



The Bull Inn - The Gas Showrooms

Red House - Fairmount House, Bull Hill

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No: 19

Fairmount House

The Bull Inn - The Red House - Leatherhead

Fairmount House on Bull Hill stands not only the site of the old Bull Inn, but also of the Red House which was behind the inn. The Inn was earlier called the Black Bull. The first known innkeeper was Thomas Williamson in 1798. Following this, the occupancy changed many times until finally at the turn 19th century the Thayer's family ran it. It started with William Thayers and finally in 1925 by Mrs Alice Louisa Thayers. The forecourt of the Inn became a meeting place for the town and developed into a form of 'Speakers Corner'. Latterly the Friary Brewery, Guildford, owned the Bull Inn. The inn was demolished in 1925 and the Leatherhead Gas & Lighting Company showrooms were built on the site.

The Red House, formally Belmont Lodge, was originally the home of George Fish Richardson and was part of a large estate he sold in 1873. From 1915 to 1919 it was a WWI Red Cross hospital. For many years it was a residential hotel. In 1949 it was purchased by the Leatherhead Urban District Council as additional offices. It was also home to the local library. It was sold in 1985 for redevelopment as a commercial property. Fairmount House provides fully serviced accommodation for approximately 200 staff.

*For information regarding Membership, Lectures and Museum opening hours contact: Leatherhead & District Local History Society, Leatherhead Museum Hampton Cottage, 64 Church Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8DP
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