

Leatherhead & District Local History Society

Potted Histories No 45
Leatherhead Bridge



Leatherhead
Bridge 1832

*A watercolour by
John Varley
(1778-1842)*

*Post Card copies of the
painting can be
purchased from the
Museum when open*

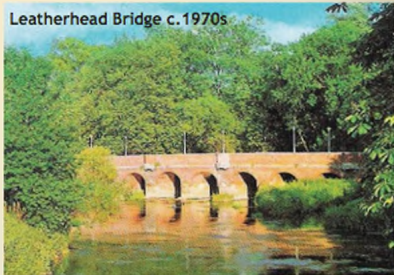
The Bridge over the Mole and the parish church are probably the two oldest structures in Leatherhead. A bridge mentioned in a deed of 1286 is more than likely the forerunner of the present bridge. In the 17th and 18th century there were so many complaints about the bridge that from 1760 it was kept locked and keys were only issued to those who paid. When the bridge came under the county authorities in 1782, it was rebuilt by the County Surveyor, George Gwilt. He reconstructed and widened it using the medieval stone piers and old bricks from Asstead Park. It is a long low red brick structure of 14 arches on low piers and a high brick parapet with 4 semicircular refuges; and a central stone plaque saying "Built 1784".

When Surrey County Council refurbished the bridge in the late 1980s they left its appearance unchanged, but replaced the modern lamp standards erected in 1963 with reproduction Windsor lighting. There was once a mill and tannery beside the river near where the foot of Minchin Close is now.

Goff Powell

*Extracted from History of Leatherhead
by Edwina Vardey with additions*

Leatherhead Bridge c.1970s



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

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