

Leatherhead & District Local History Society
Potted Histories No: 1
Leatherhead Clock Tower



The Clock Tower was originally built to house the town's fire engine in 1859 at a cost of £129.4s.2 1/2d. The clock itself was added a year later. It was given to the town by the Congregational Church that once stood in North Street, because they could not afford to pay the tax imposed on public clocks. The horses used to draw the fire engine were stabled in Bridge Street. The same horses were also used to pull the local dustcart.

In Victorian times the Clock Tower became a prominent place for itinerant showman and 'soap box speakers', who could often be heard giving the views on anarchy and atheism. The Town Band often entertained the townsfolk there on Saturdays.

Then came the First World War and alas, in 1917 the Town Clock took on a different mantle. It became a War Shrine. Leatherhead's high casualty rate led to an early call for the fallen to be commemorated by a roll of honour, on the wall of the building. On the 21st March 1917 the Bishop of Winchester dedicated it. The shrine was a triptych of fumed oak carved by C. E. Grantham from a design submitted by the donors, the women of Leatherhead. It is now in the Chapel of Remembrance, Leatherhead Parish Church.

The clock tower eventually became public toilets and was demolished in 1952 at a cost of £77.

*For information regarding Membership, Lectures and Museum
opening hours contact*

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