



Account of Purley on Thames

Chronicles 1880-1889

1880 43/44 Victoria

1881 44/45 Victoria

On 17th March Matthew Powley was inducted as Rector of Purley (ref 22)

At the Census the population of Purley was found to be 188 (ref 26-II-242)

On 1st August the schoolmistress recorded in the school log 'attendance was not quite so good on account of the Bank Holiday' This holiday had been introduced in 1871 but had been slow to catch on as few people could afford to take a day off work without pay. (ref 1-8/81)

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners sold some of the Glebe land belonging to the benefice of Purley for £1438-12-8. Most of the money was invested and dividends paid to the rector. (ref 6-1879)

1882 45/46 Victoria

Tilehurst station was opened (ref 2-I-53)

The main part of the Roebuck Hotel was built. The oldest part, said to date from the 17th Century, is the west wing, now the public bar. (ref 1-12/80)

William Sheppard retired as lock keeper. in April and was succeeded by R H Carter. Sheppard was aged 79 and had been lock keeper for 54 years. He had been described as 'the most inveterate destroyer of fish that the Thames had ever known'. He had been known to send as much as half a ton of fish in one load to Leadenhall Market. (ref 43-225)

1883 46/47 Victoria

1884 47/48 Victoria

1885 48/49 Victoria

Two bronze spearheads were found in the Thames just below Mapledurham Lock (ref 88-235)

W G Mount was elected MP for South Berks (ref 17-78)

1886 49/50 Victoria

1887 50/51 Victoria

William Sheppard, the former lock keeper died and was buried at Purley Church on 25th April. He had gone to live at Caversham after his retirement. (ref 27)

R H Carter the lock keeper died in June and was followed by J C Timpson. He in his turn resigned in September in favour of John Collier who was replaced on October by Walter Crowe (ref 43-225)

1888 51/52 Victoria

Constable Ernest Spratley, from the Berkshire Constabulary, was appointed to Purley. Previously Purley had been policed from Pangbourne (ref 1-8/82)

The Local Government Act established County Councils as the first step in local government reform. Previously all rural areas had been in the hands of magistrates who met at quarter sessions. (ref 17-79)

1889 52/53 Victoria

In January Leila Minna Gertude Storer, the 26 year old only daughter of Major and Mrs Storer of Purley Park, was married to George Frederick Downing Fullerton who was 31 and came from Pennington in Hampshire. He was a captain in the Royal Irish Rifles. The head gardener, John Seaton, and his staff built a triumphal evergreen arch. The service was conducted by the Reverend Joseph Pitt from Rendcombe in Gloucestershire, assisted by Canon Powley, rector of Purley. Afterwards there was a dinner given in the large barn of Home Farm for some 200 tenants and parishioners (ref 1-10/80)

Berkshire County Council came into existence as a result of the Local Government Act of the previous year. The first chairman was Mr W G Mount who was also the MP for South berks. The first member for the Pangbourne Division (including Purley) was James Burbridge of Streatley Farm (refs 17, 97)

The Bradfield Rural Sanitary District levied a $\frac{3}{4}$ d rate due 1st June. Purley had to pay £21 based on a rateable value of £6879 (ref 11-1889-41)

By laws for new houses and streets were adopted in June. They required all applications for development to be checked by the Sanitary District to ensure adequate sewage and fesh water arrangements had been made. (ref 11-1889-47)

Bradfield Sanitary District adopted the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889 . (ref 11-1889-66)

The plans for two cottages in Sulham Lane for Mr Wilder were approved in October (ref 11-1889-67)

Mr Gulliver of Pangbourne was licensed as a milk seller on 19th November (ref 11-1889-72)

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