



Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No: 14

The Almshouses - The Street, Ashted

A parish alms house existed in Ashted before 1668 but no location can be ascertained from the parish registers of the time. The well-known almshouses, situated at the east end of The Street, at the corner of Park Lane, were built in the 1730s from funds left by Lady Diana Fielding.

The Almshouse was sometimes known as '*The Widows' House*', because they housed six widows in two rooms each. They were administered by the Rector and trustees of Lady Diana's will. In 1852 Mary Howard provided funds to accommodate two more widows and also left £500 to be invested towards the widows' allowance after her death in 1877. The above is now known as '*Fielding House*' and is administered by the trustees of the Ashted United Charities. In 1975 a block of flats, called *Maple House*, was built in the grounds, in memory of a long serving secretary of the trustees.

In the same year, *The Haven*, in Ottways Lane, comprising of four cottages, and originally for retired domestic servants founded in the 1880s, was also taken over by the Charity as another almshouse.

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