

POTTED HISTORIES

FROM THE LEATHERHEAD & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ASHTEAD VILLAGE CLUB - THE STREET, ASHTEAD



The Rev. F.G.L. Lucas - 1892



The present Club premises

The Village Club was originally known as the Working Men's Club when founded in 1887 as a coffee room on The Street. The first President was the Ashtead Rector, the Rev. F.G.L. Lucas, who held the office for many years. Open at midday and during the evening, it provided bagatelle boards, tables for cards, chess and other games, daily papers, periodicals for members who paid eight old pence per month. The name Village Club was adopted in 1910, and the following year, the club moved to its present site. A corrugated iron building, which had once been two old huts, formed its premises. A licence was obtained in 1911, when ale was a penny a pint and whisky three pence a glass. At that time and for many years afterwards, it was for men only, but since 1959,

women have been welcomed as associate members. The club was badly damaged by bombing during the last war, but it remained open. Many famous snooker and billiard players, including Fred and Joe Davis and Walter Lindrum, paid visits to raise money for wartime charities. Rebuilding of the club started in 1951, further alterations being made three years later. The present premises were opened in 1968. Over the years, the club has won numerous trophies for snooker and billiards. The club's centenary year in 1987 was marked by a special dinner and other celebrations.

For current information, visit www.ashteadvc.co.uk Partly extracted from History of Ashtead-L&DLS Publication 1995

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