

Leighton Buzzard and District Archaeological and Historical Society  
(LBD AHS.org.uk)

News Sheet 15 - January 2011

**Dates For Your Diary**

**Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 - Woburn Abbey: 'The House and the Family' -  
Christopher Gravett**

In over 850 years Woburn Abbey has changed from a Cistercian monastery to one of the Treasure Houses of England. This talk follows those developments and interweaves the families of the Earls and Dukes of Bedford who formed part of the story of Woburn.

**Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 - Bedfordshire and the Sailing Navy, c.1660-1815 -  
David Davies**

As one of the most inland counties of England, Bedfordshire might seem an unlikely place to find a rich and important naval history. However, the county has a very long (and ongoing) tradition of connections with the Royal Navy, and this talk focuses on some of them - from well known stories, such as that of Admiral Byng, to those of the local men who served at Trafalgar, to the strange concept of naval bases in Bedfordshire, and the story of how navy blue was born at Woburn Abbey.

**Mar 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 - From Mammoths to the Middle Ages - Sandy Kidd**

A talk based on the book "An Illustrated History of Early Buckinghamshire".

**Apr 13<sup>th</sup> 2011 - Medieval Life - Barry Horne; followed by the AGM**

Famine, war and plague. Was life in the Medieval Period really that bad? Come and see pictures of everyday life.

**May 11<sup>th</sup> 2011 - Claydon House Archives - Sue Baxter**

An introduction to the extensive archives of the Verney and Nightingale families held at Claydon House, including items relating to the Civil War, the Plague and Great Fire of London, the building of Claydon House and Florence Nightingale.

**All talks are at St Barnabas Church Hall, Waterloo Road, Linslade & start at 8pm unless otherwise advised. Everyone welcome. £2 for non-members**

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**Leighton Buzzard Observer 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

2011 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Society will be producing a series of articles for the newspaper charting the changes which have occurred over the past 150 years. We need people to help by looking for information in Town guides, directories etc. Please get in touch if you are able to help.

## Fieldwork - 2011

A number of members have indicated an interest in fieldwork and during 2011 we hope to carry our geophysical surveys with our new resistivity meter at several sites and also carry out some field-walking surveys.

The Society has carried out excavations during each summer and we hope to find a suitable site to dig in 2011.

It does not matter that you have never done any of these activities before, we all have to start somewhere and full training will be on hand.

If you wish to dig a test pit in your garden please get in touch so we can give you a short course on how to go about it.

Please contact our Site Director, Bernard Jones on 01525 376550 regarding field activities. Trowels suitable for archaeological work are the 4" WHS trowels. These are available over the web. One such site is: [archtools.co.uk](http://archtools.co.uk).

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## Research Forum

Meetings of the Research Forum will be held once a month at 54 Mentmore Road, Linshire from 14.00 – 16.00. If you are carrying out research or would like to join in please come along.

Dates for the early part of 2011 are as follows:

January 20<sup>th</sup>  
February 17<sup>th</sup>  
March 17<sup>th</sup>  
April 21<sup>st</sup>  
May 19<sup>th</sup>  
June 23<sup>rd</sup>

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## Summary Of Past Events

### **July 24<sup>th</sup> 2010 - Bucks Family History Fair**

We had another very good but exhausting day at the Fair and sold lots of books: 2 each of Transactions 1, 2 and 3 and 3 of Transactions 4; 3 Old Pubs; 1 Way to School; 2 History of Leighton Buzzard; 5 Millers & Methodists; 1 Archaeology of Bucks. We took a total of £138 49p. Well done everyone and thanks to Maureen, Paul, Elise, Pauline and Trudi for giving up their Saturday

### **Sept 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 - Leighton Buzzard-on-Sea - Colin Holmes and Paul Brown**

Colin and Paul gave their traditional programme of audio-visual delights. Colin showed and narrated a selection of pictures from his photographic collection. This was followed by an edited version of "Smugglers", a film made by the Rover Scouts in the 1930s and set in Leighton Buzzard-on-Sea. Next was a film provided by Fraser Crawley showing the Linshire Signal Boxes being moved to Whipsnade Zoo in the 1970s.

**Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010 - Bucks Local History fair at RAF Halton**

A number of members attended this event where we had a bookstall.

**Oct 9<sup>th</sup> 2010 - Living History Day**

We had our usual corner of the Church. We are grateful to the Town Council and Church who moved some pews to give us more room. Our display included four large display boards with 56 photographs loaned by Colin Holmes from his collection. Bernard Jones provided an archaeological display on four small boards. We are grateful to Keith Burchell for the loan of albums of photographs which people avidly looked through. It was a very successful day with a number of books being sold.

**Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 – Battle tanks and Burial grounds - The Archaeology of the Defence Estate**

**Martin Brown** gave an extremely interesting talk about his work protecting archaeological sites on the MOD estate which covers 1% of the UK. The sites range from Bronze Age barrows to Cold War test beds.

**Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 - Woodland Archaeology in the Chilterns - John Morris**

John gave an extremely interesting, profusely illustrated talk about the archaeology to be found in the Chilterns. The features included Iron Age hillforts, boundary banks, ditches, saw pits and charcoal burning areas. Old fashioned surveying with tapes as well as the latest lidar techniques are being used to record the features. A number of areas have been found where ironworking was going on in the past.

**Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 - Round up of the year**

The Chairman gave an illustrated summary of 2010 events and thanked those who had made the year such a success. Bernard Jones spoke about the purchase of the resistivity equipment and its use. He also spoke about the excavation at Little Brickhill on the projected line of the Roman Road where ditches can be seen on Google Earth. Pauline Hey was unable to attend for family reasons so her Education report was delivered by Sue Baxter. During 2010 170 children took part. The finale was the 1930s Rover Scout film "Fisherman's Luck" introduced by Paul Brown. The evening ended with a raffle, coffee and mince pies.

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**Chairman's Remarks**

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work during 2010 which made the year such a success. This was only our fifth year and in that short time we have achieved so much. We get many compliments when we go to conferences and fayres and speak to members of other similar societies.

Please help make 2011 a success.

Best wishes for the New Year

Barry Horne ([bhorne@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:bhorne@globalnet.co.uk))

(Hon Sec Bernard Jones, 01525 376550)