

## News

## Fury over Trust car park prices

FURIOUS customers have criticised the National Trust after it switched from a per-car parking price - to a per-person charge at Dunham Massey and Lyme Park.

In the past, customers paid one price to park, no matter how many people were in the car, when they wanted to stroll the grounds of Dunham Massey and Lyme Park. Similarly, if one adult in the car had a membership, the whole party could park for free.

However, after changes introduced following Covid-reopening, now only the member is free - so any non-members in the car, including children, have to pay to park. For a family of two adults and two children who weren't members, this would be an increase from £7 per car to £24. For a similar family where one adult was a member, it would go from being free to park to now costing £16.

But, customers do get an additional bonus - entry to the house and gardens is now free as part of the parking charges.

A statement for the National Trust said: "As a charity, admission fees help us fund vital conservation work at our places. These fees go directly to properties, allowing us to care for these special places for many years to come.

"By moving to a per person single admission price at Dunham Massey and Lyme, we have brought these two important places in line with other local attractions. We think this represents good value."



Lyme Park

## PLAN FOR LUXURY CITY CENTRE PENTHOUSES THAT WILL COST £299

# Hotel where guests 'will want to stay for a year'

By DAISY JACKSON

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ONE of Canal Street's most prominent buildings is being turned into a new hotel, and its bosses say it'll be so comfortable people will want to 'stay for a year'.

The old 20th century warehouse is being converted into a 42-room hotel, topped with one of the city's most affordable penthouse suites.

LEVEN Manchester will span 33,000 sq ft and plans to launch next month, a joint venture between Manchester-born entrepreneurs and brothers Joshua and Ben Senior, and Wellbrook Hospitality.

The design-led hotel on the corner of Chorlton Street and Canal Street is a brand new hotel concept, which its founders say can be enjoyed 'on the guest's own terms.'

Timothy Griffin, principal at Well-

brook Hospitality, said: "At LEVEN, you can stay for a coffee, or stay for a cocktail. Stay for a day, or a year."

"We want to offer a beautiful, flexible space for every need - it's a hotel with freedom at its heart for both the modern traveller and the local crowd."

The ground floor lobby, fitted with a brass-topped bar, will be serving coffees, cocktails, and food, ahead of an eventual launch of a 1700sq ft cocktail bar and 4,000sq ft restaurant space.

Those staying at the hotel can take advantage of complimentary homemade breakfast smoothies, have their fridges pre-filled with snacks, or even book themselves a private chef - all while wearing complimentary LEVEN-branded cosy socks.

The hotel will be made up of four room types, from standard bedrooms up to a two-bedroom 'Living The Dream' duplex penthouse suite.

The larger rooms have kitchens, and bedrooms tucked up a spiral staircase. And, priced from £299 for a two-bedroom penthouse suite, they'll be one of the most affordable suites in the city centre.

Joshua Senior, LEVEN co-founder and CEO, said: "The generous room sizes, and the variety of room types available have allowed us to create something really special for everyone, even those looking to stay in Manchester for a while longer."

"We say stay a day or year, as some rooms feature kitchens and the key necessities of home (with a luxuri-

ous spin), so guests feel comfortable enough to stay for longer."

The building's industrial history as a cotton warehouse (though it's more recently been a brewery and a comedy club) is obvious too, in its red brick walls, its high ceilings, and its Crittall windows.

Joseph continued: "This project has a special place in my heart, as it's such a prominent landmark building for the Village neighbourhood."

"I'm delighted to be working with the team at Wellbrook, whose veteran experience in the hospitality industry has been invaluable as we develop the LEVEN brand together."

"Manchester is buzzing right now, with many fantastic new businesses opening - it's a brilliant time to be bringing a new hotel and a new hangout to the city."



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