Leatherhead & District Local History Society Potted Histories No 73 The Roman Villa Excavations 1924 - 1929 - Ashtead



The remains of the Roman Villa are located on Ashtead Common, and forms part of a complex which included a bath house, tile works and several clay pits. Its main period of occupation was in AD 117-38, however some buildings were first erected on the site circa AD 67-79. In around AD 150 the buildings were dismantled and in AD 180 the villa was partly rebuilt. The site was abandoned by about AD 200. The site was first excavated by A.W.G. Lowther who discovered the villa site in 1924. Further excavations were carried out in the 1960s by J.N. Hampton who located the clay pits and some of the kilns. In 2006 a five-year partnership project commenced to discover more information about the villa site. The project was undertaken by the City of London, Surrey Archaeological Society and English Heritage.

A model of what the Villa may have looked like is housed at the Leatherhead and District Local History Museum where examples of tiles and other Roman artefacts are also on display.

Goff Powell

For more detailed information go to the City of London Website www.cityoflandon.gov.uk or visit the Museum. Access is free and is open to visitors on Thursdays and Fridays from 1pm-4pm and Saturdays from 10am-4pm. April to December.

For information regarding Membership, Lectures and Museum opening hours	
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