



Project Purley

NEWSLETTER No. 6

JANUARY 1984

Dear Member

A belated "happy new year" and we hope you will again join Project Purley in our variety of meetings for 1984. Please note that our general meetings are going to be held on Friday for the next few months.

PROJECT GROUP MEETINGS

- | | | |
|----------|------------|--|
| January | 4th (Wed) | - Natural History |
| | 9th (Mon) | - Historical Documents |
| | 18th (Wed) | - Demography |
| | 20th (Fri) | - GENERAL MEETING - "Some personal recollections of Purley" |
| | 25th (Wed) | - Maps |
| February | 1st (Wed) | - Natural History |
| | 8th (Wed) | - Historical Documents |
| | 15th (Wed) | - Demography |
| | 17th (Fri) | - Project Purley is acting as host to a social evening meeting of the Berkshire Local History Association. |
| | 22nd (Wed) | - Maps |
| March | 7th (Wed) | - Natural History |
| | 14th (Wed) | - Historical Documents |
| | 16th (Fri) | - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING |
| | 21st (Wed) | - Demography |
| | 28th (Wed) | - Maps |
| April | 4th (Wed) | - Natural History |
| | 6th (Fri) | - GENERAL MEETING - Tracing your family history |
| | 11th (Wed) | - Historical Documents |
| | 18th (Wed) | - Demography |
| | 25th (Wed) | - Maps |

PROJECT GROUP LEADERS

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Natural History | - Marvin CLARKE, tel. Reading 414996 |
| Demography | - Tom ROBINSON, tel. Pangbourne 2269
Both meet at 8 Skerritt Way, Purley Beeches |
| Maps | - Cliff DEBNEY, tel. Reading 413223 |
| Historical Documents | - Jean DEBNEY
Both meet at 8 Huckleberry Close, Purley Beeches |

Heraldry

- John TITTERTON, the leader will contact those members of Project Purley who are interested in this project as meetings are arranged.
If interested ring John at Reading 21255.

BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

An informal meeting of the B.L.H.A. will be held on Friday, 17th February 1984. It is to take place in the Memorial Hall at 8.00 p.m. As Project Purley is acting as host to this meeting we hope as many members as possible will be able to attend. There will be the opportunity to exchange ideas with members of other local societies. Project Purley will present two short talks and refreshments will be served.

LOCAL HISTORY COURSES

B.L.H.A. - Summer Conference

A one day meeting and exhibition on "The wool trade in Berkshire" - Saturday, 12th May 1984 at Shaw House School, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury.

Oral History - a one day school to be held at Bulmershe College, Reading on Saturday, 4th February 1984.

Population History - the last 100 years - an introduction - a one day school to be held at Queen Elizabeth House, 21 St Giles, Oxford on Saturday, 5th May 1984.

How to read local archives for beginners - Monday from 30th April 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. five meetings £4.70. Tutor Mrs J Dils.

An introduction to local history - (basic course)

Wednesday from 2nd May 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Ten meetings £9.40. Tutor Mrs J Dils.

If interested in any of these courses please ring J Debney on Reading 413223.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Great Road to Bath - by Daphne Phillips (pub. 1983)

This is a fascinating book that is hard to put down. Daphne Phillips has drawn on many contemporary records to tell the story of this great road and describe some of the people who used it. For more than 150 years from the 17th century until the coming of the railway, an increasing number of people used this highway from London to the fashionable spa of Bath. The journey was never easy despite improvements by turnpike trusts and there was a constant threat from bad weather, potholes and robbers.

Daphne Phillips is the Local History Librarian for Berkshire and is always willing to answer queries about sources, etc. in the Reading Reference Library. A resident of Purley, she has been of friend of Project Purley for some time.

B.L.H.A. PUBLICATIONS

Berkshire Old and New No. 1 at 95p.
Directory of Directories 1784 - 1939 at 50p.

All these publications are available from Project Purley and each purchase adds a few pence to the society's funds.

COMPETITION

Artistic - Can you design a cover?

We hope to run a competition soon for a cover design that can be used by Project Purley for future publications. Get those ideas onto paper!

THE ALDER VALLEY BUS SERVICE

Does anyone have any photographs, records or memories of bus services in the area? A gentleman who is writing a book on the History of Alder Valley would be most grateful to hear from anyone on the subject - contact John Chapman on Reading 26999, who will pass things on.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to Bob Lester of Skelton Road, Tilehurst, on the arrival of daughter Charlotte Cristina who was born on 30th September 1983.

Farewell - In December we said goodbye to Bob Jones of Huckleberry Close who has moved with his wife and two sons to Eastbourne where he has taken up a new appointment as a physiotherapist.

HELP WANTED!

To transcribe the Purley Church of England School Register. Also can someone make detailed notes from the School Log Book? The originals are in the County Record Office, Shire Hall, Shinfield Park, Reading. If you can spend an hour or two each week on this useful task please ring Jean Debney on Reading 413223.

INTERESTED IN LOCAL WINES?

Then you will want to join Project Purley on our early summer visit to Westbury Farm on 11th May. For £3.75 per head you have a tour of the vineyard, a general talk on viticulture throughout the world, and a tasting of six of the best English wines. Details at any of our meetings or ring Jenny Boler, Reading 412665.

PROJECT PURLEY NOTE-CARDS

They are still selling if you would like to buy any more. Our thanks to Ray Herring who did the drawings and St Georges Press who did the printing. Contact Marvin Clarke - Reading 414996.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Friday 16th March we are holding our AGM. We hope as many members of Project Purley as possible will attend. Nominations for the election of officers and committee are invited. Venue to be announced. Last but not least subscriptions for 1984 - 85 will soon be due!

Jenny Boler
(Secretary to Project Purley)