



Account of Purley on Thames

Chronicles 1720-1739

1720

Francis Hyde sold Hyde Manor to Francis Hawes, a customs official, who renamed it Purley Hall. At the time the Hall was heavily mortgaged. A cousin of Hawes was a director of the South Seas Company which went bankrupt in this year. (S10-5)

1721

1722

1723

Francis Hawes went bankrupt after spending huge sums to renovate Purley Hall. It is reported that Thornhill painted the grisaille in the Hall, Carpenter was responsible for the statuary in the garden, Rowe painted the glass and P Bridgeman (keeper of Hampton Court and Richmond gardens) laid out the grounds. A small temple was later built by the lake and said to commemorate the battle of Culloden (1745). The Hall was purchased from the liquidators by Francis's brother Thomas and after his bankruptcy Francis was allowed to remain in residence. (S10-5)

In June there was a dispute over ownership of the pew next to the pulpit in St Mary's church. John Brooks (a former farmer) and John Knapp (Probably a former bailiff at Westbury farm) both testified that the pew belonged to Westbury House (S1-4/84)

James Harrison was inducted as Rector of Purley on December 24th. having exchanged the living of Swincombe with Thomas Toovey (S20)

1724

The parsonage was reported as being out of repair but about to be rebuilt (68)

1725

1726

1727

A barge called the 'Kings Arms' sank in the Thames by Purley on 3rd March. It was carrying 539 quarters of malt from Abingdon to London. Benjamin and Joseph Tomkins later got back the prepaid duty of 3/6 per quarter on the lost cargo. (S203)

1728

Francis Hawes and Henry Wilder exchanged strips of common land in Purley. (508-1728-1)

The parsonage was reported as being rebuilt (68)

1729

Francis and Thomas Hawes concluded an agreement about rights of common with John Bushnell and

Thomas Lovegrove (508-1729-1)

1730

The rectory, newly built was reported as in good order (68)

1731

The Churchwardens, John Allen and Edward Sherwood reported to the Archdeacon that 'Our bell is crakt'. Presumably this was the fifth bell which was recast in 1787 (S1-1/82, S68)

1732

Mr Hawes, Mr Wilder and Mr Surton concluded an agreement re a right of way between Sulham and Goosecroft for which the rector of Sulham paid Mr Hawes 2s 6d annually. (508-1732-1)

1733

Francis Hawes gave a chalice and paten to the church (S26)

1734

The churchwardens, John Allen and John Sherwood reported on May 10th that 'All things are in good repair save one bell which shall soon be put in good repair' (S68)

The Pangbourne water meadows were claimed by the Lord of the Manor of Whitchurch and his Freemen (add ms 28672 fol 168)

An extract from a plan made by Richard Buckeridge, listing church lands was included in the Parish register. (S27)

1735

An almsdish was presented to the church by Frances Twysden (S26)

A deed was made between Giles Blagrove of Purley and Isabella Lybbe and Philip Powys of Hardwick.

On 25th March, Francis Hawes let Beer Close, Broom Close, Little Moors and Upper Herridge Moor to William Dench for five years at 20s per year (add ms 28672 fol 170)

1736

1737

1738

Giles Blagrove, a farmer, was murdered between Purley and Reading on Jan 28th. He was buried in Purley on Jan 31st (S27)

Francis Hawes sued William Dench over the land he had let to him in 1735. He alleged that William had torn down 200 yards of hedge, destroyed fences and stolen gates. His suit did not succeed (add ms 28672 fol 17)

1739

Francis Hawes, represented by Henry Simco, brought a suit against William Dench alleging a debt of £60, which William had failed to pay. The case was referred to a jury (add ms 28672 fol 17

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