HISTORIES

POTTED (No113)

Emmeline (Emily) Pankhurst

Emmeline Pankhurst

Leatherhead Police Station circa 1930s

It is recorded that Mrs. Emmeline (Emily) Pankhurst, a founder member of the Suffragette movement, was held in the Kingston Road Police Station on 24th February 1913. She had been arrested in London, following a bombing incident and taken to Leatherhead where she was questioned and charged. Superintendent Coleman reported; *"She is being detained in Inspector Herbert Tudgay's sitting room, and I have arranged for Inspector Tudgay to let her sleep in one of his bedrooms tonight."*

Instructions from the Director of Public Prosecutions had requested that whilst in custody Mrs.Pankhurst should be treated with due consideration. Next day Mrs. Pankhurst was bailed from Epsom Magistrates Court having been driven to the court with the Superintendent, which made her the first person in the Surrey Constabulary area to have been 'conveyed to court in a motor car'.

The Police Station stood in its own grounds. Two pairs of police houses dating from the 1930s were built in Kingston Avenue, just behind the Police Station. In the 1960s the Police Station was extended on the South side increasing the frontage by almost half as much again. Around the same time a pair of semi detached police houses was built in Kingston Road next to the station on ground that was originally an orchard on Police property. The Police Station was demolished to make way for Churchill Retirement Homes called Emmeline Lodge after her.

Goff Powell - *Mainly extracted from 'Over the Bridge the Southern Side' by Brian Hennegan and Goff Powell - Leatherhead & District Local History Society 2011 – ISBN 0955278570 - £9.00*