



Account of Purley on Thames

Chronicles 1850-1859

1850 13/14 Victoria

There were 10 electors for the year 1850/51 in Purley

1851 14/15 Victoria

The return for the census on 30th March gave the population of Purley as 220, of which 123 were male and 97 female. Most people lived either in Purley village or Oxford Road (ref 1-4/81)

On 10th April George Hamblin aged 13 placed an iron bar on the railway at Purley. George, an agricultural labourer, was taken to court and fined £5 with 8/6 costs. He was unable to pay and went to prison for 6 weeks (ref 1-9/82)

On 12th May Henry Hunter and George Fuller abandoned a trolley on the Great Western Railway near the Roebuck. It was smashed by a train and the engine damaged. Hunter and Fuller were navvies employed by Mr Brotherhood, a contractor, who was working between mileposts 36 and 41. They were summoned and tried at the Quarter Sessions for contravening the railway by-laws and sentenced to one month's imprisonment. (ref 8-31/5/1851: 203)

Elizabeth Holgate, a spinster of 38, was recorded as being the Inn-keeper of the Roebuck (ref 1-12/80)

1852 15/16 Victoria

On 7th November Charles Prater aged 17 stole a pair of shoes from Charles Offer, a shepherd of Purley. He was tracked to Hampstead Norris and caught passing the New Inn wearing the shoes (ref 8-8/1/1853)

The rector noted on 14th November 'A very high flood, the churchyard impassible. Divine service in the schoolroom for two Sundays' (ref 1-7/79)

1853 16/17 Victoria

On 3rd January Charles Prater of Purley was tried at the Quarter Sessions and found guilty of larceny. He was sentenced to one month hard labour (ref 203; 8-8/1/1853)

The wages of the lock-keeper were reduced in March by a half and tolls suspended for a year in a desperate attempt by the Thames Commissioners to retain traffic being lost from the river to the railway. William Sheppard was the lock keeper at Mapledurham and his wages were reduced from 52s to 24s per month, but he was allowed to keep all of the pleasure tolls. He had to look after both the lock and the two ferries. (ref 43-224)

There was a sale of underwood in 25 acres of woodland in Clay Hill Coppice, Horse Moor and Vicarage Coppice. George Windebank of Sulham Lane was available to show the lots (add ms 28673 fol 387)

1854 17/18 Victoria

The report of the Inclosure Commissioners was deposited at the house of Savory Griffin in Purley (ref add ms 28673; 26-iii-418))

According to Billings Directory Purley had a free School which had 30 pupils and the headmistress was Mrs M Herridge. It was also recorded that the communion table was covered by 'a very old and curious piece of tapestry', presumably the piece sold to the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1904 (ref 89)

There was a sale of cuttings of underwood from the 19 acres of coppices in Beals, Vicarage Coppice, Broom Close and Middle Piece. Most were 9 years old and Mr Fuller conducted an auction at the Elephant and Castle Inn in Pangbourne. Arrangements for viewing were with William Care of Sulham Lane (add ms 28673 fol 387)

1855 18/19 Victoria

1856 19/20 Victoria

The Enclosure award took effect and no common land remained in Purley (ref 26-iii-418)

1857 20/21 Victoria

1858 21/22 Victoria

1859 22/23 Victoria

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