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Newsletter 14
August 1986

The Committee endeavour to provide a varied programme to cover most tastes. Attendance at last year's meetings were similar to previous years so we hope that the programme is about right. The first half of this seasons talks are on the back page. Is it what you want? Or do you come to the meetings out of a sense of duty. If you have any suggestions please have a word with a committee member.

Pages 4 & 5 outline the Four Counties Festival at Avebury on Sat/Sun 6/7th September. PP is mounting a display and we are experimenting with an oral history tape. Some members may not wish to stay all day but don't miss an excellent opportunity for a day out in that part of the country, with the festival as part of your itinerary. Why not give it a whirl!

There are fewer articles on Purley's history in this edition. Details of the courses run by Reading and Oxford Universities are on pages 6 & 7. They also do other courses to attract your attention ranging from Computers to Painting, Astronomy to Music.

PURLEY FERRY, PLEASE

Did you see a picture of Purley ferry in a newspaper recently? If you do remember, or even have a copy, please contact Terry Hughes.

THE GATEHOUSE AND PURLEY LODGE

I claim the property advertised in 1776 (April newsletter) as Purley Lodge. The Gatehouse was the servants quarters and was thought to be built in the early 19th century but this indicates that at least half of what is now the Gatehouse must have been built before 1776. This would explain the difference in floor levels in the 2 halves of my house.

In discussion with Jean Debney an error was found in the transcription of the advert. We now think it should read "A well built sashed brick house..." not as originally thought "lathed".

The Gatehouse was changed into a self-contained dwelling in 1957 and was first occupied by one Peter Mosley. A land registry document of 1974 refers to the original conveyance of 1957 and lists the purchaser as Oswald Henry Fielden Moseley! The Mitford connection with this area is well known but if anyone has any information about the Mosleys I would love to hear from them. Watch this space for further developments.

Jan Jones..

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have you paid your 1986 subscription?

If in doubt check with Ben Viljoen (Pangbourne 3170) or any committee member.

The annual subscription is fl.50 per person. '

MAPS FOR LOCAL HISTORIANS

Four members of the society attended the BLHA day-school at Reading Reference Library on Saturday 8th February 1986. When first organised last October it was oversubscribed (and family crisis prevented our attendance). It included a survey of Berkshire county maps, a practical session using maps as a source of formation, plus methods of drawing maps for exhibition and publication. At the end of the day we had a brief opportunity to see the maps available in the library. We found the day both useful and enjoyable.

Jean Debney

ARCHIVES/PAPERS/RECORDS DEPOSITED

The following items have been deposited with the Society.

1. Copy reports to the the local papers 1966-1978, by Mrs Lucy GUTCH, of Purley.
2. Photocopies of title deeds of 183 Long Lane, Purley, by Mrs Pat Deane, of Purley.
3. Photocopy of sale catalogue - Purley Park River Estate - undated, circa 1934, by Bob Skerritt of Purley.
4. Photocopy Purley Rep Programme 1971 "Flip Side"
5. Revised Constitution Purley Memorial Hall: Oct 1962
6. Programme of Fete and Festival Week at Memorial Hall, 14-18 Sept. 1971, (items 4-6 by Ken Mercer of Purley).

THE FOUR COUNTIES FESTIVAL

ADMISSION FREE

The Four counties Festival on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th September provides you with a choice of dates to give the family an excellent day out. It is being held at the Great barn at Avebury and in addition to the programme of the Festival there are other "local" attractions to visit in the area.

Project Purley is mounting a display based around the scenes shown on the tea towel. There will also be an oral history "display", a compilation of extracts of our own recordings. A panel of expert, one from each county will be available each morning to answer your questions. Jean Debney is Berkshire's representative on Saturday. Family entertainments include Morris Dancing and donkey rides. Below are extracts from the Official Programme. Hope we see you there.

"Local history societies, record offices, libraries and related organisations are mounting exhibitions of their work and research. The programme includes morning "workshops", where the amateur may seek advice and information from a panel of professional historians, and a series of afternoon lectures with guest speakers. Other activities include craft demonstrations and morris dancing. The Festival has been planned as a family day-out, and activities and entertainments for children have been arranged. All these events are free. On Saturday evening there is to be a special lecture by Professor Henry Loyn, by ticket only, £1.50."

FOUR COUNTIES FESTIVAL OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

ADMISSION FREE

Saturday 6th September

11.00 am Official Opening by Col
Sir Hugh Brassey KCVO OBE
MC, HM Lord Lieutenant of
Wiltshire.
11.30 - 12.30 pm Local History Workshop
2.00 - 3.00 pm Lecture "Approaches to
Domesday Book", by Dr J
Cooper.
4.00 - 5.00 pm Lecture "The Oxfordshire
Countryside in 1086" by Mr
CJ Bond.
5.00 pm Close of exhibitions
7.30 pm Lecture "The Normans in
England: Conquest and
Settlement" by Prof H
Loyn. Admission by ticket
only at 1.50 (cheques to
Wiltshire Folk Life Soc).

Sunday 7th September

11.00 am Exhibition Opens.
11.30 - 12.30 pm Local History Workshop
2.00 - 3.00 pm Lecture "Between Domesday
and Dissolution: Medieval
Sources and Local History"
by Mr CR Elrington.
4.00 - 5.00 pm Lecture "Evolution of the
Medieval Landscape" by Mr
M Aston.
5.30 pm Festival Closes.

All workshops and lectures will be held in the
Avebury Study Centre.

BACK TO SCHOOL WITH LOCAL HISTORY

Below is just a selection of the classes this autumn, arranged by the External Studies Depts of Oxford and Reading Universities. If you are interested in any of them or want details of other courses the editor has copies of the prospectus' which can also be seen at the Reading Reference Library.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY EVENING COURSES

Discovering the past in South Oxfordshire:
 Sonning Common; Wed eves; 24th Sept.
Local History through Maps:
 Earley; Mon eves; 29th Sept.
Study of Medieval Manorial Records:
 Oxford; Tues eves; 7th Oct.
History of Oxford since 1700:
 Oxford; Wed eves; 7th Jan.
People, Places & Sources, an Introduction to
Unofficial Archives:
 Reading, Wed eves; 1st Oct.
3 year Certificate in Local History:
 Wokingham, Thurs eves, 2nd Oct.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY DAY SCHOOLS

These are held at Rewley House, Oxford.
Accommodation is available if required.

Road and River Transport: 24-26 Oct
Palaeography and Topography: 8-9th Nov
Medieval towns in Oxfordshire: 29th Nov
Anglo Saxon Palaces: 6th Dec
Records of Property 1500-1900: 6th Dec

READING UNIVERSITY EVENING COURSES

Britain after Domesday 1066-1307:

London Road; Mon eves; 2 terms.

Research class on the Victorian Workhouse:

Record Office, Shire Hall; Tues eves;
1 term.

READING UNIVERSITY DAY SCHOOLS

All day courses are 9.30 am - 5.00 pm and cost
£4.70 unless otherwise stated.

Local History in Berkshire 1986: 18th Oct;
London Road; £2.50; (recent research in Berks
including Purley's Malyns family).

Change on the Farm: Museum of Rural Life,
Whiteknights; 25th Oct.

Introduction to Archives: Berkshire Record
Office; 8th Nov.

Local History Workshop: London Road; 6th Dec;
(Dealing with PR's, probate records and
settlement papers. Useful for both family and
local historians.)

Seek out the prospectus for details of classes
on associated subjects of Archeology,
Architecture, Art and Natural History.

FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY CLASSES

Jean Debney is giving of day and evening
classes on the above at various locations;
e.g. Trace your Family History, Little Heath
School Thurs 7.30-9.30 starting 25th Sept. For
more details contact Jean on Reading 413223.

AUTUMN PROGRAMME OF PROJECT PURLEY

12th September 1986, at 44 Wintringham Way:
This evening's talk looks at the relationship of the people of Purley with their neighbours in Sulham and Tidmarsh about 1750 to 1850. Was there movement and connections between them? Jean Debney will be discussing this aspect of our village's past based research she did for her Certificate in Local History.

10th October 1986 at St Mary's Church:
We intend to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the last known Court Baron of Purley Magna, 23rd October 1786. Our idea is to act out typical excerpts from Court Barons and Court Leets of that period, using a narrator to provide the necessary description. The church as the venue will be more atmospheric. Could as many of you as possible add to the atmosphere by wearing a shawl, hat or even full blown 18th century costume should you have one to hand!

14th November 1986, venue to be announced:
Photographs as a Source of Local History - Sue Read of History of Reading Museum.

5th December 1986:
Christmas Social - The social event of the year, which every one needs to be seen at. Project Purley's answer to the Debutantes Ball (well nearly!!!!).

Project Purley is the local history society for Purley-on-Thames, Berkshire.

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