



News Sheet 16 – Spring 2011

(LBD AHS.org.uk)

A new chapter of the society's history began at the annual meeting on April 13 with the election of an enlarged committee to cope with the increasing activities of members. There are now nine committee members. They are listed below, some with their phone numbers and emails in case people want to contact them.

The Research Group met the week following the annual meeting and decided the priority was to complete and publish the work already in progress. This includes the transcription of the Mary Bassett School logbook dating from 1863; the place names of the town; the parish registers of Leighton Buzzard and the building surveys of the High Street. In addition members decided to finish cataloguing the collection of maps belonging to the society so members can use them.

There are two books due to be published by the society. The first is on Leighton Buzzard and Linslade in the Civil War and the second is a children's book based on the Bassett family in Victorian Leighton Buzzard.

Other work in progress includes listing and describing the ever-growing collection of photographs belonging to the society, many of them donated by members. The new committee is already considering next year's Transactions. We have some articles in progress but any members who wish to submit ideas or pieces would be welcome.

Four articles written by society members have appeared in the Leighton Buzzard Observer this year. The latest on the sand industry appeared on May 3. Next month the topic will be Leighton in World War One. Volunteers are needed to research the following two articles. The first is about the town between the wars, including Spinney Pool, Leighton's more than Olympic size sandpit lido, the town's 1930s cycling craze and the depression years. Help can be given with material and photographs already in the society's possession. The second article is about transport – the railway, canal, and the amazing fleet of lorries that were based in Leighton Buzzard in the middle of the last century. Pictures are available.

Listed below are the future activities of the society for the summer and the winter programme. Some events are still being arranged so if you are interested in any particular one please ring members of the committee listed below. In addition to society events some activities of possible interest to members are listed for information. Lifts for non-driving members can be arranged.

Field Work Summer 2011: It is hoped to undertake work at Overend Green, the deserted medieval village at Heath and Reach. We are also planning to use our own resistivity machine to look for archaeological remains on the council-owned recreation ground. Contact Bernard Jones

July to be arranged: Continuing building research in old properties in Leighton. Contact Maureen Brown

July 22, 2011 Research Group – as above

July 30, 2011 Bucks Family History Society all day fair, Grange School, Aylesbury. The Society runs a stall. All welcome to help and attend.

August 13, 2011 Guided Walking Tour of Tring . 2 pm Meeting in the car park at the East end of Tring High Street (by the public toilets) Expected to last two hours.

August 19, 2011 Research Group

September 14, 2011 Illustrated Talk Old Photographs/slides show, using the Tom Lawson collection.

October 1 Buckinghamshire Local History Network, annual conference and fair. Military Bucks. All day conference with seven half hour lectures. Lunch available. Society runs a stall Contact Maureen Brown for further details.

October 8: Living History Day, Leighton Buzzard Town Centre.

October 12, 2011 Illustrated Talk - Historic Mills of Leighton Buzzard, Chris Mesley. The story of milling in our area through time - water, wind and finally steam driven mills. Chris also traces the history of the milling families as in his popular book Millers and Methodists.

November 9, 2011 Illustrated Talk Magic Lantern Show – A Touch of Glass. As the title suggests a look at Victorian entertainment, the very first moving picture shows.

November 30, 2011 Picture quiz of Leighton Buzzard, photographs old and new. Can you identify where in Leighton these places are? Prize for top marks. Seasonal refreshments and jollification.

2012 : There are illustrated talks each month from January through to May 2012. These are January 11, February 8, March 14, April 11 and May 9. Topics include Florence Nightingale, The Bassett family, the Rothschilds