

DOWN MEMORY LANE

21 and 23 High Street North

Commerce continued north along the High Street opposite the entrance to Ivy Lane, with Hounslow's shop at No. 23 and the blacksmith's home and workshop next door at No. 21. They were built with Stewkley red brick using traditional Flemish bond.

Blacksmith John Hounslow, Sr, kept The Bull pub, and after his son, John Hounslow, Jr. (also a blacksmith by trade) was married in 1892, he crossed the road and moved along the High Street. The part to the left with the large carriage doors was turned into a home for him and his wife Mary Louisa, and the smithy confined to the lower single-storey section.

FROM THE GRAPEVINE 10 YEARS AGO...

From February 2010, Stewkley's new youth club got off to a flying start with a Parish Council grant of £1,000 to cover anticipated first year operating costs...Nature Notebook reported that birds were surviving on man's birdfeeder supplies and apples due to the snow and bitter cold, and now with hindsight, we note that vandalism was no stranger to the Wildlife Reserve...a crime wave hit the village, burgling homes, ram raiding a garage and stealing cars...Rev Michelle Morton's tenure at St Michael's ended with her resignation, and Rev Ian Ogilvie, a retired priest from Long Marston, was to be temporarily in place...Colin Hathaway retired after 25 years as Village Hall caretaker...an 'ice thank you' was expressed to all whose jobs and efforts kept life moving during the harsh winter weather...and village 'milkie' Stan Smith had passed away aged 91.

FROM THE GRAPEVINE 20 YEARS AGO...

From February 2000, the first Grapevine of the new millennium reported pyrotechnics and a highly successful New Year's Eve party which lit up the Village Hall and raised £850 for Willen and Florence Nightingale Hospices...a millennium oak tree grown from a Stewkley acorn was planted by the cricket nets...the Parish Council wrote a letter of support for the proposed Stoke Hammond bypass...the parish electoral roll had 1,269 names...Anthea and John Edwards were off to help slum children in Hyderabad, India and were asking for donations of children's items as gifts...the Grapevine made £230 profit on its 1999 production...AVDC Historic Buildings Officer, Ruth Gibson, produced new guidance on thatching in Bucks to tighten up recent lax standards in materials and style in Aylesbury Vale...and the Players' spring production was to be *Mr Quigley's Revenge*, produced by Bunt Scott.

John Hounslow's younger sister Nellie, and her husband William Smith ran the bay-windowed grocery shop at their home next door.

The buildings were later converted into the two family homes seen today. Many villagers will have fond memories of Nellie and William's youngest daughter, Mrs Violet Irene Dove (affectionately known as René) who continued to live at 23, High Street North until her death, aged 93, in 2001.

