

A Window on West Wickham

Springfield

Springfield stood on the opposite side of the road to Wickham Hall. It was designed in 1890 by John Sedding a noted Victorian church architect. St.John's was also redesigned by John Sedding who is buried in the churchyard to the north of the church.

Mrs.Thomasett who was living in Manor House had this Tudor style property built on land purchased from Sir John Lennard and was later owned by Adolphus Cohen, a diamond merchant. In 1930 it became the headquarters of the West Wickham Social Club. In the 1950s the house was used as a special needs school and later a Barnados Home. Now called Thomasett House, it has a Local Listing and is now converted into flats.



A view of Springfield from its Lodge

The 1930s saw the beginning of the annual Fair and Flitch which was a side of bacon won by a couple who could satisfy a judge and jury of 6 maidens and 6 bachelors that for one year and a day they had not wished themselves unmarried.

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Stramshall Lodge

Accessible from Spring Park is Cheyne Wood, which from 1901 was part of private landscaped grounds of Stramshall Lodge, formerly within the manorial lands. Stramshall Lodge was a large Victorian house next to Spring Park Woods. (Woodland Way) In the 1920s it was bought by the Ancient Order of Froth Blowers for a children's hospital. The West Wickham Home of Recovery for Children with Heart Disease was officially opened in October 1927 by Lady Lennard. In 1929 a hut was erected for use by the Girl Guild troop in the home. The home was originally known as Heartsease. The ground floor and two large rooms on the first floor had been adapted as wards for 30 children. The staff were accommodated in the remainder of the house. From 1927 to the 1950s this was the Children's Heart Hospital and from 1957-1989 became part of Cheyne Hospital. After it closed most of the grounds were built over.



Today Heartsease is still used by the Girl Guides

1713 First record of a shop in West Wickham