



News Sheet 18 – December 2011

(LBD AHS.org.uk)

New Year greetings to all society members.

The society is continuing to expand with close to 150 members, and with it our activities and programme. We have engaged speakers right through until 2013 already for our September to May evening meetings and have a number of other events planned. In addition we have research group meetings during the daytime at least once a month throughout the year. These groups are working on projects as diverse as the Second World War in Leighton, transcriptions of Mary Bassett School's original logbooks, the Parish records, the town's street names, and archaeology and history of a deserted medieval village on the outskirts of the town. It is planned to resume archaeological investigations in the spring and continue that until the end of the summer. Anyone wishing to take part in any of these activities contact any committee member for details (if they are not shown below).

We are also updating and expanding the society's website so people have much more access to our research materials and photographs. Details will be circulated.

Last year was a very successful one for the society with a series of articles written by members in the local paper. We are continuing to supply them with articles and information about our activities from time to time. Attendance at our talks has continued to increase and we are pleased that the facilities at St Barnabas Church Hall (now renamed Linslade Community Hall) are being updated and improved. One of the successful shows was by the Magic Lantern Society and (by popular demand) they have agreed to return for our Christmas meeting next year with a new show. See below for our up to date programme.

All the best for 2012. Paul Brown

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(All society talks are at St Barnabas Church Hall at 8pm. Other events dates, times and places as stated)

Jan 11, 2012 **Genealogy – Professional Genealogist Mrs. Sarah Minney** explains how to trace your family history. Learn about the records that are used for this fascinating past-time from items to

be found in your own home to documents in our National Archives. Discover what your ancestors did at work and play – those who were honest upright citizens and those who weren't! Develop the skills to uncover a hidden hero you can be proud of. Every one of us has a family history. Learn how to find out about all those people in your family's past who made you YOU!

- Jan 20, 2012** **Research Group, 2-4 pm**, 54 Mentmore Road Linslade. Transactions and Mary Bassett Logbook.
- Feb 8, 2012** **Droeways – Bruce Smith.** Bruce Smith's talk is in three sections: first how the trade worked; secondly, how to recognise a drovers' route; lastly he follows a particular route from Lampeter through Leighton Buzzard to Billericay. His talk is illustrated with slides of the route.
- Feb 17, 2012** **Research Group, 2-4 pm**, 54 Mentmore Road Linslade. WWII
- Mar 14, 2012** **The Rothschilds and Leighton Buzzard – Sophie Piebenga,** Garden Archivist at Waddesdon Manor. The Rothschild family built great houses all over Buckinghamshire and the family continue to live in the county. When the great mansion at Waddesdon was being built in the 1880's Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild bought Leighton House in the High Street of Leighton Buzzard. While he lived there he entertained not just the aristocracy but also both English and foreign royalty. The illustrated talk will shed new light on this fascinating episode in Leighton's history.
- Mar 23, 2012** **Research Group**, 54 Mentmore Road Linslade. Mary Bassett Logbook
- April 11, 2012** **AGM and talk by Dick Denton on the Bassetts Trail**
- April 20, 2012** **Research Group**, 54 Mentmore Road Linslade Place-names
- May 9, 2012** **Florence Nightingale – Sue Baxter**
- May 18, 2012** **Research Group**, 54 Mentmore Road Linslade
- June 22 2012** **Research Group**, 54 Mentmore Road Linslade

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