

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Continuing our series looking at Stewkley past and present

High Street South Looking North

These properties lining the west side of High Street South comprise two-storey dwellings built to the back of the pavement. A wide pavement and the use of local brick with slate roofs add to the interest. However, little of the earlier window and door joinery has survived, along with most of the chimneys.

Formerly two cottages, No 90, of late 18th century origin, and No 68, an 18th century house with adjacent former barn, are well-preserved houses that contribute to a relaxed rural atmosphere. The brick terrace of cottages that composed No 74 was formerly the characterful village grocery shop run by Bob and Mabel Mead. This row sits on the footprint of a demolished early 17th century terrace of timber-framed and thatched cottages. The property to the right of the terraced cottages (now demolished and the site of the entrance to Silver Birch Close) was the home, shop and slaughterhouse of Robert Page, one of Stewkley's butchers.

The green copper-clad spire of the 1903 Methodist Church can just be spotted through the tree on the right.

The rather dilapidated property in the right foreground of the 1920s image appears to have an interesting timber frame...does anyone know more?



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FROM THE GRAPEVINE 10 YEARS AGO...

From April 2011, the late Chris Gurnett was standing down at the forthcoming May Parish Council election after 30 years' service to the village...Stewkley's reprieve in 1971 from being bulldozed for a new London airport was announced in the House of Commons...the Royal Wedding was to be celebrated by a party in the Rec and on the big screen in the Village Hall...despite the loss of a valued community facility, the PC voted not to oppose the planning application to renovate the former Stewkley Library as a private residence...work began to replace the overhead electricity cables along the main power line on the southern edge of the village... St Michael's schoolchildren entered the spirit of *Red Nose Day* for *Comic Relief* by turning up for school in wacky outfits...Nature Watch reported on disease in local horse chestnut trees...and Stewkley FC was heading into two cup finals and the championship of the N. Bucks League.



FROM THE GRAPEVINE 20 YEARS AGO...

From April 2001, all countryside paths in the village were closed to suppress the spread of Foot and Mouth disease and the Rights of Way Association scrapped its walks programme, thankfully there being no local outbreaks...the running costs of the Village Hall were outstripping its lettings income, whilst the Project Committee was evaluating input from villagers on the future of the hall...Ailsa Knightley thanked the 16 villagers who qualified to give emergency aid to children following a children's first aid course in the Village Hall...St Michael's Church visitors' book revealed that 2000 had seen the highest number of visitors since 1996 including many from the 'old Commonwealth'... John Sheldon's interest and research into Stewkley's Fallen from the Great War began with the wartime story of Private Sidney Keen...and a late 1920s photograph emerged of possibly the earliest stage production by villagers in their new Village Hall.

