



## Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No: 7

### The Mansion - Leatherhead

With the dissolution of Leeds Priory by Henry VIII, the original property was granted to the Stydolf family of Mickleham and Pachesham and it was leased by one of Henry's yeoman falconers, Robert Cheseman. In 1588 Edmund Tylney, Master of the Revels to Queen Elizabeth I took up occupancy. The Queen dined with him there on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1591. Shortly before the Glorious Revolution in 1688, James II's Chancellor, the notorious Judge Jeffrey's, came to the Mansion to see his dying daughter. The house was rebuilt in 1739 by Alexander Akehurst in warm Flemish brick, well proportioned and evenly fenestrated with nine two-windowed bays.

In about 1846 Dr Thomas Payne founded 'The Mansion Grammar School for Boys' there. The school was a boarding and day school for about 50 boys from 10 years upwards. He taught the Jacotot system of education based on the principle that because all men have equal intelligence received from God. The school continued until some time during the 1870s.

When it was sold to Herbert Reeves in 1922 it had 10 acres of grounds and a boathouse. In 1949, LUDC agreed with SCC to compulsory purchase the building for use as a public library and health clinic. The building was also used later as a youth employment and careers centre.

In May 2000 the ground floor rooms underwent restoration to become the Registry Office and the library was moved to another part of the building.

*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

Email: [Leatherheadmuseum@localhistory.free-online.co.uk](mailto:Leatherheadmuseum@localhistory.free-online.co.uk)

Web site: [www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk](http://www.leatherheadlocalhistory.org.uk)