

# Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 74

## The Bell Inn, Bell Lane, Fetcham

Pictured Right:  
The Bell Inn c: 1960s



The Meet at the Bell Inn, Fetcham



Pictured Left:  
The Original Bell Inn c: 1915

### **The Original Bell Inn**

The presence of an alehouse or inn on the corner of Bell Lane can be traced back to before the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the inn was used for fashionable weddings and other events. It also formed a meeting place for the Surrey Union Hunt. The original Bell Inn that had stood on the present car park was demolished in the late 1930s.

### **The Current Bell Inn**

The present Inn was built in the Hodgson's Brewery sweeping style of the 1930s similar to the Rising Sun, Cobham Road, (demolished - now Harroway Manor Apartments built in 2006) but on a smaller scale. It had a Public Bar, Private Bar and a Saloon Bar. The building also included an off-licence. Again just like the Rising Sun, The Bell became part of the Courage Group. In its early years the inn played a very important part in the community, just like its predecessor. Times change and the 'Bell' seemed to be on the decline. Eventually the 'Hungry Horse' chain of pub restaurants took over, and things looked to be on the up again. Regrettably it failed, and there was a possibility of the inn being demolished. However, Young's the brewers purchased the Inn. It had a major refit in 2004 and again in 2007. So many Public Houses have closed in the last decade; hopefully the inn will survive for many years to come.

Goff Powell.

*Compiled from The Inns and Public Houses of Leatherhead & District with additions*

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