

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Continuing our series looking at Stewkley past and present

North End, Stewkley

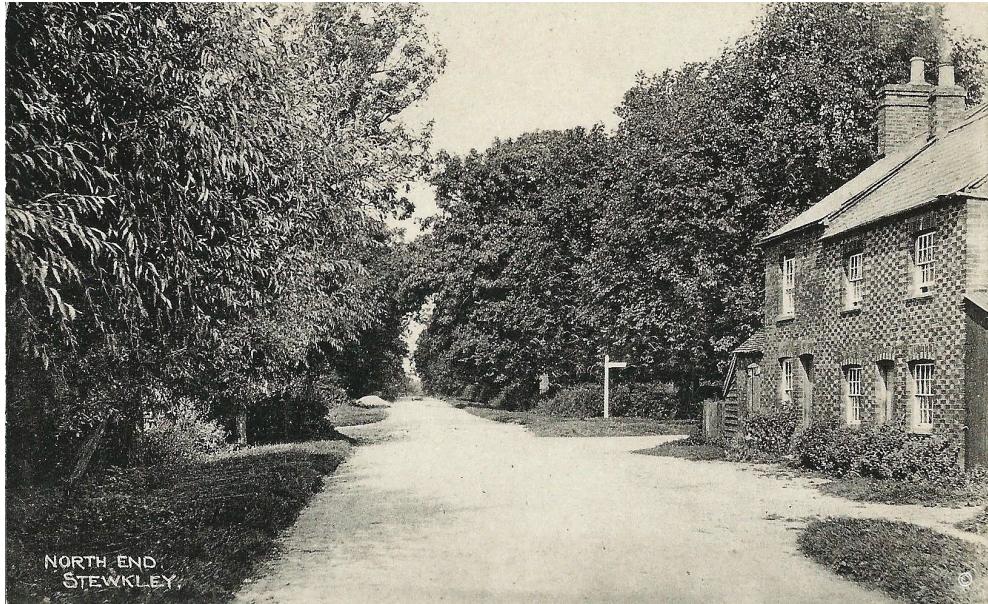
As at the South End, the North End of the village hosts a significant road junction. The main B4032 heads north-west towards Mursley, the Bletchley Road north-east and Dean Road south-west to Stewkley Dean and the site of its former medieval hamlet. There were areas of early settlement within this North End node known as Wood Hall just along the Dean Road, with Crow End and Clack eastwards from the Bletchley turning.

Stewkley Grange was one of the four Stewkley medieval manors. The land, which was once held by Woburn Abbey, lies mostly to the north of the present road junction. Traces of the original medieval Grange dwelling and associated moated settlement, including fishponds, can be seen in a field to the west of the B4032. Enclosure took place in the 16th century and in about 1825 today's manor house was rebuilt and relocated to its present site to the north-east of the road junction. At Wood Hall, No 8 Dean Road is a pretty 17th century Grade II Listed thatched cottage.

The attractive chequer-patterned brickwork of the last houses at the end of High Street North can still be seen.

The informality and rural character of North End are enhanced by wider grass verges and strongly planted frontages with trees playing a key role.

Aside from the modern street clutter, additional linear development, and today's road surfacing in the contemporary photograph, not a great deal has changed from the northerly village exit in the old image.



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FROM THE GRAPEVINE 10 YEARS AGO...

From December 2011, young Colby Mulgrew of High Street North had landed a pivotal acting role in London West End's *Billy Elliot the Musical*...Stewkley sadly bade farewell to Methodist Minister Rev. Jim Gorringe... Stewkley FC had appointed new first and reserve team managers in Stuart Smith and Richard Nye...Harvey's of Stewkley announced the closure of their café and delicatessen as being no longer economically viable...the PC was to take over management of the Airport Memorial Spinney from BCC...Stewkley History Group held a highly successful "Our Village Heroes" event for 150 Village Hall visitors to launch their latest publication *The Stewkley Lads Fallen in the Second World War*, with WWII displays, afternoon tea and a keynote presentation from real life Stewkley lad, Lt Col Simon Wilkinson...and Neil Shefferd recounted his experience as a new actor in Stewkley Players' *The Titfield Thunderbolt*



FROM THE GRAPEVINE 20 YEARS AGO...

From December 2001, Father Christmas was to be in residence at St Michael's Church on three days in December...the PC's traffic calming efforts to secure mini-roundabouts at the Bletchley and Dunton Road junctions were deemed unsuitable by Bucks Highways... the PC thanked Bill Chappell for providing the village with an immaculate War Memorial scene for the Remembrance Sunday ceremony...the Village Hall Committee announced their Christmas Band Concert and New Year's Eve Dance...Stewkley clubs and organisations were invited to attend a January meeting to discuss organising village celebrations for Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee...Joe Millward and Brema Bremnath took the 1st XI batting and bowling trophies at the SVCC Annual Dinner Dance...a poem called *The Twelve Turkey Days of Christmas* was featured in Grapevine...and Diana Sheldon was organising a Burns Night Supper in 2002 in aid of St Michael's Bell Fund.

