

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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Next Regular Meeting

Not currently scheduled

Notes of our Meeting on 11th March 2020

Present: David Plumer, Charles Batchelor, David Ford, Mary Donovan, Frances Migniuolo, Veronica Simmons, Ralph White (Chairman), and Sheila Peck (Secretary).

Apologies: Rita Craft, Barbara Bird, Sylvia Ling and Patti Byford

Trees and Tree Walk

David F and Charles had decided a date for the next Tree Walk which will commence from Micheldever Road. However, because of the Coronavirus restrictions this plan is on hold.

David F has written to Lewisham's Tree Officer to see if he can find out if the Section.106 Agreement on the St. Winifred's School development in Effingham Road includes any funding for trees in the area.

We have also noticed the loss of 2 trees in Handen Road. One outside no.41 collapsed catastrophically causing serious damage and was removed a while ago and another outside no. 35/37 was recently removed but we do not know why. David F. will investigate.

Ice House

Before the current closure. Ralph had a very helpful site visit with representatives of Glendale and Lewisham Council when it was agreed that a small area of hard paving can be laid to the immediate south of the entrance to accommodate seating / table on Open Days, and that some repairs and improvements can be undertaken. It was agreed that the metal corner post on the guard railings should be properly repaired/replaced and that a Notice Board can be provided although it may be smaller than we suggested. The value of our suggestion to add wire mesh over the entrance grill to reduce ingress of debris was acknowledged, but this might be difficult to achieve in practice. Appropriate costings and purchase orders are being drawn up.

Ralph confirmed he has checked and greased all the padlocks on the entrance grill and that they are in good working order. An internal lighting bulb needs to be replaced.

Charles agreed to review our Risk Assessment Policy which was originally prepared in 2018 and we all agreed that a laminated copy should be displayed inside the Ice House.

We originally re-opened the Ice House to the public on 11th June 2000 so this year will be the 20th anniversary of the refurbishment of Manor House Gardens – a lasting success story. We can only hope that we will be able to re-open the Ice House to celebrate the occasion.

Planning matters

26 Hedgley Street - construction of single storey side and rear infill extension:

We have formally objected to this proposal.

182 Manor Lane – demolition of existing building and replacement with 2/3 storey building comprising 4 residential apartments over ground floor commercial space:

We have no objection.

127 Taunton Road – construction of single storey side and rear extension:

No objection.

43 Handen Road – construction of a dormer on the rear roof slopes:

No objection.

67 Micheldever Road – construction of mansard roof extension to rear roof slope:

This application was refused by Lewisham Planning on the grounds that it would fail to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Lee Manor Conservation Area. An appeal has now been lodged on the basis that other houses in the area have been allowed dormers - but they are smaller than those requested in this application. In accord with due process, we have not been asked to comment.

Leegate:

We understand that Lewisham Planning and St. Modwen are nearing agreement about the housing to be provided in the development and we expect to hear more positive news on the proposals soon. St. Modwen has hired a 'branding' organisation which recently held a meeting with representatives of local groups to consider a possible renaming of the site but the surprising, near-unanimous response of those present was that 'Leegate' is a popular name which will easily transfer to the new development. Several knowledgeable sources of local history, including 'Running Past' were offered to the organisers for background work.

Plant Mart and Garden Party



This year's Plant Mart and Garden Party is planned for Saturday 30th May – but subject, of course, to coronavirus restrictions and so increasingly doubtful. All the owners of the regular location in Micheldever have already kindly confirmed their agreement but we will have to make a final decision nearer the date.

New Tiger's Head

An earlier attempt to obtain Listed Building status from English Heritage for the New Tiger's Head Public House proved unsuccessful but we understand that an application for listing has now been submitted to the Victorian Society.

Lewisham Borough of Culture 2022

Following discussions with the Greater London Authority, Lewisham's year as London Borough of Culture has been postponed for a year. Our Mayor, Damien Egan, has said the decision was not easy but it is important that the Borough is now completely focused on keeping services for vulnerable residents going as best as it can during this difficult period.

We thank Ju White for hosting the meeting