

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

News Sheet 9 - August 2008

Fieldwork - summer 2008

At Woodland Avenue we have excavated two test pits and recovered a number of microliths dating from the Mesolithic period. For many years the owner, Arthur Summerfield, has been keeping the flints and other artefacts he has been finding in the flower beds. We hope to do further work at the site over the coming weeks.

In addition we have excavated a test pit at 61 Woburn Road, Heath and Reach. This relatively small pit took much longer to excavate because of the rather inclement weather of late. On the last day it started to rain but we completed the pit thanks to the owner, Jon Fleming, providing a wonderful gazebo. The finds from the pit include coarse Medieval pottery which included a rim and part of a rod flagon handle. In addition we had a small piece of the lead channelling from a leaded window, a small copper object and a small piece of bronze.

Further details of where and when we are excavating from Bernard Jones, Site Director, Tel 01525 376550.

Trowels suitable for archaeological work are the 4" WHS trowels. These are available over the web. One such site is: hobuk.co.uk/acatalog/Special-Use-Trowels.html. Their price is £15.28 including VAT.

Heath and Reach Barn Bonanza - 6th September 2008

We will have a stall at this event which starts at 4pm. We would appreciate help. Please contact Pauline on 01525 237754.

Films of Leighton Buzzard - Colin Holmes - 17th September 2008

Colin will show films of life in Leighton Buzzard and Linslade in the 1960s. The films will include the canal, the sand industry, the cattle market as well as a day in the life of Leopold School.

"I've come about the drains" - Tony Rook - 8th October 2008

An amusing talk about Roman Baths by the man who excavated, and preserved, the Welwyn bathhouse. He is the author of the Shire book on Roman bathhouses.

Living History Day with a Medieval theme – 11th October

Once again the Society will be taking part in this annual event with a display of pictures and objects found in our local excavations. Please contact us if you are able to man the stall. The venue is not confirmed but it will probably be All Saints Church.

Heath and Reach, what we know so far - 25th October 2008 at 2pm

The venue for this afternoon is the **Heath Barn**. The Society will hold an audio-visual event.

This will include

- displays
- presentations of our fieldwork in the village
- the 1851 Census
- Heath and Reach wills
- other researches into the village and its inhabitants
- refreshments

Henry VIII, Katherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn - Vivienne Evans - 19th November 2008

Vivienne will tell the story of Henry's first two Queens, their relationship with Henry and the momentous events which decided both their fates at Dunstable Priory in 1533.

Round up of the Year - 10th December 2008

A celebration of the year. Members will present the results of our researches in 2008.

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

Buckinghamshire's Transport History

An event organised by the Bucks Local History Network on Saturday 4th October 2008 at Walton High, Milton Keynes. There will be Displays by local societies, Special displays on the conference theme, Six half hour lectures and Conducted walks. Entry by ticket. Details from Bucksas.org.uk/blhnevents.html or BLHN, County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury. HP20 2QP

Town Tour organised by Maureen Brown - 25th June 2008

This tour was a great success with 18 people attending. It was a challenging evening for the speakers as they competed with the Brownies on a treasure hunt.

Leighton Buzzard and Linslade: A History

Paul Brown has completed the writing of this book which has been delivered to the publishers, Phillimore. We will be holding an event to launch the book when it is available.

Chairman's Remarks

I congratulate Paul Brown on his hard work to complete the book "Leighton Buzzard and Linslade: A History". His outstanding effort is an example to us all. The publication of this book will be a real feather in the cap for the Society.

The results of our fieldwork have been very rewarding and we look forward to further successes before the summer is out. Do take the plunge and come along.

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Leighton-Linslade Town Council for their continued financial support.

Finally I would like to thank all those who give so willingly of their time and talents to make LBD AHS the success it is. It is you, the members, who are the key to our success. Thank you for your support.

Barry (bhorne@globalnet.co.uk)

(Hon Sec Bernard Jones, 01525 376550)