

POTTED HISTORIES

FROM THE LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Oddfellows Society – Leatherhead



Official Opening of the Oddfellows Hall c1930s (Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Hazel Brown & Mrs. Eileen Pearce)

Before the days of the NHS and National Insurance many clubs and societies were formed to provide financial support in times of personal sickness and distress. Some examples include 'The Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes', 'The Ancient Order of Foresters' (there is still an active Court in Leatherhead), and of course The Manchester Unity of the Order of Oddfellows. At one time all three Societies had Courts or Lodges in the town.

The earliest finding relating to the Duke of Connaught Lodge No. 6651 is in the 1910/1911 Directory of Leatherhead. It states that 'The Lodge' was affiliated to the Dorking District Branch of the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows and was established in 1885, for sick and funeral benefits. Meetings were held every fourth Thursday of the month at the Lodge Room,

Duke's Head, High Street, Leatherhead. Secretary: Brother L.M. Wade.

The first reference to 'The Lodge' meeting in Bridge Street is recorded in the 1936 Kelly's Street Directory and that the building is their headquarters, Thomas Faux is the Secretary.

The Oddfellows is a not-for-profit Friendly Society that relies on the good will of members and volunteers to deliver services.

Goff Powell

For info 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

Email: <mailto:staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com>

Website: www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk

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