

A Window on West Wickham

By the late 1700s, West Wickham was still a small village with a little church and a population of under 400. The parish constable was appointed by the vestry and trained the militia during the war against France. Every parish was required to provide a given number of men, based on its population, chosen by ballot, to serve in the Bromley Militia. West Wickham was required to give five men. The landlord of The Swan was drawn but he found someone from The Rising Sun in Bromley to take his place.

By 1801 Sir John Farnaby owned Wickham Court with his wife nee Lennard. He owned most of West Wickham, around 2600 acres. Sir John Farnaby held the gift of the living of the church and gave it to his son in 1815. His name was Charles Farnaby.



Wickham Court (Now Grade I listed)

In the 18th century Jacobean glass was installed in the east window of the banqueting hall

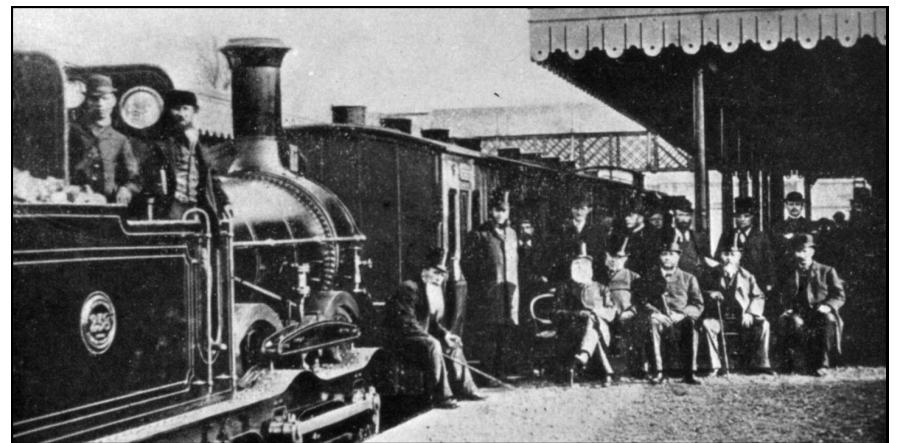
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The continuation of the railway line from Elmers End to Hayes began in 1881, and was opened on Whit Monday 29th May 1882. The line was electrified in 1925 and by 1932 the trains had become so crowded that the platform was lengthened to take more coaches. There were 13 daily trains and six on Sunday.

The arrival of the station made little difference to the village, with only a little speculative building taking place i.e. Sussex Road, Surrey, Kent and North Roads. The Railway Hotel was built which replaced the historic Leather Bottle Beer House at Wickham Green.



The Leather Bottle



*First train at West Wickham Station
Sir John Lennard sitting on the steps of the locomotive*