

A Window on West Wickham

Transport

In the 1800s there were carriers and stage coaches to Charing Cross and William Hone in his 'Everyday' book commended to his readers "A coach leaves The Ship at Charing Cross for The Swan at West Wickham . . . who will give a visitor a good bed and good cheer".



Stagecoach outside The Swan

A motor bus service, the 49b to Ealing, made its first trip on 27th February 1921. The terminus was moved from The Swan to the Wheatsheaf and then to the Railway Hotel all within a very short time. There followed a succession of different routes to different places. The 194 first came into service in 1927 as did the open top 494 to Wallington. but the 119 did not start until 1939. The war memorial, erected in 1921 bordering the High Street, became an obstruction once there was more traffic on the road and so was moved to the top of Corkscrew Hill. Summer Sundays and Bank Holidays saw special bus services bringing visitors to the common and woods.



Bus passing Wickham Hall, to the left of the picture, in West Wickham High Street

March 1917 Bread could not be sold unless it was 12 hours old and of a certain size and content

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- 1800** Most of the working population were dependent for their livelihoods on agriculture.
- 1842** The Hall family came to live in West Wickham and leased the house they called Ravenswood. The two daughters, Emily and Ellen, kept diaries which have survived.
- 1888** A small piece of land was bought in North Road and a chapel built. This was opened by the great Rev. Spurgeon. Eventually this grew to become the Emmanuel Church in the Grove.
- 1894** The first parish council was elected.
- 1899** Sir John Lennard, Lord of the Manor died.
- 1900** Sir Henry Lennard (son) had become Lord of the Manor. When Mafeking was relieved a barrel of tar was burned by the stocks tree. This was marked on 25th May by a school holiday.



Like many rural communities the population steadily grew. By 1901 the population had increased to 1328, partly due to the number of large mansions in the area which required domestic staff.



Changing face of Wickham Court

1900—the Parish Council meet to consider the question of road watering in the village.