



Account of Purley on Thames

Chronicles 1900-1909

1900 63/64 Victoria

Mrs Moule, head teacher at the Purley C of E School was commended for her needlework and embroidery after a survey of teaching standards in this subject at rural schools. (320-1900-226)

Mrs John Hauterville-Cope (better known as Emily Thoyts) published an index to Purley marriages 1662-1753 in the Journal of the Berks and Bucks Archaeological Society. The first recorded piece of local history for Purley (136-1900-91)

Oliver Collins resigned as Ferryman and was succeeded by Richard Jones (43-27)

Edith Sophia Sherwood was killed at Kiu Chau in Chekiang Province China on 24th July. She was born in Pangbourne 11/4/1854, the daughter of Edward and Amelia Sherwood. She was serving in China with the China Inland Mission and was one of the missionaries killed on the orders of the Empress Dowager Jung-Lu after the Western Powers had made an unsuccessful attempt to relieve Peking and other foreigners had seized the Taku forts at the height of the Boxer uprising (12)

1901 64 Victoria/1 Edward VII

At the census the population of Purley was found to be 180 (26-2-242)

At the County Council elections James Burbridge was returned for the Pangbourne Division (ref 320-1901-74)

Berkshire County Council were reluctantly obliged to give up a prosecution against Messrs Brewerton Hicks and Co for the damage done to the road from Reading to Pangbourne (ref 320-1901-81)

Bradfield RDC claimed an extra £47/3/4 for extra expenses for material to repair the Reading to Pangbourne Road (ref 320-1901-169)

1902 1/2 Edward VII

Major Anthony Morris Storer of Purley Park died on 5th April and the estate passed to his daughter Leila Fullerton. He left a widow Cecily Barr Storer who continued to live at Purley Park. (26-iii-419; 8-12/4/1902)

Saturday morning classes for teachers on Biology were held from 5/10/01 to 5/7/02 and a college certificate of attendance was presented to Mrs Rebecca Moule from Purley. (ref 320-1902-266)

In March 1902 Mrs Moule had a piece of embroidery for dress trimming exhibited at the Reading Arts, Craft and Needlework Guild Third Annual Exhibition - she was awarded a College certificate for embroidery as well (ref 320-1902-268)

Kennel Cottages were built to house the servants of the South Berks Hunt after they acquired a lease on Belleisle Farm. They consisted of a row of six cottages built of local brick, (40-32)

John Henry Dudley Matthews was installed as Rector of Purley. He had been headmaster of Leeds Grammar School. (ref 22)

When Rose Matthews arrived in Purley on Maundy Thursday with her father, the new rector, she jumped from the horse drawn cab at the top of New Hill and ran down to the rectory. There were no houses north of the railway to the east save a cottage near the church where the park gardener lived. Home Farm was on the left with the village pond on the other side of Purley Street. The rectory and the school with the headmistresses cottage were on the south side and on the north side were a pair of cottages (now Ivy cottage) and then four or five other cottages. At the end was Purley Lodge occupied by Mr Hodgkin and above the railway was Westfield occupied by Lady Sykes. There were a few houses up Long Lane and a forge at the corner of Long Lane and Oxford Road (ref 1-3/75)

Some new bracket lamps were presented to the Church by Mrs A K Whitelock on December 25th.

1903 2/3 Edward VII

1904 3/4 Edward VII

On 24th August the Rev Matthew Powley died. He had been a canon of Gibraltar and rector of Purley from 1881 until he retired in 1899 (ref 12)

An embroidery owned by the church was sold to the Victoria and Albert Museum for £60. (refs 173,131)

The South Berks Hunt finally made their move to Belleisle Farm having come from World's End. The master since 1894 had been Mr Seymour Dubourg. The Hunt met Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and covered an area about 17 miles square in both Berkshire and Oxfordshire (ref 26-ii-290)

1905 4/5 Edward VII

1906 5/6 Edward VII

An addition was made to the east side of Purley Hall (ref 26-3-419)

Mrs Moule's salary as mistress at the school was increased to £90 less £8 for housing effective 1st June Later in the year she was given the title of Head Teacher and the salary raised to £95. This was after Miss D Weston had been appointed to look after the infants on October 6th at 2/- per period. (ref 320-1906-24/507/511)

A flint implement (Chelles type) and a flint axe head were found in Mapledurham Lock. It was reported in Archaeologia. (ref 88, Archaeologia LXXI page 262)

The schools in the area were reorganised into new Districts. Purley was included in the new Bradfield Schools District which had 20 schools and 2230 pupils (ref 320-1906-46)

At the Parish Assembly of April 10th there was a storm of protest about attempts to prevent people landing across the river at Mapledurham. The situation seems to have arisen because of a dispute with the landowner and the Lock Keeper. (ref 25)

The bridge nearest Reading of the three Chain Arches broke after an engine from the Tilehurst Haulage Company passed over it. It was repaired as a matter of urgency with a covering of six inches of concrete. The cost was estimated at between £10 and £12. (ref 320-1906-66)

The farthing rate levied in the previous year by the Parish Meeting had been challenged by the Auditor and the clerk was requested to write to the Local Government Board to find out why. (ref 25)

No part of Bradfield RDC had sewers (ref 320-1906-70)

Pangbourne Parish Council were given the power of 'scavenging for house refuse' (ref 320-1906-70)

Berkshire Education Committee asked the Managers of the school to assent to the removal of galleries and their replacement by desks (ref 320-1906-169)

Mr A G Harrington was appointed full-time Attendance Officer for the Bradfield School District effective 9/4/06 (ref 320-1906-195)

Contracts for haulage for the County Council were let to Robert Saunders and John E Gulliver. Saunders was contracted for 7 carts between Reading and Purley, 7 for Basildon and Purley and 7 for Basildon, Straetley, Pangbourne and Tidmarsh. Gulliver for 8 carts between Basildon and Streatley. (ref 320-1906-234)

Gulliver was paid £119/17/10 for haulage and Robert Saunders £129/19/10 (ref 320-1906-444/445)

1907 6/7 Edward VII

A bronze socketed axe-head was found in the Thames opposite Mapledurham. It was given to Reading Museum (ref 88)

1908 7/8 Edward VII

The lock at Mapledurham was rebuilt (24-39)

The Pangbourne and District Gardeners Mutual Improvement Society held their annual dinner at the George Hotel on 22nd Jan. The President was A Petrocockino, 70 were present (8-25/1/08)

Charles Tomlinson aged 28 of 52 Chester St Reading was employed as a crane driver at Mapledurham Lock. On Sunday 9th Feb he had reported for work at 6 pm but at 4.30 am the next morning he was found dead at his post by his mate Harry Salter. At the inquest the verdict was death by natural causes. (8-15/2/08)

Bradfield RDC decided to purchase land by compulsion from the Rev H B Wilder for £12,000 to erect a sewage works. It was bitterly opposed at a Public Enquiry by the Rev Wilder on the grounds that it ruined his land and by the Parish Council on the grounds that the burden would be too great. (8-29/2/08)

Captain Adrian Rose aged 29 had died of typhoid shortly after returning from his honeymoon on 25th March. He was buried at Mapledurham. He was the son of C D Rose (MP for Newmarket, of Hardwick House who had lost two other sons in the South African War. (8-4/4/08)

Land between Marsh Farm and the Brook was let as allotments by the Rev Wilder at 4d a pole. The Parish Council had considered Compulsory Purchase but eventually decided against. (8-18/4/08)

Pangbourne Parish Council applied to Bradfield RDC for permission to renew the contract for the removal of refuse from the village (8-25/4/08)

Pangbourne Brass Band gave a concert on Easter Monday, dressed for the first time in their new uniforms. There were 18 principals under the bandmaster J Chambers. Harry Grey was the secretary

(8-25/04/08)

Henry Beaufoy Wilder died aged 73 at the end of April. He had been rector of Sulham for 15 years from 1892 and prior to that had been curate there. He had succeeded his brother Frederick as owner of Purley Hall and its estate. He had originally been a medical practitioner. He died of septicemia following an operation (ref 8-2/5/08)

Mrs Moule had been mistress at Purley C of E school for 12 years and had one daughter. This daughter became pregnant and was married in a hurry in July 1907. After the marriage she left the village, but in November 1907 after the baby had been born she returned to live with her mother. As a result the rector held an inquisition and recommended to the managers that Mrs Moule be dismissed, which she was. The case became a cause celebre and even reached the House of Commons. A special meeting of Berkshire County Council was held on 13th June 1908 to consider the matter. She remained dismissed, but Berks CC resolved that she should be found a job elsewhere. She went to live in Farnham however. (refs 97, 308)

There were very heavy falls of snow all over southern England on April 25th. After a rapid thaw there was a great deal of flooding.

1909 8/9 Edward VII

A flint pick was found in the Thames opposite Mapledurham. It was given to the Reading Museum (ref 88)

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