

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 59

The Rising Sun - Guildford Road - Fetcham



The Rising Sun 1920s



The Rising Sun Gardens 1920s

The building is a Grade II listed building. In 1805 The Rising Sun was described as 'A compact brew house, storeroom and cellar capable of holding 78 butts of beer, i.e. 8,424 gallons. Thomas Cooper, who having started out as landlord of the Rising Sun, where he began his successful trade 'brewing six-penny beer made from fine spring water, in the late 18th century founded the Lion Brewery, North Street, Leatherhead. He died in 1799 owning many public houses in the district. Not surprisingly Thomas Cooper has the grandest tombstone in Leatherhead churchyard.

Hodgson's Brewery of Kingston purchased the premises in 1896. It remained a public house until the new Rising Sun in Cobham Road opened in the late 1930s. Harroway Manor Apartments occupy this site to-day.

Before then there had been a medieval dwelling on the site close to a small chapel, referred to in a 1528 source as 'The Chapple of St. Kateryn's'. By the early 19th century 'The Chapel House' and the Rising Sun were treated as one and the same place, with an alehouse, barn, yard, garden and orchard. The buildings' structure suggests that in late medieval times there was a large hall, undivided, with walls partly built either of flint rubble or timber framed. The house was originally open throughout but in later years was made into two storeys.

For a short while it was called Tarquins Restaurant, and during the Second World War, it was used as a Youth Hostel. Following that it became known as The Ye Olde Rising Sun Restaurant, The Pilgrims Rest, then Le Pelerin, Pangs Villa, China Red and now Zen Garden.

Goff Powell - Acknowledgements Images of Bookham & Fetcham compiled by Linda Heath and The Inns and Public Houses of Leatherhead & District by Goff Powell.

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