

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

News Sheet 3 - January 2007

Footpaths through the ages - 10th January

An illustrated talk by Dick Denton who will speak with reference to Battlesden, Potsgrove and the recent Beating of the Bounds of Heath and Reach. He will speak of footpaths past, present and future.

Charters, with reference to Linslade - 14th February

An illustrated talk by Julian Hunt

The Narrow Gauge Railway & the Sand Industry - 14th March

An illustrated talk by Tony Tomkins of the Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway

Transactions of the Society

The Society will publish a record of its 2006 activities in a volume which each paid up member will receive in March. Also included will be an account of the 1950s tornado which struck Linslade.

Heath and Reach 1851 Census Workshop - 11th October

The Society held a Workshop where members and members of the public took part in the analysis of this census to determine, amongst other things, the number of males and females and their age ranges; their occupations and places of birth. We are grateful to Kevin Quick for providing the census information.

Living History Heritage Day - 14th October

The Society put on an exhibition of photographs dating from the 1950s as part of this event. The photographs proved so popular with those attending that sometimes "people were fighting" to get to the front to get a better look. Thanks to Colin Holmes and others for the photographs.

Also on display were finds from the Society's excavation at Pond Meadow, Heath and Reach.

Heath Barn Open Day - 5th November

The Society mounted a display of photographs and gave guided talks of its nearby excavation.

The Piggott Photographs - 8th November

Colin Holmes showed pictures taken by William and Theo Piggott, Leighton Buzzard's first photographers, to over 50 people at The Duncombe Drive Centre, Leighton Buzzard. At times there was a lively discussion concerning the places where the photographs were taken.

This was the first time Colin had spoken in public about the Piggotts and their photographs and all agreed he did a good job and handled the audience participation well.

The Society was able to use the computer and projector, bought with a lottery grant, to show the pictures off to their best advantage.

First year celebration - the Heath and Reach excavation - 13th December

As the Society celebrated its first year the Chairman, Barry Horne, gave a roundup of the Society's activities and achievements.

The evening continued with a Time Team-like round up of its field activities in Heath and Reach. Maureen Brown gave a profusely illustrated talk about Heath and Reach to give the historic background to the dig and Bernard Jones, the Site Director, described what was found and our future plans. This was followed by a 17 minute DVD of the excavation which showed members undertaking the work; this was much appreciated by those present. We are grateful to Paul Tate for putting together the DVD. Finds were on display in our new showcases.

The evening ended with coffee and mince pies.

Chairman's Remarks

What an amazing year. This time last year LBD AHS did not exist and it was not until March that we had our first meeting given by Stephen Coleman.

Since then we have held a number of talks and workshops, mounted a number of displays of photographs and finds, and mounted our first training excavation which has yielded some surprising results. We have our own website and we have our first DVD under our belt. As mentioned above we will shortly be publishing our first Transactions which will record the exploits of our Society. We also hope to include reports of research work carried out by you, our members.

Our fundraising activities have produced useful income to support our activities.

I would like to thank everyone who gave so willingly of their time and talents to get LBD AHS off to a great start. I will not mention names, you know who you are.

I would also like to record the Society's thanks for financial support from the Town Council and the Awards for All lottery.

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

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

Barry

(Hon Sec Bernard Jones, 01525 376550)