

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

News Sheet 6 - October 2007

Summer/Autumn 2007

The Society has continued with its excavation in Pond Meadow, Heath and Reach. On the 27th September two pots were successfully fired in a small bonfire. The pots were made by Pauline Hey from clay found in the excavation. The dry pots took just over half an hour to become ceramic. The present excavation will be closed down prior to the winter. Fieldwork will take place on the following days in October: 7th, 10th, 18th and 25th. Please contact Bernard Jones, Site Director, (376550) for details of places and activities.

St Leonard's School visit - 10th October 2007

Weather permitting we will host a visit from 38 children, parents and teachers from the school. We will be laying on a number of activities including pot firing, finds identification, learning about the dig and finds drawing.

Living History Day - Leighton Middle School, Church Square - 13th October 2007

The Society will have a stand in the Middle School, Church Square. The theme this year is Popular Pastimes and we are putting on a display of photographs showing games, hobbies and fun enjoyed in the town in previous decades.

We are most grateful to members and members of the public for kindly loaning their precious photographs for this display. We are keen to build up an archive of photographs of the Town and district so please keep looking out your old, and not so old, photographs. Please contact Maureen Brown (374050) if you have anything which may be suitable. We will copy and return original photographs.

Council for British Archaeology Day Conference - 27th October 2007

This Day Conference is being hosted by the Society on behalf of the Council for British Archaeology South Midlands Region. The full programme has now been finalised

- Evelyn Baker will speak about the origins of the Royal Estate of Leighton Buzzard.
- Ian Nunney will talk about the Royal Forest of Rockingham in Northamptonshire.
- Michael Farley will speak about 'Before Domesday: Buckinghamshire's minsters, churches and royal manors; struggling to make sense of it all...!'
- Terry Warburton will give a conducted tour of All Saints Church.

The venue is the Duncombe Drive Centre and the meeting commences at 9.45am and ends at 4pm. Entry is £5 pre-booked or £7 on the door. To pre-book send a cheque payable to "Council for British Archaeology South Midlands" to Stan Cauvain, Hon Treasurer, 97 Guinions Road, High Wycombe, HP13 7NU.

Please try to attend what promises to be an extremely interesting day.

Workshop on Wills – Maureen Brown - 14th November 2007

Wills can tell you so much more than just a person's family details. By looking at a whole set of wills for a parish you can build up a picture of the inter-connections between the various families, and how the village or town worked as a whole. Wills often list property (women's wills can be especially detailed) and occasionally they are accompanied by an inventory, giving a much more detailed list of belongings. This workshop will build on Joan Schneider's introduction to reading old handwriting and we will look at wills from both labourers and the gentry, from plague victims to parsons. Photocopies of wills from Linslade, Heath & Reach and Leighton Buzzard will be provided - and do bring along any family wills you have been struggling with.

Round up of the year - 12th December 2007

This will be an evening for members to find out what the Society has been doing over the past twelve months. We will have reports from the Site Director and other members about the various activities of the Society.

The Local Coprolite industry - 9th January 2008 – Barry Horne

This will show where the coproliting occurred, the methods used and the lengths to which Earl Brownlow went to protect the environment and the interests of the local people

Archives – documents the Record Offices hold & how they can be used for research

13th February 2008 – Sue Baxter - This is a must for anyone wanting to get the most out of a visit to the local record offices.

Fossil Mammals of the Ouzel Valley - 12th March 2008 - Andy Currant

Workshop on Maps. Followed by AGM - 9th April 2008

May Fayre Stall - 5th May 2008

Olney, the Cowper Museum & Historic Gardens - 14th May 2008 - Elizabeth Knight

All talks are at the Duncombe Drive Centre & start at 8pm. All welcome. Non-members are £2.

Leighton Buzzard's Past in Pictures - 12th September 2007

Once again Colin Holmes gave a profusely illustrated talk with interesting anecdotes. He showed many aspects of Town life from the 20th century which included street scenes, businesses and local characters.

Chairman's Remarks

The Society has been extremely busy over the months. We are grateful to Steve Jones for enhancing our website and I encourage members to look at it for the latest information. Once again I would like to thank all those who give so willingly of their time and talents to make LBD AHS the success it is. Please continue to support your Society by attending the events and spreading the word amongst friends, relatives and work colleagues. Please encourage them to become members.

Barry (bhorne@globalnet.co.uk)

(Hon Sec Bernard Jones, 01525 376550)