

PROJECT PURLEY PROJECT PURLEY PROJECT PURLEY PROJECT PURLEY P  
LEY PROJECT PURLEY PROJECT PURLEY PROJECT PURLEY PROJECT PURL

Newsletter No 8  
September 1984

Dear Member,

The holiday season is now over and we should be getting back into the swing of things again now. During the holidays we had a very enjoyable day at the Fantasy Fayre. Thanks to everyone who came along on the day and those who helped before the event, especially to the children of the village school.

We would like to thank Mr Bracey, who has donated to the society copies of the following:-

1. The Trenthams House Magazine for May 1968 which includes an article on the history of their head office at 'Pangbourne' which we know as Purley.
2. A set of aerial photographs of the Trenthams site.
3. A copy of a booklet entitled "50 years of Construction - 1913-1963" which is a history of G. Percy Trenthams.

#### WELCOME

We welcome three new members to the society.  
Mr and Mrs DRYDEN of Skerrit Way  
Mrs V. STOTT of Hazel Road.

#### FANTASY FAYRE PROCEEDS

At the Fantasy Fayre we sold 59 tea-towels, 10 sets of notelets, 18 maps and 40 brief histories of Purley. This brought in a total of £118.59 gross. We were extremely pleased with this result and hope now to sell the rest of the stock of tea-towels for Christmas. If you still haven't bought yours, please ring either Jean on Reading 413223 or Rita on Reading 21255.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

We wish every happiness to the following members who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries:

Jean and Cliff Debney - 25 years.  
Margaret and Terry Hughes - 25 years.  
Rita and John Titterton - 10 years.

#### FRIENDS OF READING ABBEY

Concern over the continuing deterioration of the Reading Abbey ruins has led to the formation of the Friends of Reading Abbey. Membership is £2 per annum or £3 for a household. Further details from Janet Bond, 31 Armour Road, Reading.

#### HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The Department of the Environment have recently published their list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest covering the parishes of Easildon, Anglefield, Pangbourne, Purley, Sulham, Theale, Tidmarsh and Tilehurst. This lists and describes buildings in Grade I, II and II\*. Purley has 3 in Grade II\* and 17 in Grade II. The old grade III has been dropped.

PROJECT PURLEY PROJECT PURLEY PROJECT PURLEY PROJECT PURLEY P  
LEY PROJECT PURLEY PROJECT PURLEY PROJECT PURLEY PROJECT PURL

WHY MENPES CLOSE?

One of the new roads in the last phase of the Wimpey Estate is being named Menpes Close. Mortimer Menpes used to own the carnation and fruit farms occupying roughly what is now White Lodge Close, Cornwall Close, Apple Close, Devonshire Gardens etc. He was a noted artist and etcher who had been born in Australia on 22nd Feb 1855. He came to London to study under Whistler and had his first exhibition at the Royal Academy in 1880. During the Boer War he was war artist to the magazine 'Black and White'. He settled at Iris Court in Pangbourne around 1908 and bought the land off Long Lane soon afterwards. He had 40 greenhouses and quite a sizeable staff and built a number of cottages on Long Lane for them. He also owned the Menpes Press which he used to reproduce his sketches and watercolours, accompanied by commentaries written by his daughter, Dorothy. He died 1st April 1938.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Demography	-	19th Sept	
		17th Oct	
		21st Nov	
		There is no Dec Meeting.	
Natural History		1st Oct	
		5th Nov	
		3rd Dec	
School Group*	-	25th Sept	
		24th Oct	
		28th Nov	
		There is no Dec meeting.	
Open Meetings	-	these are open to the public.	
		12th Oct	- John Chapman, St Mary's Church and incumbants. To be held at the church.
		9th Nov	- ? George Fielder The Lock and River.
		7th Dec	- Christmas Social

CLASSES

Jean Debney is running a class on Family history at Little Heath School this term. It is not too late to enrol, so ring Jean on Reading 413223.

John Titterton is running a new course entitled 'An Introduction to Heraldry'. If you are interested ring John on Reading 21255.

SCHOOL GROUP\*

This is a new group being set up to investigate the history of the small school in Purley Village. The initial meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th September at 7 Cecil Aldin Drive at 8.0 p.m. We are hoping to arrange a visit to the school in the near future.

If you have any thing for inclusion in the newsletters please give them to any member of the committee who will ensure they reach the right person.

