

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

News Sheet 2 - October 2006

Heath and Reach 1851 Census Workshop - 11th October

Come and explore this Census to see who lived where, what they did and where they came from. This is a hands-on meeting so if you use reading glasses please bring them. Duncombe Drive Centre, Leighton Buzzard at 8pm.

Living History Heritage Day - 14th October

The Society will be putting on an exhibition of 1950s photographs as well as an exhibition of finds and photographs from the excavation at Pond Meadow, Heath and Reach. Venue is All Saints Church.

Awards for All Lottery Grant

The Society is delighted to announce that it has received an **Awards for All** grant of **£2984** to fund a project to enable it to record the history of the area and to share that knowledge with the people of the district. The money will finance the purchase of a laptop computer and projector for use in talks and presentations and scanning equipment to allow slides, pictures and documents to be recorded. A digital camera will give us the opportunity to record our excavations and other activities including building and landscape surveys. Various pieces of software will also be purchased to allow us to record the findings from our fieldwork. The Society is grateful for this invaluable contribution from **Awards for All**.

Excavation at Pond Meadow, Heath & Reach

The Society is currently undertaking an excavation at Pond Meadow. The meadow is located next to the Heath Village Barn. A wide variety of finds have been recovered including 14th century green-glazed pottery, a medieval jug handle with chevron decoration and numerous pieces of iron slag possibly from Medieval iron smelting which we know took place in the village. Features found include a post-Medieval stone built land drain. Maureen Brown has been investigating the history of the buildings in the

vicinity with some interesting results. The Society is grateful to Tom Baird for allowing us to dig on his land. So far 22 members have taken part in the excavation.

Further excavation dates are 13th, 15th, 20th and 22nd October. These are provisional dates and you should check with our Site Director, Bernard Jones, if you wish to take part.

Local War Memorial - 30th May

Andrew Date gave a fascinating talk about the lives of the men who died in the First World War and whose names appear on the **Leighton Buzzard War Memorial**. Not all of them died on the Western Front. One died in the Far East and another in the Middle East. Some 13 died in Leighton Buzzard as a result of their wounds. A number have no known grave. 171 died out of a population of about 7000. In today's terms that would be about 900 dying over a period of four years.

Map sorting - 30th June

This took place at Heath Barn on a very hot afternoon and involved the sorting of a collection of late 19th/early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps which the Society owns.

Totternhoe Stone and its Uses - 13th September

This was the first talk of our winter programme and was given by Joan Curran, the leading expert on the use of the stone. Her talk was profusely illustrated with maps and pictures of the use of this stone in the Medieval and later periods. Many local parish churches were constructed of this stone as were country houses such as Woburn Abbey. Copies of Joan's book were on sale.

Town Snapshot – postponed

I'm sorry to say that pressure of other activities meant that we have postponed this event until a later date. Thank you to all those who volunteered.

Chairman's Remarks

Please continue to support your Society by attending the events and spreading the word amongst friends, relatives and work colleagues.

The dig has been a great success under the expert direction of Bernard Jones. Maureen Brown has been able to flesh out some of the historic background of the area. It is this

marriage of documentary and historic evidence with the results of the archaeological investigations which will give us a clearer picture of what really went on. This is why we are an archaeological and an historical Society rather than one or the other.

We can all make a contribution, however small, to the success of the Society.

Barry

(Hon Sec Bernard Jones, 01525 376550)