



Newsletter – January 2015

(www.lbdahs.org.uk)

The astonishing success of the society's book *The Secrets of Q Central* has got us off to a flying start in 2015. Sales of the book and the promise of royalties to come means that the society's finances look secure for some time into the future. This will enable the committee to consider updating our computer and projection equipment for our monthly talks and research projects.

Since the book's publication some additional information has come to light about Leighton Buzzard in the Second World War and this will be included in an article in *Transactions*, our annual journal, which will as usual be available free to members for the annual meeting in April.

Although many of the sales of the book were as Christmas presents "*Q Central*" is expected to continue to sell well in the New Year. For example a 4,000 word article about the book with a dozen pictures is going in the February addition of the military magazine *Britain at War*, so will be brought to a wider audience.

A US edition of the book will be published in May – an astonishing achievement for a small research group from the society that began to explore this aspect of the town's history for the first time only three years ago.

Our programme of talks, detailed overleaf, starts in January with a look at the pubs of Leighton Buzzard and Linslade from the original slide show by Tom Lawson, with his own unique commentary. This has taken some months to synchronise and transfer to modern equipment but is well worth it.

The society's collection of local photographs is now outstanding and some new acquisitions will also be in *Transactions*.

Our research groups continue to thrive. For example the team transcribing the documents given to the Society from the former Bassett's Bank in the High Street took a short course in Latin for local historians to aid their work. There has been a discussion about a group to look at the First World War and its aftermath following the success of *Q Central* and the part played locally in winning that war. For instance the vital role of the sand industry has never been properly explored. Anyone interested in joining a research group or forming their own with the support of the society should contact any member of the committee.

Another feature of the society's work has been cooperation with the town council, providing pictures and information for their projects and websites.

We have also helped local businesses that are beginning to realise that the town's rich heritage is a selling point both for local people and visitors.

In the current season of talks the committee took the decision to limit expensive outside speakers and use the society's own resources and research to provide monthly topics. This was done partly to save money because the cost of evening meetings was becoming too high. The homegrown meetings have been just as successful in terms of attendance and visitor numbers have gone up. We are now planning for next season's talks, any suggestions or thoughts of members would be welcome.

Paul Brown

Chairman