



Account of Purley on Thames

Chronicles 1740-1759

1740 13/14 Geo II

1741 14/15 Geo II

James Harrison died and was buried on 29th August. He was succeeded as rector of Purley by John Billingsley who remained Rector of Newington, Oxon by special dispensation. For most of his rectorship Purley was served by curates. (S20)

On 21st Feb Ann Viner, a widow, leased Westbury Farm which had been farmed by Giles Blagrove before his murder. It was previously occupied by Elizabeth Flower. The annual rent was £90 for the farm plus £11 for other lands to be paid to Isabel Lybbe and her son in law Philip Powys of Hardwick (ref 1-3/86)

1742 - 15/16 Geo II

Westbury Farm was in the possession of Elizabeth Flower. A new lease was agreed (BRO D/EZ 7-30)

Sir Henry St John died and the Lordship of the Manor of Purley Magna of Robert, Earl of Warwick, who was Henry's mother. His second wife was Angelina Magdalene. He had earlier been created Baron St John of Battersea.

1743 - 16/17 Geo II

John Heath, who had inherited the Roebuck Inn from his father got into financial difficulties and borrowed £85 plus a further £55 from a Mrs Elizabeth Burd against a mortgage on the Hotel. She later claimed it when John Heath had not repaid any of the money. (S1-12/80)

1744 - 17/18 Geo II

Henry Wilder became Rector of Sulham

1745 - 18/19 Geo II

1746 - 19/20 Geo II

John Chapman and his family were ordered removed from Shinfield to Purley where the churchwardens acknowledged their right of settlement. (S426-27)

1747

1748

Edward Sherwood, yeoman of Purley, gave a mortgage to William Hudson and Mary his wife of Reading. it was in connection with land, mainly in the Shinfield area totalling some four and a half acres. The sum of £100 was to be repaid at Edward's house, newly built in Purley

1749

John Loveday of Caversham saw two ostriches in Purley in September. No-one could offer any explanation as to where they had come from.

1750

1751

Sir Henry St John, fifth baronet and first Viscount Bolingbroke died. He was succeeded as Lord of the manor of Purley Magna etc by Frederick, the son of his brother John.

The Thames Commissioners were established (S17-45)

1752

1753

John Hyde (c1695-1750) son of Francis Hyde (who had sold Hyde manor in 1720) had gone to live in Marlborough and his family remained staunch Roman Catholics. Their home was used as a Mass Centre and in June Bishop Laurence Yoke, Vicar Apostolic of the Western District confirmed seven persons there. (S276-3-91)

1754

Probate was granted on the will of John Yeoman, of Bradfield (BRO D/EZ 7-114)

A manor court for Purley Parva was held at Westbury Farm on 22nd October. Among the expenses was a payment of 2/6 to Mrs Viner's daughter, presumably for the food and drink served on the occasion (ref 182; 1-3/86)

John Billingsley died and he was succeeded as rector of Purley by Christopher Wells BD. (S27)

Frederick, Viscount Bolingbroke, made a settlement of the manor of Purley Magna (Recov R Hil 27 Geo II rot 368, S26-3-419)

1755 - 28/29 Geo II

1756 - 29/30 Geo II

Thomas Hawes of Purley died on 2nd April. He was for many years a Berkshire JP, cashier to the Royal Navy, Secretary to HM Commissioners of Appeals, Treasurer to the Russia Company and one of the Registrars of the Diocese of Norwich. He was aged 76 and his brother Francis had a memorial to him erected in the church. (S12)

1757 - 30/31 Geo II

John Allen, Gentleman of Purley died and was buried on 28th Feb. He had been churchwarden since 1714. His daughter Anne had married John Liebenrood (d1795) a merchant of Saxony. John Allen's will was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1758 and is preserved (S12, S220)

1758 - 31/32 Geo II

Joseph Ballard submitted an estate plan for Purley Hall. The scheme though modified, was eventually implemented. (S41-5/12/1970)

Ann Viner died in January and in her will dated 1756 she left most of her estate to her son William

who continued to farm at Westbury and who died in August 1773 (ref 1-4/86)

1759 - 32/33 Geo II

Philip Lybbe-Powis was vouchee in a recovery. He was the son of Isabel (dau of Richard Lybbe) and Philip Powys (Recove R Trin 32 & 33 Geo II m225, S26-3-420)

K1740 8/12/2008