



SUMMER 1985

EDITORIAL

It is now some months since the last newsletter. This does not mean that there has been little news. On the contrary many things have been happening and there has been limited time available to put it together. Amongst other items you will find details of future events for this year and a mention of those which have passed. Your committee would be very pleased to hear of your suggestions for future meetings.

Some members may now be completing evening classes. Best wishes for any exams involved. I am sure you are all looking forward to the summer holidays but before then there is one more society meeting this season, the walk to Harry Jaws wood on 12th July. (Details below).

Evening talks resume in September and as Jean, Cliff and John have completed their Certificate course, a couple of Project Groups will be taken out of moth balls. The next Newsletter will have details of all groups and also information about various night classes at local schools which may be of interest e.g. Family History and Heraldry.

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

Terry Hughes of 1 Church Mews is collecting any newspaper cuttings relating to Purley in local or national press. He would welcome anything you may come across. He would rather be sent the same item from fifty different people than you each expect somebody else to do it.

IF YOU MISSED THEM

Here is a brief resume of meeting earlier this year.

Friday 8th March 1985, A.G.M.

The following Officers and committee members were elected:-
Chairman, Jean Debney, Secretary, Rita Titterton, Treasurer, Ben Viljoen, Committee: John Chapman, Cliff Debney, Helen Housden, Terry W. Hughes, and John Titterton. Thanks were recorded to retiring members Tom Robinson, (Treasurer), Jenny Bolter and Gladys Jamieson.

The business meeting was followed by two separate slide shows of Purley past and present. John Chapman showed aerial views taken during a helicopter trip last year. This was followed by slides taken about 1960 by Mr Nash when he lived in the village. They were fascinating views of Purley, many of which can no longer be seen.

Friday 12th April 1985, John Chapman gave us part II of his history of Purley Church. This time he talked about the period between the 12th and 17th centuries and some biographies of the various vicars and rectors who served Purley during this time. He illustrated his talk with diagrams on the overhead projector.

Friday 10th May 1985, Crime and Punishment in Berkshire Peter Southerton, a probation officer from the Crown Court gave us a fascinating talk which ranged from the Angol-Saxon justice of ordeal by fire and water, to the transportation of young men and women to the colonies for crimes such as petty larceny in the late 18th and early 19th century. Peter has also made a study of the history of the different prison sites of Reading Gaol.

Saturday 11th May 1985, Berkshire Local History Association Day School. The theme of the day was 'Past Personalities of Berkshire' Project Purley was represented by Jean and Cliff Debney and pictures etc. relating to Anthony Morris Storer d. 1799 were on display. However in her talk Jean spoke about Richard NEW, an agricultural labourer who died in Purley in 1839 and this seems to have been enjoyed by everyone.

WANTED
(preferably alive)

Rita Titterton is yet another member of the society with not enough hours in the day and regrettably she is resigning as Secretary to concentrate on a University course. Therefore we are looking for a replacement. Any offers?

BOOK REVIEW

The 'Local Historian' recently reviewed a book about the uses and developments of plotlands in the late 1800's and early 1900's. It mentions the Purley Park River Estate which is a good example of its subject.

"This is a study in depth of the plotlands of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the 'landscapes on the cheap' of makeshift dwellings on land acquired sometimes by purchase and sometimes by squatting. Whether a dwelling was perceived as a holiday home, a permanent dwelling or an intended place of retirement was often uncertain. dwellings were makeshift, often old railway carriages, but sometimes became architectural extravaganzas, which provided some eccentrics with opportunities to demonstrate talents for decoration and display which they could probably not have found elsewhere.

The growth of plotlands is intricately linked with the movement towards owner occupation in the 20th century, and with reactions to growing opportunities for leisure."

Part of the review (by Barry Trinder) is quoted here. The book is entitled ARCADIA FOR ALL: The legacy of a Makeshift Landscape by Dennis Harby & Colin Ward (Mansell Publishing, 1984), £25, £9.95 paperback.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 12th July 1985: Evening Walk. Meet at 7.45 p.m. at Beech Road Recreation ground. From here we will walk up to Harry Jaw's wood to see the area which Barbara Mercer studied for a year. Arrangements have been made for coffee afterwards.

Saturday 24th August 1985: Purley Fayre at Beech Road Recreation Ground. Once again we will be having a stall with displays. Any offers of help to 'man' or 'woman' a stall for an hour will be accepted as will offers to help prepare and set up in the morning.

Friday 13th September 1985: Making a welcome return after only one year's absence, George Fielder will be telling and showing us more about the Thames, the Lock and its people. Those who saw it last time I am sure will be coming again. Those who missed it last time can't afford to miss it again. Come early to be sure of a seat.

Friday 11th October 1985: The Population of Purley, Sulham and Tidmarsh 1750-1850. Jean Debney will be talking about her research for the Certificate in Local History she successfully completed this year. It involved trying to establish if there was any migration of people between the three parishes and what factors influenced these moves.

Friday 8th November 1985: The rise and rise of Reginald Malyns. John Titterton will be telling the story of the Malyns family who were Lords of the Manor of Little Purley circa 1300-1431. The family came from Belgium and rose in county society. The main figure was reginald Malyns who survived the Black Death and served The Black Prince. This was the subject of John's Certificate research.

Friday 13th December 1985: Christmas Social with Jean's punch and other goodies.

The four meetings above will be held at 44 Wintringham Way. Once again our thanks to Isobel.

Details of the programme for 1986 will be in the next newsletter. However just to mention that it will include Cliff Debney talking on his Certificate subject of the background of field names in Purley, Tidmarsh and Sulham, also there should be a further instalment of the history of St Mary's.

Our congratulations to Jean, Cliff and John for surviving their three year Certificate course.

I would be interested in hearing someone talking on the subject:

at our regular monthly meetings.

Please give this to any of the committee members.

