



Account of Purley on Thames

Chronicles 1840-1849

1840 - 3/4 Victoria

On Jan 10th the Uniform Penny Post was introduced and carriers could no longer charge a supplementary fee for delivery of letters outside the Reading Town area. Piercey was still the carrier serving Purley (ref 210)

In the return for the Parochial Assessment Act made in October, Purley was given as 'Area 777a 2r 22p, gross estimated value £1652/17/-, Poor rateable value £1581/11/-, County rateable value £2108' (ref add ms 28674 fol 131.)

In February Brunel had reported that ballasting had been completed on the GWR extension but that they had had great difficulty in obtaining gravel and had had to dredge the river (ref 2-i-53)

The 20.5 miles of railway from Reading to Steventon were opened to the public on June 1st (ref 2-i-53)

1841 - 4/5 Victoria

The tithe award for Purley was completed. (ref 1-8/80)

At the census the population of Purley was given as 198 (ref 26-ii-242)

1842 - 5/6 Victoria

1843 - 6/7 Victoria

Mr Kidney took over the carrier route from Friar St Reading to Streatley via Purley from Piercey (ref 210)

In December an appeal was made against the ruling of the Henley Bench that the parts of Whitchurch south of the Thames were part of Oxfordshire. The appeal was dismissed (ref 118-4)

1844 - 7/8 Victoria

The rector of Purley, Charles Manesty, died suddenly on 11th November after a brief illness. There was a sale of his effects on 30th November. He was succeeded on 28th December by the Reverend Richard Palmer (ref 22)

The 1.5 miles of railway through Purley was rated at £1950. Edward Sherwood the Surveyor for Purley promptly ordered a supplementary rate on the GWR at which 6d in the pound raised £30 which is equivalent to a rating of only £1200 (ref 173)

Anthony Morris Storer qualified as a magistrate in Berkshire at Easter (ref 292)

Purley was listed as having a Post Office although a dater hand-stamp was not issued by this time. Three years earlier in a list dated 16/10/1841 it had not been included (refs 210-v2; 316)

1845 - 8/9 Victoria

1846 - 9/10 Victoria

The rector, Richard Palmer, noted in the Baptism register on Jan 1st that he had planted a cedar of Lebanon and three other trees in the church yard (ref 1-7/79)

1847 - 10/11 Victoria

Charles Gibbins, a gardener, was appointed Post Office Receiver for Purley. Mail was delivered to him at 7am and collected at 6pm.

1848 - 11/12 Victoria

On 29th October the Rector noted 'there was so high a flood this day that the congregation were conveyed to and from the church in waggons' (ref 1-7/79)

1849 - 12/13 Victoria

The Metropolitan Water Company wished to lay their intake pipes close to Mapledurham Lock (ref 43-224)

A toll house was provided by Mapledurham lock (ref 43-224)

K1840 7/12/2008