

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Continuing our series looking at Stewkley past and present

The Carpenters Arms and 'The City'

Known to its locals as simply 'The Carps', the premises at No 1 Wing Road has been a pub since 1867.

The double-pile building with gables to the front is mainly early 19th-century. There is some evidence of a 17th-century timber frame with brick infill at the east end of the south range. The construction is of brick in Flemish bond with some dark headers. The old image indicates that the pub purveyed ales brewed by Roberts and Wilson of Ivinghoe. We know that this image pre-dates 1927, as the Ivinghoe brewery was acquired that year by Benskins of Watford and brewing ceased at Ivinghoe.

To the left of the pub, the lane known as Kings Street leads up to the locality of 'The City', once the site of an old windmill built by three Tofield brothers in 1839, and long since demolished. Across the High Street can be seen the corner of Wing Road Farm, the former home of the Keen family, the site now occupied by Farm Close.



FROM THE GRAPEVINE 10 YEARS AGO...

From August 2010, Methodist Minister Rev Jim Gorringe took his concerns to the Parish Council about aggressive, speeding drivers through the village, where police checks showed 67% of vehicles were exceeding the legal limit...the PC was to discuss traffic calming with BCC and the police (no change there then)...the sun shone on the Village Hall Flower Show where Gill Burhouse took the Mitchell Cup for highest aggregate classes...Stewkley's new Big Screen audience in the Village Hall watched England exit the soccer World Cup...Peggy Bartell stood down after many years delivering the Grapevine to village homes...Nature Notebook reminded us of the sole redeeming feature in the behaviour of the common wasp was spending most of its life devouring greenfly and similar pests...and Stewkley Under 10s and Under 13s junior six-a-side teams triumphed in the village Festival of Football against sides from across the region



FROM THE GRAPEVINE 20 YEARS AGO...

From August 2000, the Millennium commemorative plates, commissioned by the PC, finally arrived to be delivered to each household in the parish...Robert Dickens was preparing to publish his *Stewkley in Camera Volume II*...the Village Hall Flower Show raised £890 for funds with John Mead and Margaret Carter winning the major trophies for produce...Rev Arthur Cowburn took up his position as the new Methodist Minister...ten gardens opened to the public for St Michael's Open Garden Weekend, raising £2,622 towards the Church Bell Restoration Fund...Stewkley Cricket Club won both the Coronation and Stewkley Cups for the second year running...the Recreation Ground Committee expressed concern about damage to the turf as a result of young people ignoring the rule of 'no cycling' across the grass...and Stewkley Library (yes, we did have one once) had DVDs to rent for £2.10 per week and use of the library computer for £1 per hour.

