

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Continuing our series looking at Stewkley past and present

FROM THE GRAPEVINE 10 YEARS AGO...

From July 2010, the newly-formed village Youth Club took first prize for the best float at St Michael's School fête, which in itself raised over £3,000 for school funds...12 village homes opened up their gardens to over 400 visitors for Stewkley Open Gardens Weekend organised by St Michael's Church... Stewkley FC were scheduling a Festival of Football on the Rec, to be followed by the World Cup Final on the Village Hall Big Screen...the Parish Council was seeking finance from Bucks CC and manual labour from Thames Probation Service for a scheme to provide a BMX track on Diocesan land off Soulbury Road...Nature Notebook dwelt on the promiscuity of the eyed hawk-moth which apparently was not averse to mating with the females of other hawk-moth species...Stewkley WI got out their best hats for a garden party in St Michael's Close...and the Grapevine was a mere 16 page edition that July.



FROM THE GRAPEVINE 20 YEARS AGO...

From July 2000, the Parish Council thanked Anglian Water for the free-of-charge installation of a water supply to the village burial ground... Methodist Minister the Rev Brian Trudgian bade farewell to Stewkley as he prepared to leave for 'pastures new'...Stewkley Scouts enjoyed a lovely sunny weekend climbing in the Peak District in contrast to their washout Whitsun weekend at the RAF Halton Millennium Camp...the PC was strenuously opposing a new planning application for a camping and touring caravan site at Pond Field adjacent to the Hollingdon turn on Bletchley Road...Pete Stamp scored 112 not out as SVCC 2nd XI drew their fixture with Stoke Hammond...and a Stewkley Players advertisement for their production of *Stewkley Scrolls* in St Michael's Church, inadvertently informed readers that it was to be a light-hearted look at the involvement of Stewkley folk in over 100 years of history. They actually meant 1,000 years, and as we saw, Saxon builders, *Ye Tofields*, of course built the Parish Church for the Normans!



Dovecote Farmhouse

Known locally as the 'Dove-'us', No 26 High Street South is one of Stewkley's oldest homes. It is Grade II Listed and the north wing is probably part of a late 16th-century Tudor house of H-shaped plan. The close studding of the timber frame and the herringbone brick infill of this range have recently been skilfully conserved. The upper storey is jettied with a dragon beam to the north-east corner. Jettying was a technique used from medieval times in timber-framed buildings to increase building dimensions without impinging on the space below. It can be seen from the 1890s image that the present canted oriel window in the upper storey was a more recent design change. A room on the first floor is decorated with a late 16th-century floral wall painting.

The parallel southern range is Victorian.

Although its setting has been compromised, Dovecote Farmhouse remains the prime focus of this part of the High Street. Its boundary walls with saddleback copings are vital to the quality and character of this part of the village.

