

# DOWN MEMORY LANE

*Continuing our series looking at Stewkley past and present*

## High Street North Towards the War Memorial

That is certainly quite true in the case of the modern image, however as can be seen, the old photograph pre-dates the erection of the War Memorial in 1922.

Reaffirming Stewkley's vernacular character, the 17th-century Grade II Listed thatched property, on the immediate right, traded as Hedges' grocery shop. Today it's the Scott home at No 7 High Street North. Granny Hedges would not have been pleased that the early cameraman was distracting her potential customers. Gable-end on to the High Street, Maytree Cottage, where Reuben Bodsworth carried out a saddlery business, can be seen peeking out from the right on both images.

First on the left, an early site of a Post Office in Stewkley can be seen. The Post Office moved to the shop at No 10 High Street North sometime between 1864 and 1871 from temporary premises in the King's Head pub across the High Street. First listed in *Kelly's Directory* in 1864, the family names of Stonhill, Dickins and Wheeler dominate the Stewkley postmaster job over the years. The Post Office closed at No 10 in 1964, later becoming a haberdashery shop, and now a private home.

Next door at No 8 stands the elegant double-fronted town house known as The Vines, built in 1831. The bay-windowed property at No 6, on the end of the left-hand row, was The Bull and Butcher pub, known locally as The Bull, with its coach entrance through to the rear. Closed as a pub in 1963, it became the village library and doctors' surgery until 2006. Today it is a private residence.



## FROM THE GRAPEVINE 10 YEARS AGO...

From October 2010, local farmer John Heady reported higher cereal prices benefiting arable farmers... Eleanor Corkett qualified her pony Rignell Brora for the *Horse of the Year Show* at the NEC, Birmingham...Stewkley Players' November production would be *Black Coffee* by Agatha Christie...the Parish Council reported that the former Stewkley Library building had been sold by Bucks CC to a private buyer...the PC again notified Bucks Highways of the urgent need to repair dangerous potholes in Dean Road (nothing new there then)...the village mourned the passing of Maurice Palmer and Jackie Fussey...and Chris Collins and Kris Pratt were the men's and women's singles champions in the Tennis Club annual tournament.

## FROM THE GRAPEVINE 20 YEARS AGO...

From October 2000, AVDC carried out a consultation to extend the Stewkley Conservation Area to include the moated earthworks at Tythe House and a further area of High Street North...Rev Arthur Cowburn arrived as the new Methodist Minister...Coleen Burnett protested at the mindless vandalism to the topiary peacock in her High Street garden hedge...a 250 villager campaign was under way to save the 'North End' postie, Malcolm Paterson being transferred by the Royal Mail to another village...Jean Spier announced the new term of Scottish Country Dancing sessions in the Methodist Hall...and 2nd Stewkley Brownies were seeking an assistant Brown Owl.