

**Leatherhead & District Local History Society**  
**Potted Histories No: 2**  
**The Howard Memorial Fountain – Ashtead**



The inscription on the memorial reads ‘This cross and fountain are erected in memory of the Honourable Mrs Mary Greville Howard by the parishioners of Ashtead and many other of her relatives and friends. She was beloved and honoured during a long life spent in doing good and mourned by all when taken to rest on 19 October 1877 at Ashtead Park aged 92. Her works do follow her.’

Mary was the only surviving child of Richard Howard (formerly Richard Bagot) and Frances Howard. The Howards were the lords of the manor and owned virtually all the land in Ashtead. She married the Hon. Col Fulk Greville Upton in 1807, he taking the name Howard. Mary inherited all the estates in 1818 on the death of her parents. She had no children. She outlived her husband who died in 1846 by 31 years. They were both strong supporters of St Giles’ Church. In gratitude for her generous donations towards the restoration of the church, she is represented in a corbel over the west door.

The death of Mary Howard coincided with a long and severe agricultural depression in Britain. The Howard estate broke up, farming declined and developers moved in, while the population doubled from 906 in 1871 to 1,881 in 1901.

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

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