

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

News Sheet 10 - January 2009

Dates For Your Diary

Research Forum - January 8th 2009

This is a new venture to encourage people to become actively involved in local history research. Help and encouragement will be given to beginners. The forum is predominantly for LBD AHS members but non-LBD AHS members are welcome. Those attending forum meetings are expected to talk about their research findings with other members. Suggested Research Topics are 1) Hunting in the area throughout the ages, 2) Leighton Buzzard and Linslade place-names and their derivation, 3) Where was the Saxon market town of Leighton?, 4) Linslade: The Victorian boom town. Where did the people come from?, 5) Births, marriages and deaths statistics. The first meeting will take place at St Barnabas Church Hall at 14.00. Please come along prepared to work.

"New Discoveries in Leighton's Past" - Paul Brown - January 14th 2009

Author Paul Brown on how the history of Leighton Linslade is being rewritten all the time.

"Mystery Photographs of Leighton" - February 18th 2009

Where and when were they taken? Bring your own for discussion and possible identification.

"Leighton's Treasures" - James Collett-White - March 11th 2009

How to discover the town's history in Bedfordshire Archives.

Visit to Bedfordshire and Luton Archive Records Service - March 12th 2009

This will be a morning guided tour of the archives. The numbers are restricted to 15. £3 per person. Please contact Maureen Brown to book a place. Tel 374050.

Map Workshop and AGM - April 8th 2009

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

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

Summary of Past Events

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

This event was a great success with over 120 people attending; many of them being non-members. Colin showed films of life in Leighton Buzzard and Linslade in the 1960s. This included 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. It included an account of Roman architecture in general.

Medieval Mayhem - Living History Day – 11th October

Once again the Society put on a display for this event. We had two boards of pictures with a Medieval theme but it was the two boards of 19th century "can you tell us where these were taken?" which stole the show.

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

This was a successful afternoon at the Heath Barn. We put on a display of maps and sale notices as well as showing the DVD of our excavation and having talks about the pubs and 1851 census. We launched our book of the early Heath and Reach wills.

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

Vivienne told us 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.

Launch of Leighton Buzzard and Linslade: A History - 29th November 2008

We are grateful to Colin Ashby for allowing this to take place in Buzzard Books. The author, Paul Brown, signed copies of the book from 10.30 until 14.00. The launch itself took place at noon and was attended by George Rolfe the Town Mayor and his wife Maureen and Councillor Brian Sadler. We were pleased to see so many members at this event.

Round up of the Year - 10th December 2008

The Chairman went over the events and activities of 2008. These included the talks as well as the conferences and exhibitions put on by the Society. Bernard Jones, Site Director, gave an extremely interesting talk about the Mesolithic Period and showed how our finds at Woodland Avenue fitted into the picture. A short talk was given about the test pit at 61 Woburn Road, Heath and Reach. After a break for coffee and the raffle draw the Research Forum was launched for those keen to take part in active research.

Fieldwork - 2008

Work continued at Woodland Avenue where a 2 metre square test pit was excavated in the lawn where we believed there had been little disturbance. We recovered more microliths dating from the Mesolithic period but regrettably no features. A report will appear in the next Transactions.

Details of the 2009 programme will be in the next News Sheet.

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.

Chairman's Remarks

Another busy and successful year was crowned with the launch of "Leighton Buzzard and Linslade: A History" at Buzzard Books on 29th November. Paul and other members worked extremely hard to get this book published. With the recession looming there was a chance that Phillimore would not publish our book in 2008 but with badgering from the bookshop and Paul it happened. What a relief.

You will have noticed that we are launching a Research Forum. If you have never done research in the past please come along and "give it a go".

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

Happy New Year.

Barry (bhome@globalnet.co.uk)

(Hon Sec Bernard Jones, 01525 376550)