

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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OUR NEXT MEETING

8 pm on Wednesday 12 April 2006
59 Effingham Road

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

Note of our 8 March 2006 meeting at 13A Northbrook Road

Present: Charles Batchelor, Steve Griffiths, Sylvia Ling, Pauline Hatfield, David Plumer, Julian Boucher, Andrea Breugelmans, Sheila Peck, Faye Carney, Sue Byford, Katherina Rist, John Radcliffe, David Stopp.

Apologies: Ralph White, May Clarke, Jeremy Carden

News on planning applications

- A planning application has been submitted for a timber building to the rear of 62 Taunton Road. An extension and extractor ducting is planned at the rear of the new café at 105 Manor Lane (which has not yet removed its unlawful illuminated sign as advised by the Council). A new vehicle crossover is planned at 58 Handen Road.
- Charles wrote to the Council about the application for a large extension to the rear of 17-19 Northbrook Road (see February meeting notes), and they have announced a drop-in session on Tuesday 14 March at the central library to hear views. He and Pauline plan to attend.
- The Amenity Societies panel has expressed concern at the depth of a planned extension at the rear of 129 Taunton, and its reliance on roof lights. They objected to the roof lights on the front of the roof at 77 Effingham Road (in connection with a loft extension). They recommended pruning rather than the proposed felling of a rowan tree at 106 Taunton Road. They had no objection to felling a plum tree at the front of 87 Effingham Road
- There was no news about the fate of the New Tiger's Head at Lee Green, now boarded up and for sale.
- A list of new/recent planning applications is available at

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

Manor House Library

There is a new Resources & Service Development Librarian at Lewisham Council who is now the Project Manager for the library proposals. The Council has made clear again that it is committed to the project, but also that it must fit "within the cost envelope", whatever that may be. We thought there was unlikely to be any further firm news before the May local elections.

National Car Rentals

Nationals' senior vice president has replied to the letter from Andrea about the parking of rental cars in Wantage Road regretting the inconvenience to residents, and he has also asked the local depot (Lee High Road) to "note and rectify" the issues raised. He noted that there might be peak times when it was necessary to park vehicles off-site, but also that "a solution will need to be found long term, so that your community is not disrupted...." We noted that the off-site parking has reduced of late. **Action:** We will see what action the local depot takes but if necessary will write again to National saying local councilors are being kept informed.

The Manor House Gardens User Group

Sue Byford outlined problems faced by a fellow local amenity group, which looks after the interests of the gardens' users and exercises informal supervision of the way the park is run. They actively liaise with Glendales (who manage the park), the Council, and local police, and deal with many practical issues from pressing for repairs to be done, to commenting on planting, signage, wildlife, dogs, and anti-social behaviour. In July they need a new set of officers - chair, treasurer, secretary, and membership secretary - and there is concern that volunteers may not come forward, leaving posts unfilled and the Group unable to function. It is proving difficult to get active members, although the four public meetings a year are well-attended and there is a large fee-paying membership. Sue came to ask whether the Lee Manor Society would, if the need arose, take on the Group's overall role, perhaps via a sub-group of the Society. We agreed to think about this, recognising that the Manor House Gardens are a central feature of the conservation area and local life, and that standards may slip if local park users lose their collective voice. Our preferred option for maximum influence would be for there to be two independent but collaborating community groups rather than just one. Any residents interested in standing for the Gardens group committee are invited to contact us (tel) 8852 1644 or the Gardens group directly.

Please welcome our new picnic bench - 1 April at 2pm

The new picnic bench which has been bought by the Society and Lewisham Rotary Club for the Manor House Gardens will be unveiled at a ceremony on Saturday 1 April, near the Ice House. Please come along and celebrate this new feature, and meet your local amenity groups and Bridget Prentice MP.

Progress with local graffiti

Charles reports that the Council has tackled the graffiti he reported at Lee Station and the Quaggy Bridge.

Come and join the Society graffiti-busters' next outing on 26 March (meet outside 66 Effingham Rd at 2.30 pm). We can't do brickwork currently, but are keeping on top of minor graffiti on cable boxes, and street furniture, painted surfaces and fencing in the conservation area.

We will be distributing cards to local shops to get their roller-shutters cleaned up. Please report other serious graffiti(eg on brickwork) anywhere around Lee

- by phone to the Council on 020 8314 7171 (give a precise location)
- by e-mail: see details at <http://www2.lewisham.gov.uk/lbl/CommunitySafety/form.asp>
- by mobile phone with camera to <http://www.lovelewisham.org/Public/images.aspx>

Help us with the 30th birthday for the Lee Manor CA

If you have any photos or recollections we could use, please contact Charles on 8852 1644.

Dates for your diaries

The Ice House reopens at 3pm-5pm on Sunday **2nd April** , for the 2006 season. 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

Our **AGM** will be on Tuesday **16th May at Northbrook School**, Taunton Road, at 8pm

Our **Plant Mart** is on Saturday **20th May** at Nos 2, 4 and 6 Micheldever Road at 2pm. Raffle, games, and stalls selling bric-a-brac, cakes and jams, and cream teas as well as plants. We agreed to Lewisham Rotary's request to run a stall for charity. Now is the time to start planting seeds and preparing any rooted cuttings, plants and shrubs to bring along in May.

Many thanks to Pauline Hatfield for her hospitality