

Leatherhead & District Local History Society
Potted Histories No: 3
Fetcham Park House – Fetcham



The Vincent family had been owners of the Fetcham Park estate since the late 16th century, but about 1700 they let it to Arthur Moore, a flamboyant character who was M.P. for Grimsby. He bought the house and grounds from Francis Vincent in 1705 and in the next few years he commissioned William Talman, the architect of Chatsworth House, to rebuild part of it. As at Chatsworth, the famous French painter Louis Laguerre was invited to decorate the hall, staircase and other rooms. A stable block was also built. Arthur Moore died in 1730.

In 1737 Thomas Revell M.P. for Dover was the occupier. He was followed by Sir George Warren through his wife Jane, Revell's daughter. In 1788-89 the ownership passed to Thomas Hankey, a London banker, whose family held it until 1924. The Rev. J. Wilkie bought the house and established a school there, naming it Badingham College. Badingham being the village in Suffolk, where he had once lived. The school closed in 1965, when the founder died.

The building remained vacant until 1979, when the United Trading Group acquired the house, investing £4,000,000 in returning the property to its former splendour, including the Laguerre paintings. Today the building is operated by Parallel Business Centres. Fetcham Park House is still essentially the same on the outside and retains its unique character, but is equipped with state-of-the-art technology in keeping with modern business demands.

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

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