

# DOWN MEMORY LANE

## More of Downtown Stewkley

The contemporary photograph prominently features the solid elevation of the home known today as King's Head House, No 15 High Street North. When it closed to business in 1972, The King's Head was yet another of the village's ten pubs lost to changing times.

Built around 1758, The King's Head was restored following a fire in 1887 and purveyed ales and stout from Brackley brewery, Hopcraft and Norris. The image, from a postcard date marked 13 December 1922, is believed to date from 1915. The landlord had not long moved into the pub and the words from his wife, Em, tell her sister that "we are very well up to now but I have gone rather thin. I think it was working so hard at first coming here."

Directly opposite The King's Head, stood the premises of R. Dickens, Family Butcher, with its slaughterhouse end on to the High Street. The gates to the knacker's yard were shared with brothers Alfie and Herbert Dimmock. The absence of footpaths and kerbs is noteworthy.

Descendant Alf Dimmock built the family home at No 12 High Street North on the site of the slaughterhouse. The cottages of Church Villas can still be seen beyond.



## FROM THE GRAPEVINE 10 YEARS AGO...

*From December 2009, as the local bus service to Leighton Buzzard was being reduced, a new daily service to Central Milton Keynes was to begin...the new Stewkley Youth Club got off to a flying start...the names of the thirteen Stewkley Lads missing from the Village War Memorial were read out for the first time at the Remembrance Sunday service, prior to John Sheldon signing copies of *The Stewkley Lads Fallen in the Great War* at the book's launch...a consultation period began for the future of Stewkley Parish in what would become the Cottesloe Team Benefice...the Parish Council thanked Terry Brown for once again donating the parish Christmas tree... Stewkley Singers were presenting *Music and Mince Pies* over two nights, and the Village Hall Christmas Band Concert was announced...and Buckingham Archdeacon Karen Gorham was to lead the Christmas morning service at St Michael's.*

## FROM THE GRAPEVINE 20 YEARS AGO...

*From December 1999, this was to be the last issue of the Grapevine in the second Millennium...the proposed St Michael's Millennium stained-glass window was finally abandoned after it was voted down at a Village Hall public meeting, leading to the Church withdrawing its support...Janet Weston replaced Joan Cranmer as WI President...Stewkley School Year 6 launched its own weekly newspaper... Stewkley FC 1st XI were lying second after ten games of the season in the North Bucks Premier League...at the Tennis Club AGM, the annual tournament trophies were presented to Kris Pratt (Ladies' Singles), David Tansley (Mens' Singles), Julie Dawson and Kris Pratt (Ladies' Doubles) and Ken McDonald and John Sheldon (Mens' Doubles)...and the village churches were planning carol singing and services to celebrate 2,000 years since Christ's birth.*