

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Continuing our series looking at Stewkley past and present

Sycamore Close Corner

The straight section of road that forms High Street North from Bowls Farm to Sycamore Close invites southbound traffic to test the village speed limit after negotiating the traffic chicane by White Horse Lodge. The road is set on a ridge of slightly higher ground with brief glimpses of countryside to either side. It falls gently to the south-east, where vehicles are met at Sycamore Close Corner

FROM THE GRAPEVINE 10 YEARS AGO...

From June 2012, the Diamond Jubilee team who volunteered to assemble the celebratory weekend posed for the Grapevine front page...local organizations pitched up at the Annual Parish Meeting for shares of £5,000 of grant monies being awarded by the PC...the village Community Enterprise Scheme was launched...Sally Collins baked a special Jubilee cake for the WI to raffle for charity...Brian Bottomley was the new boy as Parish Councillor... the spotlight once more fell on a lower speed limit through the village and on safe, sensible parking especially around the War Memorial... Stewkley Singers' 'Happy and Glorious' Jubilee Concert was reviewed by Rachael Webb as an 'uplifting performance'...the £25,000 legacy cheque from Bob and Mabel Mead's estate was presented to the Rec. Association...and AVDC Green Spaces Dept donated a grant to provide over 1,000 native English plants for the Wildlife Reserve saying, 'no other site we have been involved with has been so successful, so it makes sense to put our resources where we get best results.'



FROM THE GRAPEVINE 20 YEARS AGO...

From June 2002, plans for an ambitious upgraded and extended Village Hall were submitted to the local planning authority... the schedule for the Golden Jubilee weekend and fête was published...a committee was set up to examine options for a new village "community centre" that might include a library, shop, post office, doctors' surgery and other facilities...the Rec Ground Management Committee placed on record the generous and selfless deeds of parishioners contributing freely to the attractive nature of the Rec...Stewkley Players were presenting 'Blooms and Bloomers', a festival of flowers and costumes in the Village Hall...Bucks County Council was consulting on changing the opening hours of Stewkley Library...and after a break of 30 years, Stewkley VCC's Single Wicket Cricket Competition had a new champion in Brema Bremnath, with 1972 vintage champion Terry Brown, making it to the semi-final



by the twists and turns of the High Street. First left, then quickly right and then right once more, this is the northerly beginning of the central zone through the heart of the Conservation Area where the Parish Council hopes to encourage a considerate driving speed with its new "20's Plenty" anti-speeding campaign.

The contemporary image shows a densely treed area. The verdant centre is dominated by the magnificent group of large lime trees flanking Laurel Farm Lane, the mature sycamore and horse chestnut trees in the grounds of Stewkley House, and the large conifers and weeping willow on the south side of the High Street.

The 1920s image indicates a thinly developed quarter of the village, the only buildings extant being No 75 High Street North and, behind the trees in the modern image, the group which today constitute Nos 92a-96 High Street North: Danesbury House and its former bakery building, yet another source of local provisions from memory lane..

