). **Action** Ralph will seek a meeting of the Manor House Project team.

Amenity issues

- Andrea Breugelmanns had now written to National’s managing director to ask them to stop using local streets like Wantage Road to run their car-hire business.
- The Society’s new park bench is now installed and should be ready for a formal opening on 1 April.
- Work on the pavements and crossings at Lee Green is still being held up.

Help tackle local graffiti!

The next outing of the Society graffiti-busters is due on Sunday 26 February. Meet outside 11 Wantage Road at the earlier time of 2pm. Anyone is welcome to help. Charles has reported the bridge at Lee Station, and the Quaggy Bridge in Manor Lane to the council.

Prepare for the Plant Mart – Saturday afternoon 20th May

Spring is almost here! Now is the time to get seedlings going for the Plant Mart. If you have any old or new plants, bric-a-brac, and other saleable stuff that we can sell at our annual fundraising event, we would be very grateful for your contributions. Steve is happy to store stuff if you are having a spring clear-out (tel 0208 297 0449 to arrange).

Our Annual General Meeting

This is to be held on 16th May, in the evening. The venue is to be confirmed. We are hoping to get another interesting speaker.

Many thanks to Charles for his hospitality