

# Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 29

## Fetcham Village Infant School - School Lane



School and Headmaster's House c.1907



Fetcham Village Infant School today

In 1854 a parcel of land was donated by the Hankey family to the Rector and churchwardens of Fetcham. It was to be for a purely Church of England School, and under the care of the National Society. Alongside the school was the headmaster's house rent free and furnished; it comprised two living rooms and two bedrooms, all in a Tudor Gothic style, built of brick with a slate roof. When the school opened in 1854, there were 61 children on the register paying a penny a week per child. The accommodation in the schoolroom was cramped even though it complied with the national criteria of 10 sq. ft. per child. In 1872 an Inspector's report recommended a 'gallery for infants' as the school was contained in one large room. A repeat observation in 1874 resulted in the addition of the infants' room during the following year... In 1886 the school was again enlarged with separate entrances for boys and girls. In 1936 it became necessary to accommodate 194 pupils - an enormous expansion on the low figure of 66 in 1932. This surge was due to the start of further residential development in the village. Additional buildings provided four spacious classrooms, a staff common room, a head teacher's office and a school office.

Accommodation in November 1957 comprised: 5 classrooms (1936); 2 prefabricated single storey classrooms (1954); 1 temporary classroom in the playground (1956); and the use of the village hall for two classes... The toilet facilities at the school - across an exposed playground - had, for a long time, been unacceptable so the need for provision of meals in the school premises and improved toilet facilities became the basis for the building of a new servery, hall and classroom which had been promised in 1957. They were not achieved for another 25 years as the new hall and servery was finally obtained and opened for use in 1982.

*Goff Powell - Extracts from History of Fetcham L&DLHS 1998 - for more information visit [www.fetcham.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.fetcham.surrey.sch.uk)*

**For Information regarding Membership, Lectures and Museum opening hours**

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