

Leatherhead & District Local History Society
Potted Histories No: 15
Fetcham Mill, Mill Lane, Fetcham



In the early hours of Wednesday morning the 22nd August 1917, a disastrous fire broke out at the well-known flour mill of Messrs. Henry Moore & Son, Mill Lane, Fetcham, and in a very short time the entire mill was burnt out, and considerable damage caused.

The outbreak was discovered just after 12 o'clock by P.C. Lewis, who saw smoke and sparks issuing from the northern end of the mill. He at once called Chief Fire Officer Cowan, who lived close by, and the Leatherhead and Kingston Fire Brigades were summoned. The private residence adjoining, known as the Mill House and tenanted by Mrs. Morgan, was threatened, and efforts were at once directed towards rescuing the occupants. Mrs. Morgan was away at the time, but the maidservants and the gardener were brought out after some difficulty.

In gaining an entry through the window P.C. Lewis cut his hand badly and afterwards had no little difficulty in beating off a vicious Airedale inside the house, before he could get upstairs. It was impossible to save anything from the Mill, but pigs and cows in the sheds adjoining were removed to a place of safety. The stable immediately adjoining the Mill was gutted, and a valuable horse stabled there was burnt to death.

The fire spread with great rapidity and it was soon seen that there was little possibility of saving any part of the Mill. The Kingston Fire Brigade under arrived within 25 minutes of being called, and the Surbiton Brigade arrived soon afterwards. However, by 3 o'clock the outbreak had been got so far under control that the Kingston and Surbiton Brigade's were able to return safely and leave the local brigade alone in charge. The total damage, including buildings, contents and 4000 sacks of grain was estimated at £4,000.

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

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