

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Continuing our series looking at Stewkley past and present

Continuity of the Village Shop

There has been a continuous retail presence on the site of today's 'Stewkley Food and Wine' shop since at least the late 1880s. Back then it was kept by Henry Lee White as a grocery and drapery store. This 1925 image shows G Angood's grocery and hardware shop. The *Brooke Bond Tea* sign remains over the shop even today, and anecdotally it seems, few passing children could resist banging the tin advertisement sign for *Zebra Grate Polish*.

Angoods also owned the thatched building on the other side of the High Street, now the site of The Retreat. From that store, Angoods offered quite an emporium of furniture and housewares. One could buy souvenir china items marked: 'A Present from Stewkley.'

In 1937, Philip Thomas brought his family from Cheshire to run the shop until the mid 1950s. Since then, the shop site has hosted premises selling groceries, the village post office, hairdressing and an estate agent.

Tucked behind the thatched store, and in the modern photo stepping out gable-end to the High Street, No 57 was the original 1800s Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. It provides a dynamic element in the streetscape.

At the vanishing point of the photographs, the curve in the road has the effect of emphasising the cottages at Nos 61 to 65 within their treed setting. No 63 was the first village policeman's home. It's a pity about the car parking—the solitary push-bike speaks volumes.



© Images used in Grapevine are produced with the permission of the persons supplying them, are copyrighted to them and may not be reproduced. We are not able to supply copies.

FROM THE GRAPEVINE 10 YEARS AGO...

From April 2010, Stewkley crimestoppers were at work assisting police, supported by a helicopter, in the arrest of a suspected thief on the run in the village...villagers were about to be assailed by a 'housing needs survey' from Community Impact Bucks...the Grapevine launched its 'What's On' page 3 section, free for village organisations...Stewkley Youth Club had grown to over 50 members, with two evening sessions according to age group...Stewkley Singers were to go 'on tour' to St John's Church, Whitchurch for their spring concert featuring Vivaldi's *Gloria*...Dave Willis reported on successful progress with his 'hands-off' computer funded by Stewkley folk...and the Tennis Club was offering a glass of wine to tempt members to the opening club night.



FROM THE GRAPEVINE 20 YEARS AGO...

From April 2000, an Easter 2000 greeting from Stewkley's churches featured on the front page...delivery had been delayed of the special plates to all village homes to mark the Millennium due to production difficulties...Bucks County Council confirmed that Stewkley was eligible for a traffic-calming scheme with up to nine road chicanes necessary to reduce traffic speed...Robert Dickens was to give a talk entitled 'Stewkley Yesteryear' in aid of St Michael's Bell Restoration Fund...Bunt Scott wrote a letter of thanks to well-wishers who sent cards and gifts after "a greedy flesh-eating bug had munched its way around his hand", and in typical Bunt-style, asked "who had sent the fish fingers?"...and the Parish Council had upped its grant for the maintenance of the Recreation Ground to £3,300.

