

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 101

Leatherhead Railway Stations

The first station in Leatherhead was that of the Epsom and Leatherhead Railway, which opened on 1st February 1859 terminating near Kingston Road. The ELR was later bought by the London and South Western Railway.

In 1867 the route from London by Epsom, Dorking, and Horsham to Portsmouth was completed by the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company (LBSCR) rendering



LBSCR Station Buildings
c: 1950s



L&SWR Station
c: 1910

redundant its running rights over part of the London and South Western Railway line (that is from Epsom to Leatherhead) by jointly acquiring a section of the line, but with a separate station at Leatherhead what is still the station today opened on the 4th March 1867. This Grade II listed station when built had a station master's house, ticket office and booking hall, guard's room, waiting rooms and a goods room. Today many of

the rooms, including the station master's house, are not now in use.

At the same time as the LBSCR were building this station the London and South Western Railway (LSWR) extended their services with a branch line just before it to a new terminus just beyond the LBSCR Station. In 1885 the line was continued to Bookham and Guildford. In 1927 having two stations was deemed unnecessary, so the LSWR the line from Guildford was diverted to join the LBSCR line to the south of the LBSCR station. Over the years the station and its buildings fell into greater and greater disrepair, and the old line was finally removed in the 1980s. Traces may still be seen of the staircase from Station Road to the LSWR station and Old Station Approach still contains some old railway cottages. In the 1930s, it was planned to extend a new line from Chessington to Leatherhead. However, World War II caused this to be put on hold, and a subsequent protection order on Ashted Common meant that this was never built.

Suggested reading "Railways Around Leatherhead & Dorking by Peter Tarplee - 2011 L&DLHS ISBN No 0955278563

Goff Powell

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

Leatherhead & District Local History Society,
Leatherhead Museum, Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street,
Leatherhead, KT22 8DP

Tel: 01372 386348

mail to: staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com

Website: www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk