

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Continuing our series looking at Stewkley past and present

High Street North from Winsor's Farmhouse to Sycamore Farmhouse

The bucolic scene in the sepia photograph years back to a Stewkley of yesteryear, far preferable to today's threatening dumper trucks. No matter the sheep droppings...the village had at least three road sweepers with brushes to deal with it!

Travelling north from Winsor's Farmhouse, High Street North twists left and then right, the second curve having the effect of emphasising Nos 61 to 67 amidst their treed setting. No 63 was the first village policeman's house. The thatched building on the left (now the site of The Retreat) was G Angood's furniture and housewares emporium. Behind it, stepping out gable-end to the High Street, the combined Nos 57 and 57a formed the original 1800 Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. Peeping out behind the former chapel is the late 18th-century Grade II Listed barn of Sycamore Farmhouse. Both Winsor's and Sycamore Farmhouses remind us of Stewkley's agricultural association.

The High Street narrows outside No 67, The Little House. It is a Grade II Listed Building whose original mid-late 18th-century south-west range is of red and vitreous brick. It has an attractive canted stone bay window with a hipped roof. Here, the twists and turns in the High Street give a series of short vistas as opposed to long views seen elsewhere in Stewkley.



FROM THE GRAPEVINE 10 YEARS AGO...

From May 2012, the new vicar reported that St Michael's needed to raise a quarter of a million pounds to upgrade church facilities...Carpenter's Arms publican Keith Stephenson sold up at the pub...PC Chairman Paul Smith told the Grapevine that Bucks Council's approval of the Edgcott waste incinerator was a 'bad decision'...the Tennis Club was to replace its court floodlighting with nine new floodlit columns...the planning decision by AVDC on the Dorcas Lane wind turbines was extended to 30 November...Stewkley FC 1st team were through to the final of the North Bucks League Cup Final against Pottersbury in Buckingham...11-year-old Eddie Newland-Smith cycled 100 miles over three days to raise over £600 for Cancer Research UK...and celebrating their 50th anniversary, 1st Stewkley Scouts led other local scouting movements in a St George's Day Parade through the village.

FROM THE GRAPEVINE 20 YEARS AGO...

From May 2002, vigilance was sought from villagers to help stamp out mindless arson and vandalism in the Recreation Ground area which pointed to local youngsters...a part-time Post Office was to open in the High Street Library...St Michael's Church was organising a supper tour visit to the House of Commons in aid of the Church Bell Fund with local MP John Bercow as host and guide...Peter Noad was elected chairman of Stewkley Rights of Way Association at the AGM...Maurice Tofield donated two high-quality seats at the Burial Ground in memory of his late wife Jean...both Jack Howe and Daniel Dawson bagged hat-tricks as Stewkley FC U-11s walloped Wicken 9-1...and the planning of three days of village celebrations was well underway to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee in June.