

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



www.leemanorsociety.org
email: news@leemanorsociety.org

Next Regular Meeting
7.30pm on 27th July 2011
Venue to be advised

PLEASE NOTE THE LATER THAN USUAL DATE
Open to all residents in the area. Formalities end 9.00pm - nibbles afterwards

Notes of our Meeting on 8th June 2011 at 98B Effingham Road

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Suki Picarda, David Plumer, Paul Connolly, Anita Whitfield, Sylvia Ling, Steve Griffith (Acting Treasurer), Faye Carney, Patti Byford, Veronica Simmons, Jeremy Carden, Dan Griffin and Sheila Peck (Secretary)

Apologies: Ralph White (Deputy Chairman), Cllr. Pauline Beck, Mark McLellan (SNT), and Andrea Breugelmanns.

Plant Mart

The Plant Mart was our most successful yet with total takings of £950. The Kiddie Corner trebled its proceeds on last year and both plant and cakes and preserves tables made their best ever totals. The unsold children's books were passed on to local schools and other unsold items were delivered to local charity shops. The Plant Mart is not only an important fund-raising event for the Society; it is also an enjoyable social event which allows us to meet old friends and make new ones in the local community. We would like to give our sincere thanks to all helpers and contributors for their generous support both on the day and in their prior preparation and production efforts. Ralph was not around on the day to supervise operations but detailed advance planning by the Plant Mart committee and hard work on the day by our regular setter-uppers meant everything was ready in time.

Society funds raised at the Plant Mart are used to pay for regular outgoings including printing these notes, our Annual Newsletter and catering at the AGM and Stark Gallery social evening. No charge is made for any of these activities. In the recent past we have financed the History Panel at the Lee Green crossroads and contributed towards one of the picnic tables in Manor House Gardens. We have also made donations to the Community Garden in Micheldever Road and to help Fuss get started. We turned down a recent request to help fund a street party on the grounds it was not sufficiently aligned with the Society's objectives though some members felt this would have been an opportunity to promote the Society. We will hold further discussions as to whether we need to draw up a policy on donations for inclusion in our Constitution which is currently being revised.

Annual General Meeting

Despite our efforts to publicise the AGM on our web site, at the Plant Mart, in our monthly Notes, and on various advertising boards in the area there was a disappointingly low attendance this year. We had thought that holding the Plant Mart before the AGM would raise awareness and boost numbers but this was not the case. We discussed how we could attract more people - different venue, more local interest matters for discussion, even more advertising, or a locally known speaker. How can we persuade you all to come along? Please do let us know if you have any suggestions.

Shortage of volunteers to support Society work

We broadened the discussion to consider how we could achieve a general increase in membership, support and participation in the Society's activities. We would like to organise more events for the Conservation Area but to do so would need more residents to become involved. We are also still looking for a new Treasurer to replace Steve who resigned last month. We are investigating the possibility of inviting occasional speakers from local organisations to address the monthly meeting. The Society does not have a formal membership arrangement or membership charge but we do depend on willing volunteers coming forward. No specialist skills are required – though they are a bonus – merely a willingness to get involved in planning and community issues. The Society is always ready to respond to requests for help in fighting planning battles but we see little willingness on the part of many residents to make a commitment in return by backing the Society in its work.

Planning Matters

Glenmere Row: The original Advertisement Board is still there and is now being used by local agents to advertise the sale-on of some of the properties. Charles has been trying to get the Board removed for some time and has now referred the matter to the Planning Enforcement Officer. Although the Officer originally said the Board would be removed within a week, it wasn't and so Charles will continue with his efforts.

80 Effingham Road: A Tree Preservation Order was made in respect of a lime tree in the front garden. However, pollarding appears appropriate and the Society supports a proposal from the owner to vary the preservation order to allow this to happen.

40 Micheldever Road: Another lime tree on which a Tree Preservation Order was made. Unfortunately it has been confirmed that the roots are causing damage to the property and the Planning Department has therefore agreed to cancel the Order.

Facebook

Jeremy put forward a proposal for the Society to have a Facebook page though some members felt this would be difficult to control. We will consider this further.

We would like to thank Suki for hosting the meeting.