



Newsletter – Autumn 2017

(www.lbdahs.org.uk)

This autumn a whole series of society projects come to fruition for members to enjoy. The first is the collection and processing of the films from the 1920s to the 1940s taken by the Anderson family that will be shown at our September meeting. It has taken months of work to repair and transfer the films to digital format. They include some unique footage of Spinney Pool, the sandpit-turned swimming pool in Billington Road that was used for the European Diving Championships in the 1930s. There is also film of the Home Guard at shooting practice. Will you recognise anyone?

We will also have “Sand, Planes and Submarines”, our history of Leighton and Linslade in the First World War available in October. Other publications are in the pipeline.

Members doing research and writing it up for publication has already provided the Society with a large number of manuscripts that represent a formidable body of work for such a young organisation. It also gives us a basis for many of our talks and an income from book sales that enables us to keep the subscriptions down.

Our once a year journal “Transactions” provides a place where smaller pieces of work, memories and old photographs can be published. This year’s edition contained a history of King Street by Chris Mesley, giving a detailed account of how it came into existence, the various industries located there and the people who lived in it.

This has encouraged other members of the society to look at their own home streets. All roads have a fascinating history and stories attached to them. What was there before the road was built, who has lived there, what events have taken place, etc.

The Society would like to encourage other members to look at the places where they live and tell the stories of their road. This can be the story of just one incident or a complete history – whatever you find interesting. We could even dig up a back garden or two. History and archaeology are fun. Members who live in the same street can work as teams or call for help from others in the society more experienced in looking at records and doing research. We are here to help.

As editor of Transactions I would welcome a whole series of histories of roads in the towns that can be used in the journal in the coming years – so there is no hurry to get it finished this year or next. Chris Mesley spent more than ten years on his street history, there was so much to discover.

On a sadder note our first chairman, Barry Horne, one of the four founding members of the society died on July 1. An obit will appear in Transactions.

Paul Brown