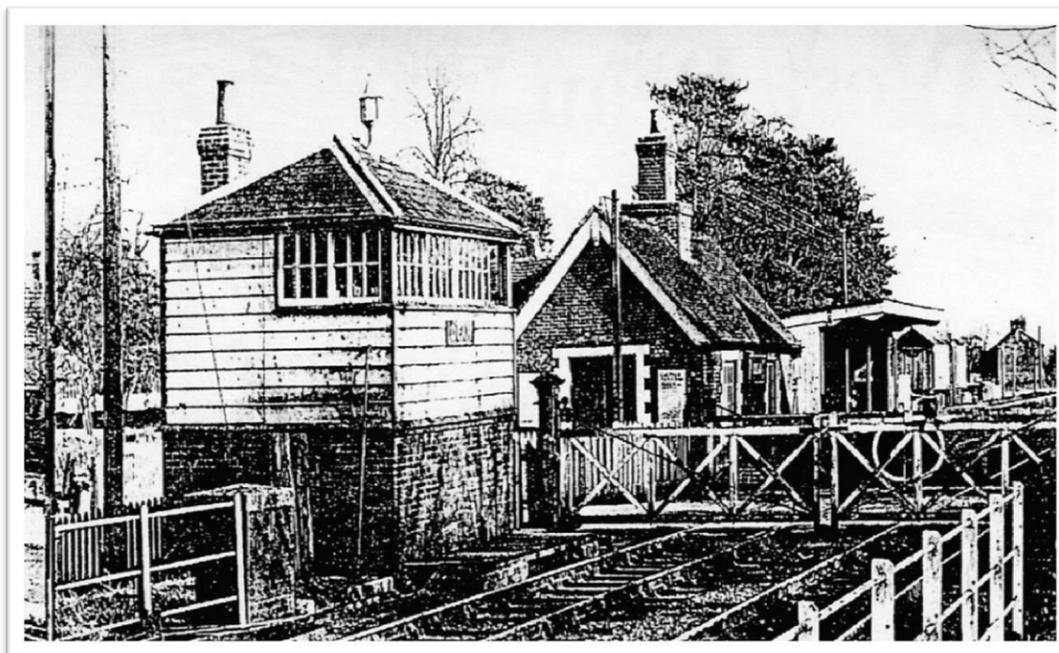


West Dean Village History Trail

THE RAILWAY SIDINGS

No 21

The station had three sidings, two to the north and one to the south. In the early years of the 20th Century London and South Western Railway engines of the 4-6-0 type were built at Eastleigh. New engines on test would run up to Dean and remain in the sidings for some time with the engines humming, possibly while slight adjustments were made, before returning to Eastleigh. These powerful engines, gleaming with new paint, were a great attraction to the local boys who hastened to the sidings to watch.



IN THIS 1968 PICTURE OF THE STATION, THE SIDING GATES CAN BE SEEN TO THE LEFT AND THE GOODS STORAGE BUILDING TO THE RIGHT OF THE SIGNALBOX

A great variety of goods came and went from the station, some by goods trains, some by the guards van on passenger trains. Without trying to divide them into periods or specify which type of train they came by, these included :

- Timber to and from the mill
- Coal for local distribution, collected by coal merchants
- Parcels and mail
- Daily and Sunday newspapers.
- Machine parts, Hurdles
- Fertilizers and cattle food
- Moss for Covent Garden Flower Market
- Rectory produce to Salisbury greengrocer
- Pigs bred for sale to other farmers
- Cattle for the Tuesday market in Salisbury
- Milk churns from the milk factory from surrounding villages - *see board by the village hall*
- Mares with foals from the Tytherley Stud
- Birch twigs to Manchester for vinegar
- Sheep from Romney Marsh to overwinter at West Dean
- Frenchmoor goats remembered as hopping readily into the guards van.



THE FORMER SILCOCKS SHED. THE LEFT PICTURE SHOWS THE DOOR FOR UNLOADING GOODS FROM THE TRAIN AND THE RIGHT ONE THE DOORS FOR COLLECTING GOODS BY CART OR LORRY



THE NOW IVY-COVERED BASE OF THE CRANE USED FOR UNLOADING