



Weller's Rose Gardens and Swimming Pool c.1920s



Littlewoods Swimming Pool 1933 - Photograph: 'An Act of Faith' by Barbara Dawson - 100 Years of Education at Parsons Mead School.

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No: 20

The Floral Swimming Pool - Green Lane

Littlewoods Swimming Pool - Ottways Lane - Ashtead

There used to be good swimming facilities in Ashtead in the early part of the 20th century when Henry Weller, a nurseryman, developed the old clay pit of Sparrow's brickworks into the Floral Swimming Pool, with steps, a raft and a diving board, as part of his Rose Garden. The pool was used by local swimmers and by many day trippers from London. Since the pool was deep (30ft at one point) and unsafe for poor swimmers, many parents, and children too, must have been greatly relieved when about 1930 Edgar Littlewood built swimming pools in the garden of his house, Littlewoods, in Ottways Lane. There were two pools - a small one for the young children and learners and a large one with diving boards for those who could swim. Parties of children came from the local schools to be taught to swim by Littlewood's daughter, Mrs Brooker.

These pools disappeared in the 1950s to provide housing, though a small part of the Floral Pool can still be seen today between the The Chase and the railway line.

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
Tel: 01372 386348
mail to: staff@headmuseum.plus.com
Website: www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk