

# DOWN MEMORY LANE

## Stewkley's Pubs and Beer Houses.

Yes, you guessed it. April's *Down Memory Lane* article about the malting and brewing of beer was the introduction to a short series of articles about the village hostelrys.

Ten pubs or beer houses are recorded historically in the village. In the case of nine of these, there are extant buildings that were formerly or are currently licensed premises. The tenth was The Cricketers Arms (located at No 76 High Street North) where the building was demolished in the early 1970s.

However, this may not have been the full extent of the public house estate in Stewkley. There are known to have been a further nine pub names in the village: The Black Horse, The Boot, The Greyhound, The Silent Woman, The Royal Oak, The Five of Diamonds, The Nags Head, The Shepherd and Crook, and The Travellers Rest. None of these names can be located to a building past or present, and it is likely that some were the names of earlier pubs changed later to those more familiar today.

This month we are featuring the village's two most southerly pubs, the former Red Lion, and the present Carpenters Arms.

The building which formerly hosted The Red Lion, is now an attractive Grade II Listed home at No 14, Dunton Road. The building, which dates from the 17th century, is timber-framed with brick infill, including some significant herringbone panels on the east side. It has a pleasing canted bay window with moulded cornice on the gable end facing Dunton Road. It is believed to be one of the earliest pubs in the village, opening in 1753 and closing as licensed premises in the 1920s. The Red Lion is recorded in trade directories between 1853 and 1907.

The Carpenters Arms, or as its locals know it, simply 'The Carps', is Stewkley's sole remaining public house (*editor's note: that is, at least for now!*)

Located at No 1, Wing Road, it has been a pub since 1867. The double-pile building with gables to the front, is mainly 19th century. There is some evidence of a 17th century timber frame with brick infill at the east end of the south range. The construction is of brick in Flemish bond with some dark or burnt headers, almost certainly 'Stewkley' bricks. The old image tells us that the pub purveyed ales brewed by Roberts and Wilson of Ivinghoe. We know that this image therefore pre-dates 1927, as the Ivinghoe brewery was acquired that year by Benskins of Watford and brewing ceased at Ivinghoe. Today's 'Carps' is a welcoming hostelry, serving fine ales and food, with a regular social and charity event programme.



Old Red Lion pub, Dunton Rd



Carpenters Arms pre-1927

