

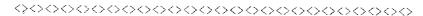
Project Purley

NEWSLETTER No. 11 September 1985

The holiday season is over and the kids will be back at school or college. As members of a local history society perhaps we need not complain too much about the weather. If it had been fine and sunny we would not have visited so many churches, museums and country houses. So every cloud has a silver lining.

This newsletter follows closely upon the last of July, close by our standards that is. It's main entries will surely provide you with something to do during the dark and cold winter evenings ahead. The details of the next four general meetings are repeated from the last newsletter for two reasons; one can't have too much of a good thing and the date of the Christmas Social has been changed! Do read through the section about Project Groups. This is one aspect of the Society's activities that many members miss out on because of the mistaken impression that they are 'technical or daunting'. As I have tried to explain below this is a false impression.

Page Three contains a brief summary of some day/evening classes available in the Reading area. Hopefully between these three types of activity you will find some dates to pencil into your diary.



RECENT EVENTS

Friday 12th July 1985. The second parish walk of the year was enjoyed by nineteen members and guests. The route included Beech Road and the footpath to Harry Jaws Wood.

Saturday 25th August 1985. The 'Purléy Fayre' was a great success for all concerned. There were displays by the Oral History and Natural History Project Groups with ones on Swan-Upping, The Domesday Project of Long Lane C.P. School and medieval manorial lords of Purley. Many thanks to all who helped with the preparation and on the day.

PROJECT GROUPS

At the start of this season there are four active Project Groups and normally they meet once a month at a member's house. The arrangements are very flexible to meet personal commitments of members so, although the details below are correct at publication it will be best to just check by telephone before going along.

The aim of the Groups is to get members together, to discuss an aspect of their subject (or aspects), to do some work/research and occasionally prepare a display for exhibition. The chat/discussion often drifts to other subjects and there is usually a cup of coffee/tea. Existing members will tell you that there is nothing difficult and if you wish to just sit and listen, then you may do so. However I am sure you will be actively joining in before the end of the evening.

The Project Groups are :-

<u>Historical Documents:</u> This group will be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month starting on 18th September at 8 Hucklebury Close. The Group leader is Jean Debney, Rdg 413223. The group usually examine copies of old documents relating to Purley, e.g. wills, toread, transcribe and index them.

Maps: This group meets onthe first Wednesday of each month starting on 3rd October at 8 hucklebury Close. The Group leader is Cliff Debney, Rdg 413223. The Group is transferring details from maps of Purley of different dates and scales to aset of maps of the same scale so that the changing face of Purley can be traced.

Oral History: The date of the first meeting is still to be agreed. The group leader is Tom Robinson, Pangbourne 2269. The group has recorded the recollections of past and present residents of Purley. These conversations are now being transcribedand examined. The group is also collecting old photographs of the village. Contact Tom for more details.

<u>Natural History:</u> This group is researching and recording the natural history of the village. The spring and summer months are the most active times for this group. No autumn meetings have yet been agreed but further details can be obtained from Barbara Mercer on Pang. 3842

EVENING/DAY CLASSES : AUTUMN 1985

Below are listed brief details of Adult Education classes being run in the Reading Area on subects connected either directly or indirectly with Local History. It is by no means exhaustive and readers are recommended to consult the appropriate Prospectus.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Time</u>	Venue
Reading University	(Rdg 875234 x230)	
Sources for Local History	Wed. afternoons	Caversham
Berkshire through the Ages	Thurs, evenings	London Rd. Reading
Parish Records 1750-1920	Thurs, evenings	Shire Hall, Shinfield
Victorian Architecture in Reading	Mon. evenings	London Rd. Reading
The coming of The Great Western Railway to Berks.	Sat. 19th Oct.	H H H
Local History in Berkshire, 1985	Sat. 9th Nov.	и и и
Oxford University	(Oxford 52901)	
Village Communities; Berks. in 17th & 18th Centuri	•	Earley
Town and Country: Henley Area in the 17th Century	Thurs. evenings	Henley
The Parish in the 16th Century	Wed. evenings	Shire Hall, Shinfield
Domesday Book and Norman Berkshire	Sat. 30 Nov.	Bulmershe College
English Civil War and the Local Community	25-27 Oct.(Fri eve +S+S)	Oxford (daily or resid)
Re-Use of Monastic Buildings	15-17 Nov " -	II II II II
BrackneT1 College	(Bracknell 420411)	
The History of Binfield	Sat. 2 Nov.	Wokingham
Maps for Local History	Tues.	Earley .
Sources for Local History	Wed. afternoons	Wokingham
Trace Your Family Tree *	Mon morns, or Tues eves.	II II
An Introduction to Heraldry **	Tues. evenings	13
	74001 01050	\
Newbury College	(Rdg 24033)	
<u> </u>		
Trace Your Family History *	Thurs. evenings	Littleheath School
* Tutor Jean Debney } ** Tutor John Titterton } Transport to the class	s can be provided.	

John Titterton (Rdg 21255) has a Prospectus for each of the Colleges/Univ. and can give further details if you are interested in any of the above.

BOOK REVIEW

The New Berkshire Village Book has been compiled by the Berkshire Federation of Women's Institutes from notes sent in by individual branches. 'It describes the history, legends and social development' of the villages. There is an interesting entry for Purley. Published by Countryside books & B.F.W.I. at f4.95. Jean Debney has copies.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME - GENERAL MEETINGS

The meetings take place on the second Friday of each month (except the Christmas Social) at 44 Winteringham Way commencing at 8 p.m.

- <u>Friday 13th September</u>: <u>George Fielder</u>, the lock keeper, will be showing some more of his slides of the Thames and talking about the River, it's people and their history. His first talk on this subject was the most popular meeting of last year.
- Friday 11th October: This evening's talk is about the relationship between the people of Purley and their neighbours in Sulham and Tidmarsh about 1750 to 1850. Where they each 'island' communities or was there movement and connections between them? Jean Debney will be discussing this aspect of our village's past based upon **mearch work she did for the Certificate in Local History.
- <u>Friday 8th November:</u> Another product of the Local History Certificate is <u>John Titterton</u>'s history of the Malyns family. This family were Lords of the Manor of Purley Parva, centred around Westbury Farm, between 1302 and 1431. If 'The Black Prince','The Black Death','The Hundred Years' War' and 'The Peasant's Revolt' are misty names from history at school, then come along and hear about a family who were personally involved in all these things.
- Friday 6th December: The Christmas Social will follow the successful pattern of previous years with drink, food, drink, chat, more drin and no doubt some amusement.

NOTE THE CHANGE OF THE DATE

Details of the programme for next spring will appear in the Christmas Newsletter.

S O S If you heard Jean Debney's 2 min. spot on Radio 210 from the Purley Fayre, we would be pleased to hear from you.

THE NEWSLETTER If you have any comments on this edition or suggestions for future editions, please contact the editor John Titterton, 7 Cecil Aldin Drive, Tel. Reading 21255.