

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

News Sheet 12 - August 2009

Dates For Your Diary

September 9th 2009 - Leighton Buzzard and Linslade videos and photographs – Presented by Colin Holmes and Paul Brown

Come to the September meeting to see cine film of Leighton Buzzard and Linslade taken in the 1960s and 70s. See if you can recognise yourself, your Mum and Dad or old friends and scenes in the town as it was nearly 50 years ago. Some of the buildings have changed, the people, cars and fashions certainly have. We will be asking people to call out if they recognise anyone in the films, or the names of streets and buildings. There is a film of particular interest to Broomhills Road - their 1977 Jubilee Party, and by popular request a repeat showing of the Day in the Life of Leopold Road School, complete with steam engines and milk monitors.

October 17th 14.00 - 16.00 - Research Forum

A meeting for those doing research or intending to do research.

October 10th - Living History Day - The Civil War

We would like to hear of information concerning the Civil War in the local area. Contact Maureen on 374050.

October 14th 2009 - The Virtual Sand Museum - Carmela Semeraro

Carmela will tell us the latest developments with this exciting project

November 11th 2009 - Leighton Buzzard at War - personal recollections

We will hear the wartime experiences of Ludovic McRae and Viv Willis.

December 9th 2009 - Round up of the year

This is an opportunity to find out what the Society has been doing in 2009. We will have reports on research and field activities.

January 13th 2010 - Marcham/Frilford Roman religious complex – Zena Kamash

Marcham/Frilford is a Roman rural religious complex near Abingdon in Oxfordshire that has been excavated by the University of Oxford since 2001. The complex comprises a temple set in a large sacred precinct that is linked to an amphitheatre structure as well as several other ancillary shrines. The site has Iron Age origins; in recent years as well as looking at the temple structure, the excavation team has also been investigating the Iron Age village to the east of the religious complex.

February 10th - Battlesden and Potsgrove - Dick Denton

March 10th 2010 - Building survey - Sue Fox

April 14th 2010 - Boarstall Tower - Gary Marshall

May 12th 2010 - Claydon House - Sue Baxter

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

Appeal to Members

As the Society goes from strength to strength it becomes the victim of its own success. We are in desperate need of storage space for our tools, finds, maps and other documents. We also need space where we can work processing finds etc. Something like an unused garage might well be suitable. Please contact Bernard Jones (376550) if you have anything that may be suitable. Can you help?

Fieldwork - 2009

On 24th May members dug a 1m x 1m test pit in the lawn of 8 Gig Lane, Heath and Reach. Unfortunately we found nothing more than a dump of builders rubble from when the bungalow was built in the 1960s.

On 19th July we commenced our excavation at 27 Rothschild Road. It is right at the end of the garden some 100 metres from the road. It is just over the fence from where Northants Archaeology found Iron Age, Roman and Saxon material at the end of last year. We therefore had high hopes of some interesting finds. So far our finds have been mainly Victorian and suggest a nearby house but we know of nothing. We have also found a very interesting outcrop of sandstone with many weird shapes. Do come and join us.

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.

Research Forum

Meetings of the Forum have continued with one or two people joining. The Leighton Buzzard and Linslade place-names group have collected a large number of street and field names and are now starting to seek out their derivation. They are interested to hear from members who may know the origin of names, both ancient and modern. Contact Pauline Hey 01525 237754

Another group are studying the baptism, marriage and death statistics using published copies of the registers.

A smaller group are attempting to investigate "Linslade: The Victorian boom town. Where did the people come from?" using the census returns.

Progress so far is very encouraging and we would like to see more people joining in this hands-on activity.

Summary of Past Events

May 13th 2009 - An 18th century love affair - Sue Baxter

Sue introduced us to three eighteenth century letters from an ardent lover (who happened to be a clergyman) to his well-connected (but un-named) lady love which were discovered beneath the floorboards of a Manor House at Marsh Gibbon in the 1990s, together with a letter from the lady's mother criticising him in the strongest terms and urging her daughter to sever the connection. These letters had been handed over to the Record Office in Aylesbury. Like a latter-day Miss Marple, Sue told how she had searched through the archives of four counties to track down the people concerned. How the lovers had married and had a child before the wife had tragically died. And how she was disappointed that despite statements of undying love the husband had quickly remarried. She said how she forgave him to some extent when he was buried with his first wife.

Chairman's Remarks

Our fund raising at the May Day event was successful even though towards the end it was like pulling teeth. We need prizes for 2010.

The Research Forum has continued to meet and I was encouraged when we had our first reports meeting on 23rd July to hear of progress.

In July we heard that we are once again receiving a grant from the Leighton-Linslade Town Council. This is encouraging as it means our efforts are appreciated in the wider context.

Once again we have tried to arrange an interesting and varied programme of talks and I look forward to seeing you there.

I would again 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.