

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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Annual General Meeting
7.30pm on 13th September 2023
Venue to be advised
Open to all residents in the area

Notes of our Meeting on 12th July 2023

Present: David Plumer, David Ford, Barbara Bird, Patti Byford, Ralph White (Chairman), Rita Craft, Mary Donovan, Tim Crossley and Stephen Kieft
Apologies: James Rathbone, Veronica Simmons, Sylvia Ling, Frances Migniuolo, Charles Batchelor, David Dannreuther, Mina Antrade

Matters Arising not covered below

It is with regret that we record that Mina Antrade, our secretary, has had to stand down from the post because of family commitments and travel issues. Thank you, Mina, for your valuable contribution to Lee Manor Society, and we send our best wishes for the future.

Manor House Gardens Festival of Culture review

The Festival was a great success and we had a record number of visitors (514) to the Ice House. The meeting strongly requested that next year, Lee Manor Society should open a stall in the Community Village. We did have the opportunity offered to us this year but there was a fear we could not staff both adequately/

The Palace

Voltage Films are making a documentary about Georgian life in Buckingham Palace and approached us to film a sequence in the Ice House. Apparently, Ice Houses at the Palace were filled in many years ago and the team was seeking a location elsewhere. Several hours of filming took place but we have just learned that the sequence did not make it to the final cut. However, we were offered a gratuity for our trouble which we have accepted with thanks.

Leigate redevelopment plans

Lee Manor Society, principally through Charles Batchelor, has contributed to the Steering Group of local societies, chaired by Jim Mallory, in discussions about the plans by Galliard for Leigate.

Whilst we are very supportive of redevelopment of this near-derelict site, we can summarise our opposition in that it is a gross overdevelopment and our views have been published and circulated separately. As we wrote last month *'The 15-storey corner block proposed for the redeveloped Leigate shopping centre forms the key element in the Society's response to the developer's planning application. We think this is excessive as it will completely dominate the*

historic buildings that surround the Lee Green crossroads. We have also highlighted serious flaws in the way the results of the public consultation have been interpreted and an unintelligible analysis of the scheme's impact on local heritage buildings such as the two Tiger's Heads, the former police station and the fire station. We continue to work with other local societies in the run-up to November when the application is expected to be considered by the planning committee. If the scheme gets the go-ahead demolition and building work will take eight years - to 2030.'

Note added: In the event, matters have moved on and, since our July meeting, The Lewisham Council Strategic Planning Committee has met (19 July) and despite reasoned arguments from the Steering Group, Galliard's plans were approved unanimously with little or no comment. It may be two years at least before work starts on the fabric.

In the overall scheme of things, it seems that central government pressure on the GLA and in turn on local councils follows only one blunt metric – units of housing. All other concerns, whether design, impact on the environment, pressure on local services etc. become casualties.

Sewer works in Burnt Ash Road

We have been advised by Cappagh (contractors working on the sewer) that work should be finished by 20 July 2023.

Note added: in the event, works were completed a few days early and the shopping parades are now getting back to some semblance of normality.

Manor House Library front garden.

We have drawn up a list of tasks that might be undertaken in the front garden to the north of the House and Ralph has exchanged notes with Simon Higgs, manager of the library. There are several items which could benefit from physical and/or financial help from Lee Manor Society but we need to first establish who has overall responsibility for each of the items and seek their approval. One task that could be accomplished relatively easily would be a volunteer deep litter-pick / tidy up day.

Foraging Walks

There is the opportunity to conduct foraging walks in grounds such as Manor House Gardens. We would seek permission from the Friends of Manor House Gardens and David Ford offered to follow up the proposal with Theresa Webb.

Backland Development

There are plans to build houses on the land on Southbrook Road that was once part of the garden to the Northbrook Public House. We have opposed the proposal.

Telephone Kiosk – Old Road.

The kiosk is in generally good condition and is still 'live'. However, some panes of glass have fallen out and David F. will notify the PO engineers responsible for repairs. We started a discussion as to how to preserve the kiosk after it is decommissioned, and this will be followed up by David F.

We thank Lee Green Lives Community Centre for hosting the meeting