

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 25

The Warren Estate - The Duckhams - Ashtead



In 1921 Ashtead had a population of 3,226 which had increased to 4,783 by 1931, nearly 50% in ten years. As in the immediate pre-war decades, Ashtead was continuing to attract commuters. After the end of the First World War, builders were quick to acquire land where they could erect houses for the purchase by outsiders, mainly Londoners.

The Warren Estate was one of the areas developed at this time, mainly for large houses. Even a golf course, begun as part of the planned Estate development, but was never completed. With its spacious houses on large plots, the Estate attracted men who had done very well out of the war and able to pay the then very high prices of around £2,000 to £3,000.

One of the most impressive of these houses was High Warren, finished in 1922 and containing three oak panelled reception rooms and six bedrooms. This was for many years the residence of Sir Arthur and Lady Maud Duckham. Sir Arthur McDougall Duckham born in 1879 at Blackheath, London, was a Gas Engineer. He was one of the founders of the Institution of Chemical Engineers, and its first President. He was Knighted for services rendered in the Ministry of Munitions during the Great War. He died in 1932 and is buried in St Giles' Ashtead graveyard. Lady Maud was the daughter of landscape painter Arthur Peppercorn (b.1847), who lived for many years at Longreach, West Horsley, but died 1926 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

Tel: 01372 386348

mail to: staff@lheadmuseum.plus.com

Website: www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk