

'Talk of the Town' Activity Quiz

Take a walk through Westerham and follow the history trail

Mr Hooker and friends reveal the secrets of our town...



"Hello, my name is Charles Hooker. I work as a printer in this beautiful town and I would love to take you on a walk around some of our historical sites.

Come with me and discover some of the places and people who have been part of Westerham over the past 200 years..."



with grateful thanks to our sponsors



This event is brought to you by the Westerham Town Partnership

www.visitwesterham.org.uk

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General Wolfe Pub TREASURE HUNT Your Country needs You! *But we need you More!* Have you found the Pub Yet?

For Directions Tel: 01959 562104



The WesterhamTown Partnership was formed in 2010 by a group of volunteers who help to make things happen in town.

We run the website www.visitwesterham.org.uk

If you'd like to get involved, email us at info@visitwesterham.org.uk
we'd love to hear from you



We hope you enjoy the weekend!

Stuart Merrylees, Bill Curtis, Jane Hunter and Nick Tonge



Map 1 - the east-end of town in 1907 - you will leave the Darent car park level with the first 'R' of River Darent. This map includes QUEBEC HOUSE, ST. MARY'S CHURCH, the LONDON ROAD and the RAILWAY STATION



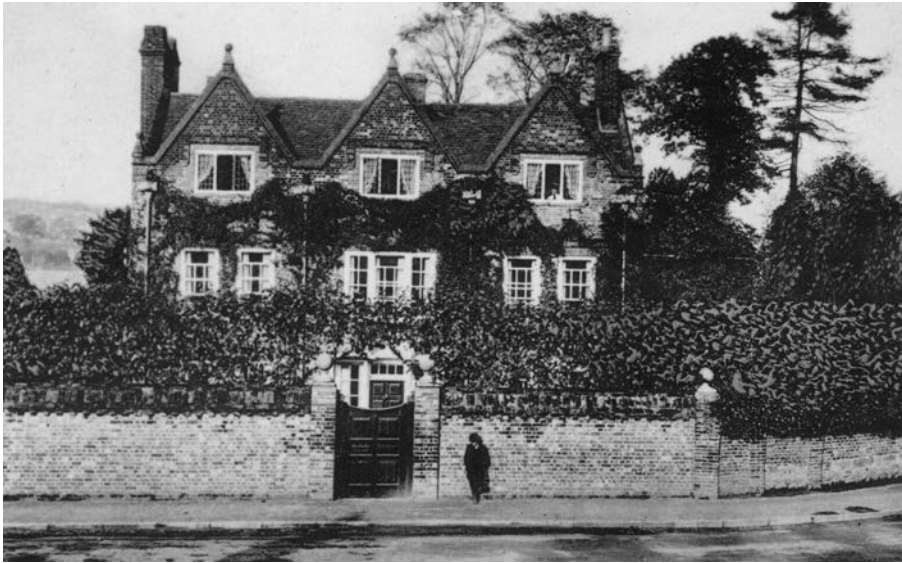
Map 2 - the west-end of town in 1907. This map includes the CROYDON ROAD (named at the top of the map) and LODGE LANE opposite where the southern-end of the CROYDON ROAD meets the HIGH STREET. NEW STREET is also named.

The blacksmith's forge is marked on the sharp-bend in the HIGH STREET at the bottom of the map as 'Smithy'



Look at the top map. As you leave the car park, turn right and walk along the main road and around the bend. You will come to Quebec House on your right.

* What are the differences between today's Quebec House and this early photograph?



DIFFERENCES

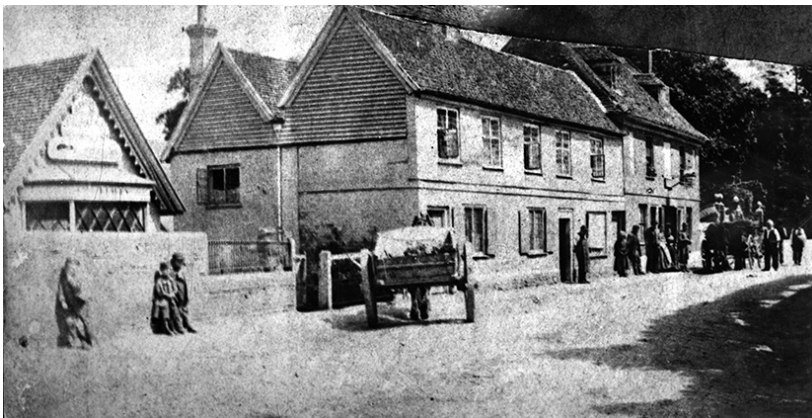
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In this picture, some children are leaning against the wall of Thomas Botley's greengrocer's shop.

* What would you guess the year to be?

Behind the cottages next to the shop was a plant nursery belonging to Arthur Jeffkins. Look carefully at his advertisement above and try to answer these questions:

- * How old was the nursery?
- * Name one type of flower that was sold
- * What else did the nursery sell?

THE OLDEST NURSERY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

Established over 100 Years.

ARTHUR JEFFKINS,

Begs to call the attention of intending planters to his choice and varied assortment of

NURSERY STOCK,

All having been recently transplanted and are in the best possible condition for removal, no expense having been spared in his NEW GROUNDS at

HOSEY NURSERY

Where Forest Trees, Ornamental, Evergreen, Deciduous Trees and Shrubs, Fruit Trees, Roses, Conifers, Azaleas, Rhododendrons, etc., are in the best possible health and condition for immediate planting.

THE DARENTH NURSERY

The Oldest in this Neighbourhood, dating from 1789, is devoted to the growth of Stove and Greenhouse Plants, choice Flower Seeds and Vegetable Seeds. Herbaceous Plants in great Variety; also to the cultivation of forced Strawberries, and Cucumber Seed growing, which is made a special feature on this ground.

A Splendid lot of

STANDARD, HYBRID, AND TEA ROSES,

In the best possible condition for removal, no better can be had in the Neighbourhood, over 5,000 to select from, price 18/- & 24/- per doz. Sample sent on application.

DESCRIPTIVE and Priced Catalogues will be forwarded post free and gratis on application to

ARTHUR JEFFKINS,

Darenth Nursery & Seed Establishment,

WESTERHAM, KENT.

The Station of the Westerham Valley Railway is a few minutes walk from these grounds.



- * What year do you think this photograph was taken?
- * What is this building now?
- * What was it's name at that time?
- * What did Westerham famously make around that time?

As you keep walking up Vicarage Hill, you will come to a small footpath on the right, just before the Almshouses. This will lead you up to St Mary's churchyard.



When you enter the churchyard, turn left and look for the War Memorial near the church porch. It's not shown in this photograph from 1910, as it was not built until 1920

- * Count the number of men and boys from the STREATFEILD family who are listed on the war memorial.

Walk through the church gates beyond the porch and onto the Green. Stand where you think the photograph below was taken from in 1892.



Four businesses are shown above:

A - Mr and Mrs Thomas Newton ran the POSTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE here.

* Today, this is number the Green

B - Mr George Leney ran his painting and decorating business here.

* Today, this is number the Green

C - Mr Waghorn, watchmaker and jeweller had his shop here.

* Today, this is number the Green

D - William P. Woollett, carpenter and undertaker had his shop here * Why was he so close to the church?

Now turn around and face the opposite side of the Green like the two little boys in the photo. You will see two old houses:

'Breaches' (set-back facing the Green)



* A lady called Alice Hargreaves lived here many years ago. What was she famous for as a little girl living in Oxford?

'Owl House' (appears to be side-on to the Green)



* What do you think this house was in the past - what does it face?



Today, one of the shops in this block is very popular with children!

* This is because it sells -

* What did this shop sell when the photograph was taken?



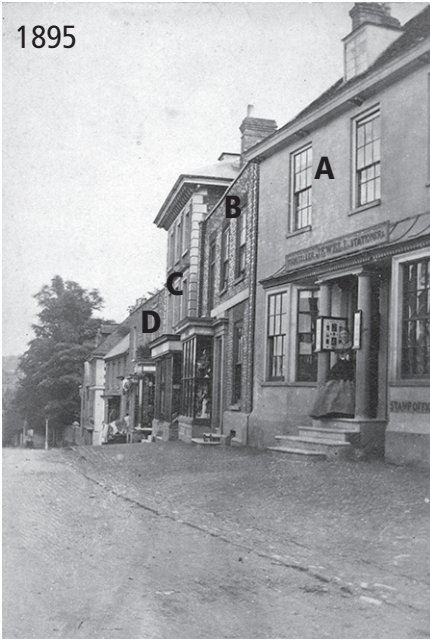
Two views of the same building, on the left in 1895 and on the right in 1906 with a very different use!

* What is this building used for now?

* This was very important for animals - can you guess which?

It has been moved - look for it later on in your walk

1895



A was 'Gatlands' a stationer and bookseller's business run by Joseph Jewell

* and today? -

B was William Fox the chemist

* and today? -

C was 'The Fountain Coffee House & Temperance Hotel'

* and today? -

D was Charles Shawyer's drapery at 'Commerce House' selling clothes

* and today? -

1920



John P. Hale ran 'The Stores' with a staff of six young assistants.

Note: no parking restrictions then...

* What is this shop today? -



Mr Shawyer ran another drapery and millinery (hats) business on the north side of Market Square, next to the George and Dragon Hotel...

This shop stands forward of all the others in the parade.

A - Edwin Catt, draper

B - Edwin J. Hollingworth, fruiterer & sweets

C - Herbert Reinhardt Schon, Bank Manager

at the London County & Westminster Bank

D - Frederick John Meadows, Licensed

Landlord of 'The George & Dragon, Family & Commercial Hotel'

What's this? - it's been moved, but still not in its final resting place...

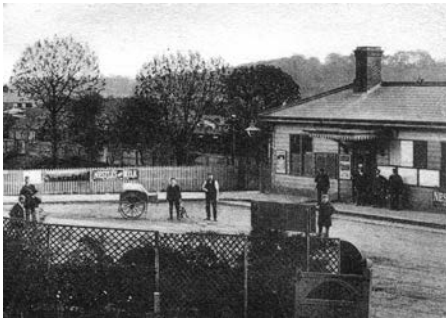
1900s



From the Green (called Market Square on our old maps) turn right down London Road. Look out for the LIBRARY on your right as you walk down the hill - there's a plaque commemorating the Library founder, Eleanor Busk. Keep walking until you reach a bus stop in a lay-by (about five minutes walk)

1907 Map

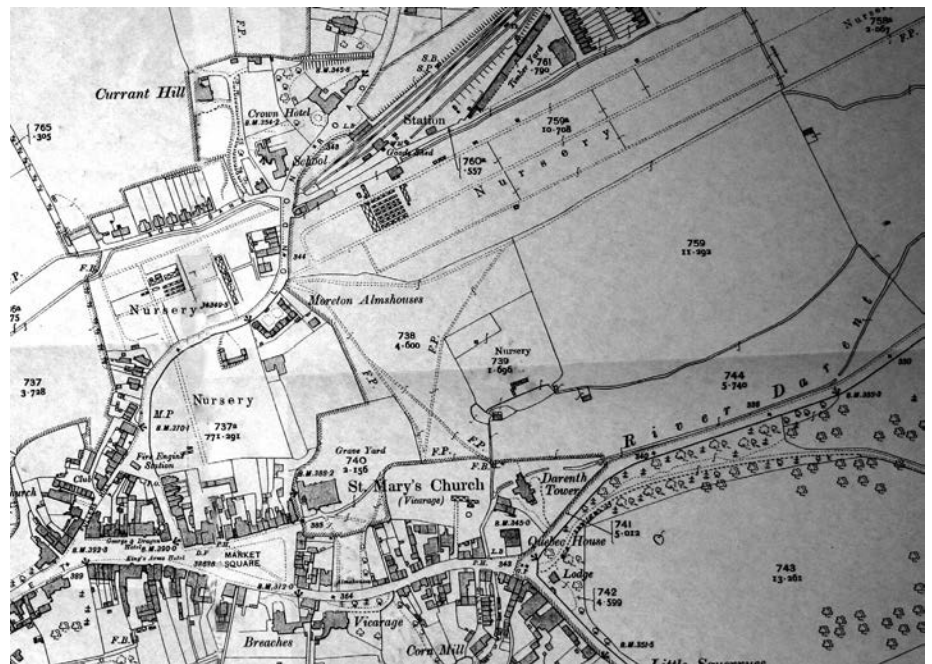
Can you work out where you are standing? Yes! You are in the fore-court outside the Railway Station



This is what it looked like in 1890.

Can you see the postbox to the left of the station building?

* What is in that exact spot today?

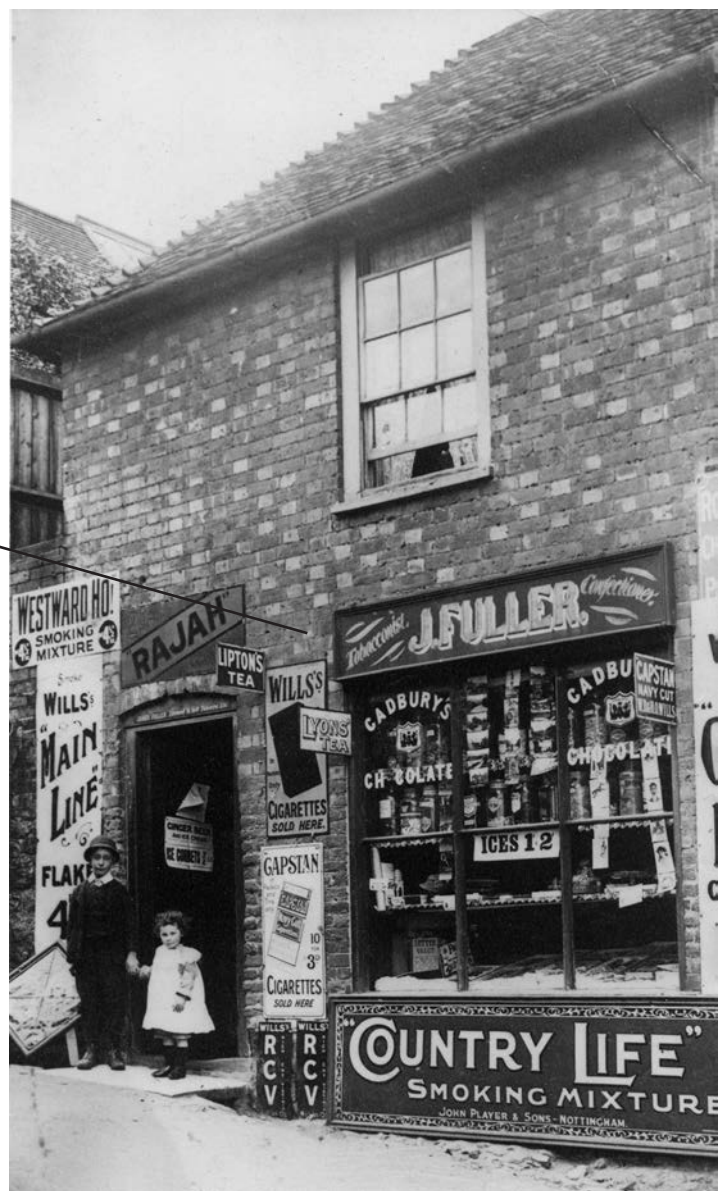


Now turn around to go back up London Road. Cross the road and notice the old school on your right. Keep walking and you will get to the site of Westerham's 'new' Post Office built in 1901. It is now a fitness centre.

Turn up from here into Fullers Hill. You will pass this little shop on your right

This photograph was taken in 1913 and shows William Fuller with his sister Daisy standing in the doorway of the confectioners shop run by their father James.

* What is this shop used for today? -



Bear right at the top of Fullers Hill, and walk past 'Entre Nous' the lingerie shop. The right-hand end of today's 'Rendezvous' restaurant was a high class grocer's in 1900 run by Thomas Kelsey, purveyor of W & A Gilbey's wines and spirits. Mr Kelsey was also the local agent for the 'Phoenix Fire Office' which had sold 'Assurance' since 1679.

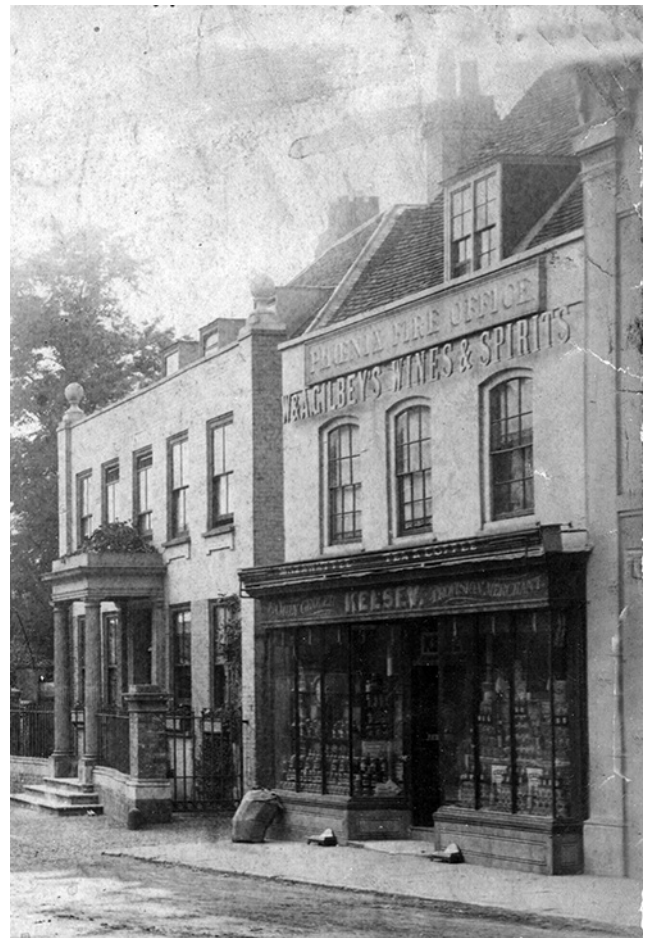
Next to Kelsey's was a fine house called the Grange. Beautiful walled gardens belonging to the Grange stretched right along the High Street including the site of today's Co-op supermarket and right down Croydon Road to the corner of Rysted Lane - it was a huge estate.

* Does this building exist today? - Notice the big stone balls on the front at roof level - start looking for them...

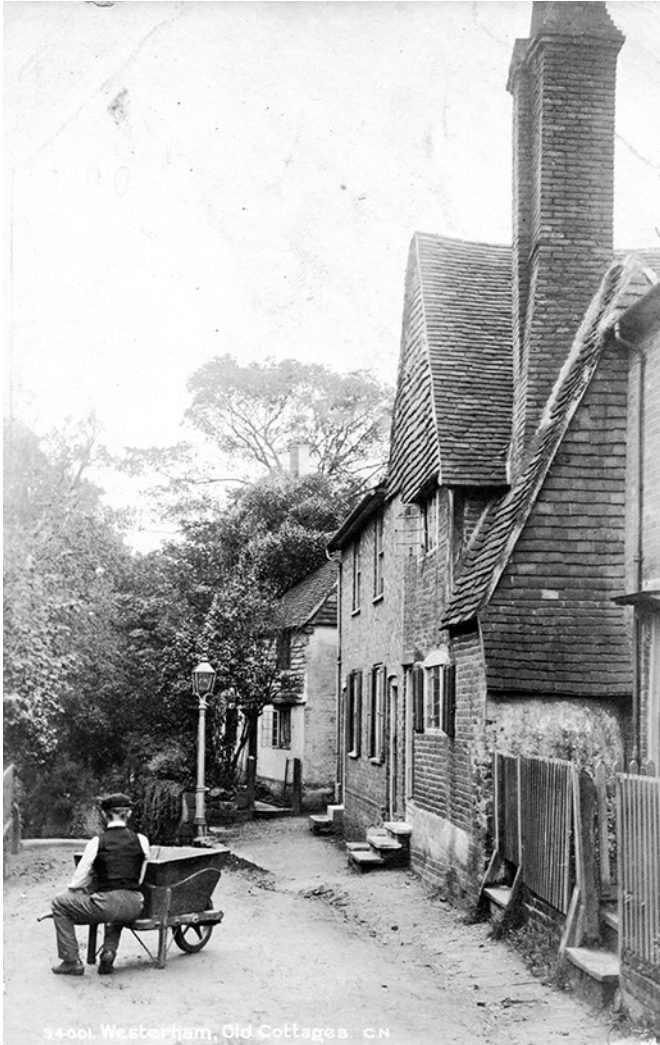
Continue past the Co-op and walk down Croydon Road round the big bend in front of Marlboro Court.

In 1920, Delegarde Farm stood on the left of the road as shown in the photograph below.

* Can you see anything of this today?



Returning to the High Street, look across the road and find LODGE LANE, shown in the 1900s photograph below...



A garden worker takes a short break from his labours before continuing his journey down toward SQUERRYES LODGE at the far end of the Lane.

Take a walk down Lodge Lane today.

* What, if anything, has changed?

* Can you find the spot where this chap was sitting on his wheelbarrow?

* Is the lamp post still there?

Coming back out to the High Street, turn left and walk down to the point where STRATTON TERRACE joins the main road on the other side. The grey painted shop on the corner was Charles Hooker's 'Steam Printing Works' shown below:



Two men are standing in the doorway around 1900

* What do you think they might be talking about?

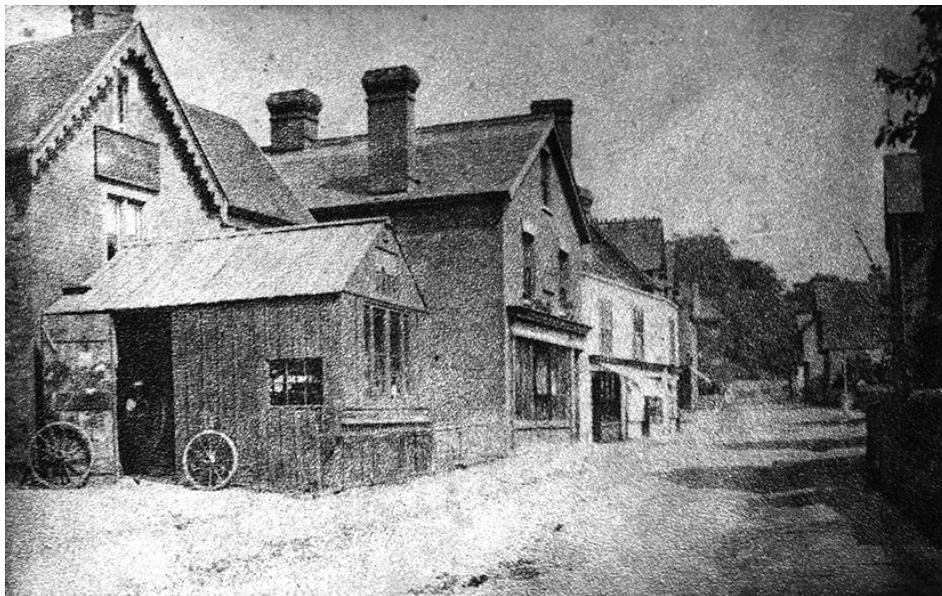
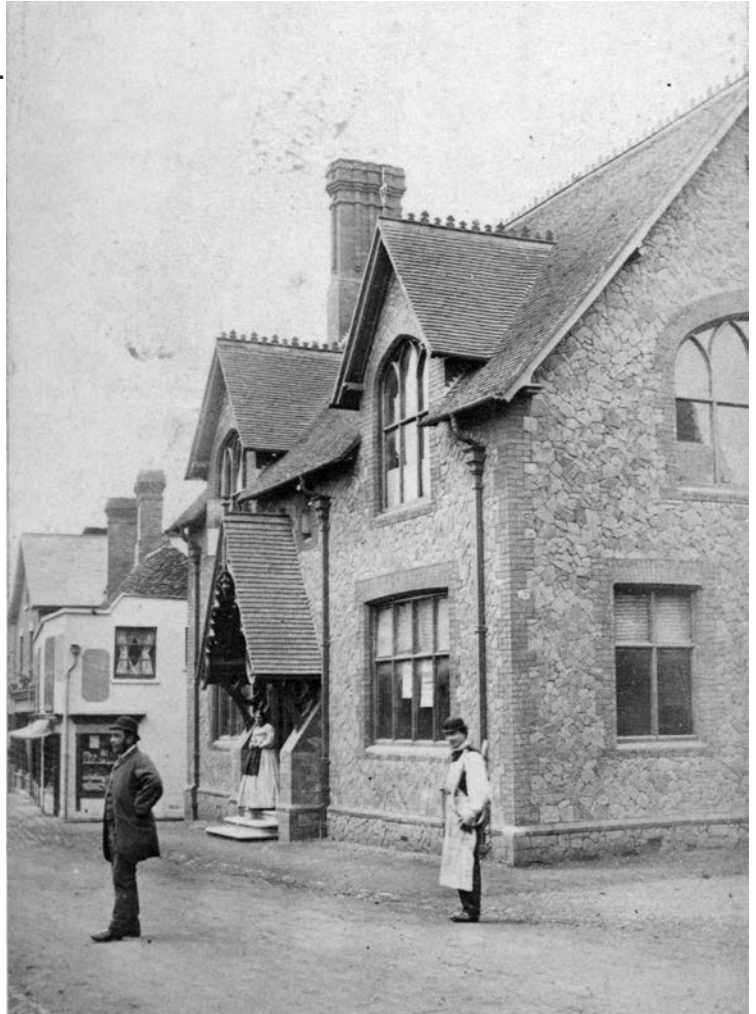


Here are the printers and their apprentices in the print shop around 1900. That's me (Charles Hooker) standing on the right.

On the other corner of Stratton Terrace stands this building. This was Westerham's Public Hall in 1900.

* What has changed on this building today?

* What has the building become in modern times?



A little further down the High Street, the picture above is one of the earliest known photographs of Westerham, probably dating from the mid-1870s

It shows the coach and wheelwright's shop run by Eliza Till after her husband had died. This ancient workshop was attached to the first of the ragstone-built 'Alma Cottages' on the corner of New Street.

* What stands there today?

* Can you still find Alma Cottages?

Moving on up the High Street would have given this view of the Warde Arms around 1880. The Publican was John Townsend at that time. Mr Townsend was also a gentleman farmer and proprietor of the town's biggest fleet of carriages, several of which were kept in his '*commodious stables and coach houses adjoining the Railway Station...*'



Ellen King enjoys the sunshine with her daughters Eva and Ethel outside their home 'The Cottage' in the High Street, a few doors down from the Warde Arms



No longer named as such, 'The Cottage' is unmistakable today. Apart from losing the pergola round the front door, it looks remarkably similar to how it looked in 1910 - even the railings remain...



Need some help with the answers?

They'll be on the website www.visitwesterham.org.uk next week!

Walk on until you are standing by the grass on the big bend known as 'Verrall's Corner' - so named after the blacksmith George Verrall who had his forge on the other side of the road on this part of the High Street.

* What is sitting on the grass that you will have seen in two other positions in the town in previous photographs?

-

* Can you read what it says on the front-side of the stone trough?

-

Look across the road at the British Legion Club House built by the men of the town between the wars.

Have you seen the war-time exhibition and Anderson shelter in the Legion garden? Go and take a look...

The British Legion Club House 'topping-out' ceremony - this is performed when a building reaches the highest point that will be built - in this case, the chimney-stack

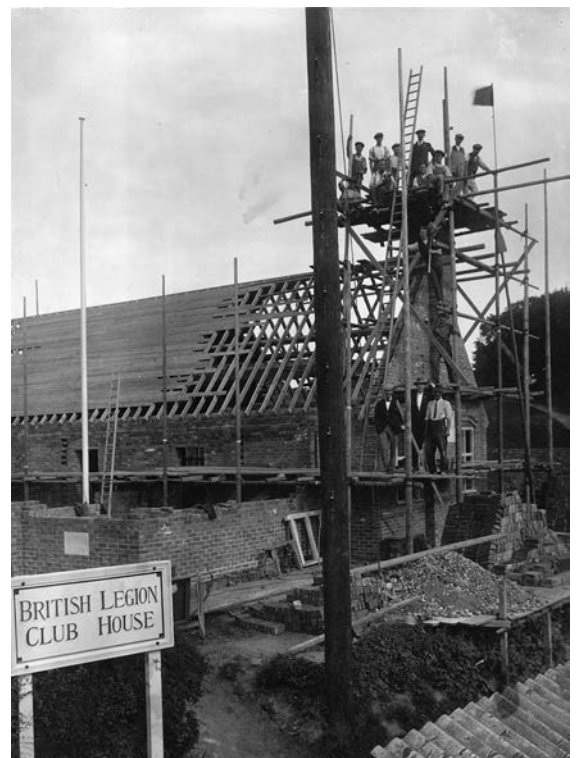
* Can you find a stone plaque that tells you what date the Legion Club House was finished?

Date -

As you walk out of town past the little row of brewery cottages on your right look out for a road that commemorates where the brewery once stood, as shown in this 1900s photograph, opposite the Long Pond.

* What was the brewery called? (clue - a big dark bird...)

-



And finally, an outing of Ben Bushell's senior directors sets out from the brewery in 1897.

* They posed for the camera outside a little pub called -

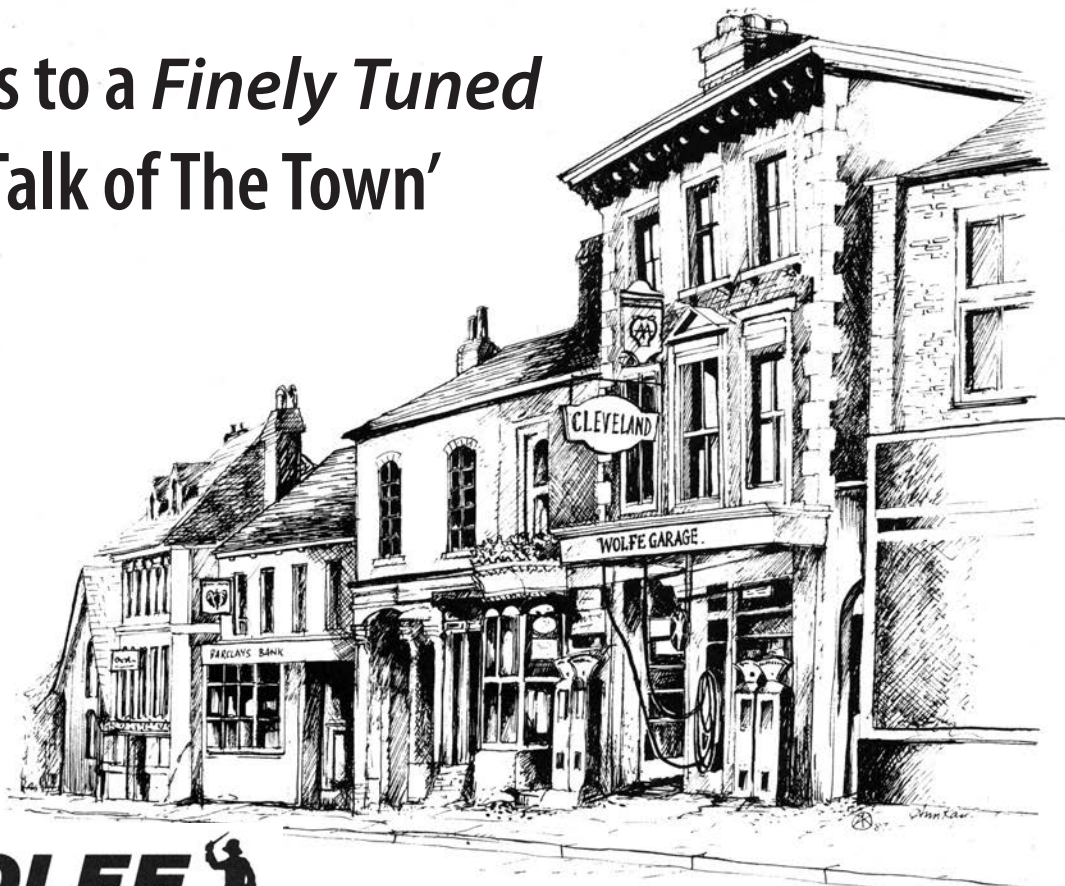
Streets of Westerham



56 years in the trade
and still feeling flush!

Wishing 'Talk of The Town'
all the very best for a great weekend

Here's to a *Finely Tuned*
'Talk of The Town'



WOLFE
WESTERHAM



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