

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Continuing our series looking at Stewkley past and present

The Ivy Lane Cottages and Pond

The ancient drovers' route crosses High Street North from a point immediately north of Pond House to Ivy Lane (or Backway as locals know it.) There was a pond for the watering of livestock on the triangular area on the other side of the lane opposite Nos 28 to 34 Ivy Lane. Even today, this area remains prone to flooding in times of torrential rainfall.

These homes were known as Pond Cottages and their brickwork has an attractive chequered pattern in Flemish bond. The village pond was fenced off from Swan Field, as can be seen in the 1920s image, taken before the Village Hall was built on Swan Field shortly afterwards. In the old image, the cottage behind the walled yard with the washing on the line was the home of Tommy Mead the village chimney sweep. The old sweep's house and the picturesque, thatched cottages next door were demolished long ago.

The eye is led into Ivy Lane by the alignment of Pond Cottages. Happily, No 18 and the 17th century Grade II Listed cottages at Nos 14 and 16 remain today in the modern image, No 14 with its village pump and association with the Suffragette Pankhurst ladies.



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FROM THE GRAPEVINE 10 YEARS AGO...

From November 2011, Stewkley was about to turn out in force to honour its brave servicemen on Remembrance Sunday, coincident with Stewkley Local History Group's launch of its most recent publication, *The Stewkley Lads Fallen in the Second World War*...the village summarily lost its child health visitor service... due to the strength of opposition, AVDC deferred a decision on the Dorcas Lane trial wind mast...an American cousin of the Rowe family, Bob Rowe from Minneapolis, wrote to tell of his on-line Stewkley family research...Stewkley Singers hosted a successful *Come and Sing* workshop with over 70 mixed voices attending...Ian O'Neill organized a superb charity American Tournament for the Tennis Club raising over £150 for Cancer Research UK...Stewkley FC overcame Silverstone 5-2 courtesy of a Gavin Hall hat-trick...further village raven sightings were reported in Nature Watch...and Phil Haupt was victorious in the annual onion competition at The Swan with a record whopper of 4lbs 11oz.



FROM THE GRAPEVINE 20 YEARS AGO...

From November 2001, a bumper edition of Grapevine forecast a festive Christmas season ahead...Bill Grace passed away aged 89, the 13th generation of his family to be laid to rest in St Michael's churchyard...Stewkley's Occasional Chess Players' League team was looking for new talent...the Parish Council remonstrated with Bucks Highways concerning the poor consideration shown to pedestrians when repairing village pavements with tarred slurry...Stewkley Players were planning Blooms and Bloomers, a summer 2002 extravaganza of floral displays and period costumes...John and Faith Kemp won the Village Hall quiz, clocking up 98 correct answers out of 100...the late Peter Preston described his scary yacht adventure in the Rolex Fastnet Race...Stewkley FC U-10s defeated Downs Barn 5-4 in their first competitive cup match...and the Recreation Ground Committee looked back on the achievements of a successful year of renewal and construction.

