



## Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No: 23

### Matten's Tea Gardens - Rectory Lane - Ashtead

The top picture shows Mrs. Rose Matten in 1906 outside her shop in Rectory Lane, with a signboard advertising the Ashtead Tea Gardens. The gardens were situated at the back of the shop, but easily accessible from The Street. This tranquil scene symbolises the typical Cyclists Rest of the Edwardian days. Above the shop was mounted a Penny Farthing Bicycle (also known as the Ordinary). The gentleman on the right hand side in the top picture and the one below with the lamb at his feet is Mr. James Matten.

Matten's Tea Gardens was a popular refreshment stop for the large number of cyclists coming out of London and on to Box Hill and possibly even further. James Matten was a Mechanical Engineer by profession. The family originally came from Suffolk. They later moved to Essex before settling in Ashtead.

*Goff Powell*

*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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